

Improving safety when using wildlife mitigation devices in tuna longline fisheries



Fishers must use tori lines and line weighting to protect longline baits from being scavenged by seabirds. This equipment can be dangerous for crew to use.

i **Tori lines can be difficult to set and retrieve, which can cause manual handling and other injuries.**

i **Weighted fishing gear can recoil back to the boat under strain, causing “flyback” injuries to fishers.**

✓ Flybacks can recoil at up to 250km/hr.

✓ Flybacks have caused significant injuries, impairments and deaths in global longline fisheries.



Actions to reduce safety incidents when fishing:



Use modified sliding safety leads.

These can reduce flyback events while not impacting catch rates.



Avoid using weighted hooks, or swivels within 1 metre of the hook.

The closer a weight is to the end of a branchline, the more dangerous it can be in a flyback scenario.



Use a custom-made safety bar or screen to deflect or catch flybacks.



Use tori lines made from lighter materials and with detachable droppers to improve handling and deployment.

Based on research by Tuna Australia and partners:

Fishing line flyback simulation project August 2023

Authors: Dr Tom Mitchell Ferguson, Dr Roberto Ojeda, Dr Nick Rawlinson

Fishing line simulation project Part II August 2024

Authors: Dr Tom Mitchell Ferguson, Dr Roberto Ojeda

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