



South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands

Office of the Commissioner
Government House,
Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

Administrative Penalty Issued to Longline Fishing Vessel

On April 30th 2014 the charterers of a longline vessel, fishing under licence in the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Maritime Zone, were issued with an Administrative Penalty Notice (under Section 21 of the Fisheries (Conservation & Management) Ordinance 2000) for a breach of licence conditions, in contravention of Section 5 of the Fisheries (Conservation and Management) Ordinance 2000..

The offence was a breach of CCAMLR Conservation Measure 25-02, which is designed to reduce seabird mortality in longline fisheries. The particular offence was that the vessel completed the setting of a line after Nautical Twilight (dawn), which is a contravention of the night setting requirements. This contravention is likely to have contributed to the incidental mortality of 74 white-chinned petrels, which were caught during setting of that line. This incidental mortality event was the largest in the fishery for over 10 years.

The vessel operators subsequently admitted the offence and have been issued with a penalty of £30,000.

GSGSSI takes any contravention of licence conditions extremely seriously, particularly contraventions that may lead to the killing of seabirds.

Martin Collins
Director of Fisheries
June 11th 2014