

Guide to installing bird bafflers in the South East Trawl Fishery

Background

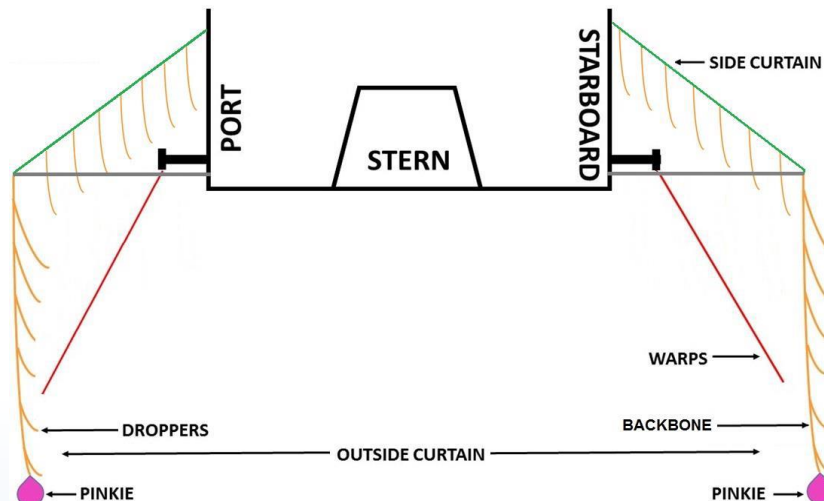
Industry members designed and trialed two new seabird mitigation devices, the **bird baffle** and the **seabird sprayer**, which reduce seabird interactions by 96% and 92% respectively. At the request of SETFIA and GABIA, AFMA has mandated the use of **one of the three** seabird mitigation strategies below from **1 May 2017**:

1. Baffles
2. Sprayers
3. Pinkies with **zero offal discharge** whilst fishing gear is in the water

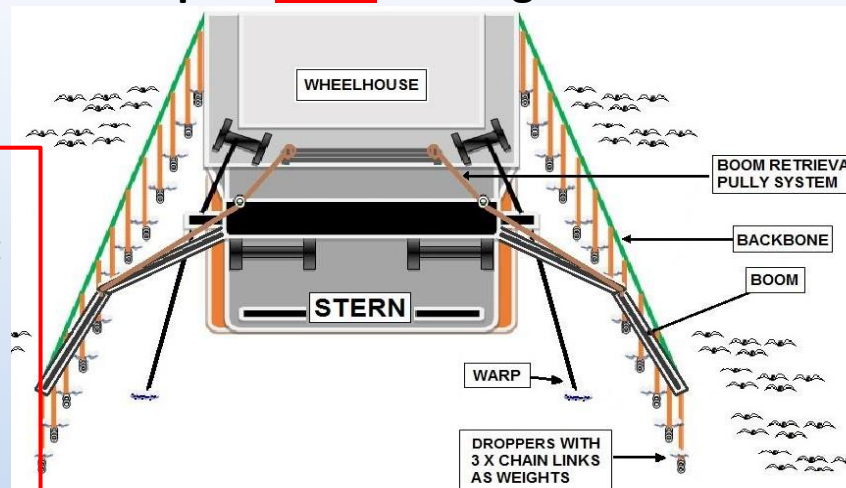
Financial assistance

\$500 is available to partially offset the costs of installing bafflers or sprayers. To be eligible, trawl operators need to have their bafflers or sprayers **constructed and approved for use by 30 April 2017**.

Example - side hauling vessels



Example - stern hauling vessels



STEP 1 – constructing a baffle

1. Droppers **must** be:
 - i. spaced no more than 50cm apart.
 - ii. constructed of a brightly coloured, durable material
 - iii. weighted sufficiently to maintain rigidity and contact with the water.
2. The baffle **must** run 1-3 metres outside the trawl blocks when deployed.
3. The end of the baffle backbone **must** extend at least 5 metres past where the warps enter the water.
4. The baffle **must** remain deployed at all times whilst trawl gear is under tow.

Guide to installing bird bafflers in the South East Trawl Fishery Continued...



STEP 2 – Testing

Test your device in calm and inclement weather and during fishing operations to ensure that:

- the baffle structures are **safe** for your operations
- the device is **easy** to deploy and stow at sea
- the device can achieve the required **coverage** of the ‘danger zone’

NOTE: while testing your baffle, **you must use pinkie buoys to comply with your current Seabird Management Plan (SMP).**

STEP 3 – Approval

Once you have installed your baffle:

- take a **photo** of your vessel and device as proof of installation
- take a **video** of your device being used during fishing operations (deep and shallow shots) and under calm and rough weather conditions
- **contact SETFIA or the AFMA Bycatch team** to arrange inspection and approval and provide them with your photos and video **before 30 April 2017:**

SETFIA
Email: simonboag@setfia.org.au
Call: 0427 138 167 or 0428 141 591

OR

AFMA Bycatch program
Email: BycatchProgram@afma.gov.au
Call: 02 6225 5555

STEP 4 – Reimbursement

You can claim your reimbursement **after** your device is **approved** and AFMA has issued you with an **updated SMP**.

To claim your \$500 reimbursement email an invoice to simonboag@setfia.org.au

Useful Links

Bird Baffle:
[construction guidelines and materials list](#), [VIDEO](#), approval checklist (contact AFMA or SETFIA)

Seabird Sprayer:
[construction guidelines](#), [VIDEO](#), approval checklist (contact AFMA or SETFIA)