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## Bird Baffler Construction Guidelines

Bird bafflers are an approved seabird mitigation device used in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Commonwealth Trawl Sector. Bird Bafflers comprise of two booms, one extending out from each side of the vessel aft of amidships. A number of dropper lines are attached to the booms creating a curtain forward of where the warps enter the water. Attached to the seaward end of the boom is a backbone line which trails behind the vessel in a similar manner to a tori line.

In order to be approved, your baffler must meet the following requirements:

- a) Have brightly coloured droppers spaced no more than 500mm apart.
- b) Have droppers constructed of a brightly coloured, durable material and be weighted sufficiently to maintain rigidity and contact with the water.
- c) When deployed, the baffler must run between one and three metres outside the trawl blocks.
- d) Baffler droppers must extend as far aft of where the warps enter the water as practicable.
- e) The baffler must be able to remain deployed at all times whilst trawl gear is under tow (during daylight hours).

AFMA acknowledges that this exact design may not be practical for all vessels due to variations in superstructure and differing operational characteristics. SETFIA and the AFMA bycatch program are willing to work with industry to assist in developing and implementing devices which meet the required specifications but are also operationally feasible on an individual vessel basis. Please be aware that prior to AFMA approving your baffler, you will be required to continue using pinkies until your Seabird Management Plan has been amended.



**Australian Government**

**Australian Fisheries Management Authority**

## **Bird Baffler Materials List**

The following materials are required for baffler construction:

- a) Heavy duty boom arms constructed in a manner suitable for your vessel, depending on whether you stern haul or side haul.
- b) 1 x 125m coil of rope (8mm minimum)
- c) Stainless pulleys to aid retrieval of baffler system
- d) Shark clips
- e) Footline rubber discs to weigh down dropper lines
- f) 25-50mm diameter conduit/agricultural pipe to thread on dropper lines

## Different baffleer designs currently in use



FV Western Alliance baffleer under tow



FV Western Alliance baffle deployed in port



FV Imlay baffle deployed in port