



Agreement on the Conservation  
of Albatrosses and Petrels

**Tenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee**  
*Wellington, New Zealand, 11 - 15 September 2017*

**2017 Implementation Report – New Zealand**

***New Zealand***



Agreement on the Conservation  
of Albatrosses and Petrels

## Report - MoP-6 (2018)

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### Implementation Report for the Meeting of Parties - MoP-6 (2018)

**Submitted by** - New Zealand

**Coverage of report** - New Zealand

#### 1. Overview of implementation of Agreement and Action Plan

- 1.1 Has action been taken to implement the decisions of previous MoPs? (For list of current Resolutions see <http://www.acap.aq/en/documents/resolutions>) Yes  
New Zealand has undertaken a number of actions against priorities identified by MoP (most recently those identified in MoP5 Doc 15 Rev 1). In particular, plans are underway for the eradication of pests from the Auckland Islands (see questions 7.16 and 7.17), and New Zealand has actively participated to progress the conservation of albatrosses and petrels in those priority RFMOs to which New Zealand is a Member (see questions 8.10, 8.25 and 8.27). New Zealand has also undertaken a suite of research to address many of the priority research gaps for New Zealand breeding albatross and petrel species identified by ACAP, as outlined in answers below. In addition, New Zealand has continued to be active in managing domestic fisheries bycatch of albatross and petrels, through the development and implementation of mitigation measures, implementation of observer programmes, liaison and outreach with fishermen, and research into the albatross and petrel species being affected.
- 1.2 Is action for national implementation planned to occur in the next three years? Yes  
New Zealand's actions to progress priority land-based and at-sea threats will continue through the development of pest eradication planning at the Auckland Islands and continued engagement with relevant RFMOs. Continued implementation and review of New Zealand's current National Plan of Actions - Seabirds ([www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/3962](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/3962)) is planned, and a revised plan is scheduled for development in 2018. This guides many of the actions New Zealand will take to mitigate the bycatch of seabirds in fisheries. The research required to better understand the populations of seabirds, including many of New Zealand's breeding albatross and petrel species, at risk to bycatch has also been identified over the next five years, for delivery through annual research programmes (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/pagefiles/126848/csp-seabird-plan-2016.pdf>).

#### 2. Species conservation

- 2.1 Has the Party provided any exemptions to prohibitions on the taking or harmful interference with albatrosses and petrels? No
- 2.2 Has any use or trade in albatrosses or petrels Seabirds landed dead on commercial fishing vessels carrying government fisheries observers are retained for necropsy (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/conservation-services-programme/csp-reports/2015-16/identification-of-seabirds-captured-in-nz-fisheries-15-16/>). The carcasses of these birds

occurred?	are subsequently made available (free of charge) to museums, and to New Zealand's indigenous Maori people for traditional uses. Since 2010, 1106 bycaught seabirds were given to iwi, 53 were provided to museums, 33 were provided to Universities for research and 2 were provided for seabird dog training. These seabirds included ACAP-listed species.
2.3 Has the Party implemented any new single or multi-species conservation strategies / Action Plans?	Yes A national Threatened Species Strategy is currently under development, which highlights ACAP-listed species such as Antipodean albatross as a national priority for conservation management ( <a href="http://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/have-your-say/all-consultations/2017/draft-threatened-species-strategy-consultation/draft-threatened-species-strategy/">http://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/have-your-say/all-consultations/2017/draft-threatened-species-strategy-consultation/draft-threatened-species-strategy/</a> ). Implementation of New Zealand's National Plan of Action Seabird 2013 ( <a href="http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/3962">www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/3962</a> ) has continued over this period, which has driven actions around minimising bycatch of ACAP-listed species. Work has begun on a review of implementation in advance of a review of the Action Plan in 2018. The Black Petrel Working Group, a group of fishing industry representatives, environmental groups, government agencies, as well as local body, and iwi organisations has been working to advance the conservation of this ACAP-listed species ( <a href="http://www.southernseabirds.org/fileadmin/documents/Other/Black_Petrel_Working_Group_Pledge.pdf">http://www.southernseabirds.org/fileadmin/documents/Other/Black_Petrel_Working_Group_Pledge.pdf</a> ). The Antipodean albatross working group also been established, consisting of representatives from government, fishing industry and environmental groups. This was in response to concerning trends in the population and will focus efforts to understand and mitigate the threats faced by this population, in particular fisheries bycatch in waters beyond New Zealand's EEZ.
2.4 Has the Party taken any emergency measures involving albatrosses or petrels?	No
2.5 Has the Party conducted any re-establishment schemes?	Yes The multi-year translocation of the Chatham albatross has continued over this period ( <a href="https://www.facebook.com/chathamtaikotrust">https://www.facebook.com/chathamtaikotrust</a> ). The Chatham albatross is currently restricted to a single breeding site (The Pyramid) in the Chatham Islands. Chicks have been transferred to a new site on main Chatham Island and hand-fed until they had all fledged since 2014.
2.6 Has the Party introduced any new legal or policy instruments for species protection of albatrosses and petrels?	No The New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) continue to consider mandating the use of line weighting in order to strengthen seabird mitigation measures in the pelagic longline fishery. In 2016 MPI consulted directly with stakeholders on this issue. A consultation document was released and 12 submissions were received from the fishing industry, environmental groups, and a member of the public. The main concern highlighted during consultation was the increased risk to crew health and safety associated with line weighting due to fly-backs.
2.7 Has the Party implemented any legal or policy instruments for environmental impact assessments?	Yes Improved fisheries risk assessment has been developed to guide actions to minimise the bycatch of seabird species, including ACAP-listed species, within New Zealand (see chapter 3 of <a href="http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/16339">www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/16339</a> ). A detailed risk assessment publication is currently in preparation (Richard & Abraham in prep). The New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries has also recently conducted an international review of the risk assessment approach in June 2017, the report from the reviewers is pending.
2.8 Does the Party have any species it would like to submit for addition to Annex 1?	No
2.9 Are there any other conservation projects for ACAP species not already mentioned?	Yes The New Zealand Department of Conservation works with Te Papa seabird researchers, local residents and landowners, Forest and Bird and the Grey District Council to learn more about the Westland petrels and the best ways to address threats to their colony on the main South Island. Activities include surveillance of colonies to detect the presence of pests such as pigs, controlling feral goats, maintaining boundary fences, providing advice to visitors and residents and the rescue of fledging chicks on the ground which are at risk of being harmed.

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### 3. Habitat conservation

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- 3.1 Has the Party introduced any legal or policy instruments or actions to implement protection and management of breeding sites, including habitat restoration? Yes  
The updated Southland Murihiku Conservation Management Strategy, which covers many of the subantarctic island breeding sites of ACAP-listed species in New Zealand, was finalised in 2016 (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/southlandcms>). The strategy describes conservation values and provides guidance for conservation work in the form of a vision, objectives, outcomes for Places, policies, and milestones.
- 3.2 Has the Party implemented any sustainable management measures for marine living resources which provide food for albatrosses and petrels? No  
Fisheries have continued to be managed in a sustainable way over this period using the Quota Management System (<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/law-and-policy/legal-overviews/fisheries/>).
- 3.3 Has the Party implemented any management or protection of important marine areas for albatrosses and petrels? No  
Two marine spatial planning processes have been progressed during this period that are likely to result in providing protection to marine areas important to some albatross and petrel species. In the north-east of New Zealand's North Island a multi-sector working group has developed the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan (<http://www.seachange.org.nz/>). In the South-east of New Zealand's South Island a process is currently underway to develop a similar plan for marine protected areas (<https://south-eastmarine.org.nz/>).
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### 4. Management of human activities

- 4.1 Has the Party completed any new environmental impact assessments related to albatrosses and petrels? Yes  
Improved fisheries risk assessment has been developed to guide actions to minimise the bycatch of seabird species, including ACAP-listed species, within New Zealand (see chapter 3 of [www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/16339](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/16339)). This risk assessment forms an important element behind the implementation of New Zealand's National Plan of Action - Seabirds ([www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/3962](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/3962)). New Zealand has also undertaken an initial risk assessment for ACAP species from fishing under southern hemisphere tuna RFMOs. This is intended to be revised with improved information.
- 4.2 Has the Party implemented any new measures to minimise discharge of pollutants and marine debris (MARPOL)? No  
New Zealand maritime regulations were changed in 2013 to prohibit the discharge of many forms of garbage into the water in accordance with Annex V of MARPOL.
- 4.3 Has the Party introduced any new measures to minimise the disturbance to albatrosses and petrels in marine and terrestrial habitats? No  
Absolute protection of albatrosses and petrels has continued to be provided for under New Zealand's Wildlife Act (1954).
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### 5. Research programmes

- 5.1 Does the Party have any ongoing research programmes relating to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels not already reported on? Yes  
A range of research and population projects are underway or planned for 2017-18 to investigate the following ACAP-listed species: Northern royal albatross, Antipodean albatross, Buller's albatross, white-capped albatross, Salvin's albatross, white-chinned petrel, black petrel and Westland petrel. Key results are entered into the ACAP database, and research reports published in the scientific literature or as publicly available research report (many of which are available at: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/conservation-services-programme/csp-reports/>).
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- 5.2 Does the Party have any additional national institutions (authorities or research centres), or NGOs involved in albatross and petrel conservation? Yes  
National Institutions with relevant current programmes of work: The National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) Te Papa Tongarewa - The Museum of New Zealand Victoria University University of Otago Private-sector providers of research relating to seabirds and seabird conservation: Parker Conservation Dragonfly Science JPEC Ltd Vita Maris Wildlife Management International Ltd NGOs with relevant current programmes of work: Black Petrel Action Group Chatham Islands Taiko Trust Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society Southern Seabird Solutions Trust WWF-New Zealand
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6.1 Has the Party conducted training or provided information for user audiences (eg scientists, fishers, etc)? Yes

A programme of dedicated liaison officers visiting commercial fishing vessels to engage crew on seabird bycatch matters has been funded by the New Zealand Department of Conservation (e.g. most recent report: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/conservation-services-programme/csp-reports/2016-17/seabird-bycatch-reduction-small-vessel-longline-fisheries-2016-17/>). Different high priority fleets have been targeted in different years. Port-based workshops (<http://southernseabirds.org/projects/seabird-smart-training-for-skippers-crew/>) have also been held in recent years engaging fishermen on seabird issues, including bycatch reduction measures, the importance of observer coverage, and seabird conservation status. Seabird field guides (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/marine-and-coastal/conservation-services-programme/csp-identification-guides/>) produced by the New Zealand Department of Conservation and aimed at New Zealand commercial and recreational fishers are available online. Training of all new fisheries observers in seabird identification, seabird data collection and seabird mitigation. A bi-monthly newsletter (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/marine-and-coastal/conservation-services-programme/bycatch-bylines-newsletter/>) produced by the New Zealand Department of Conservation focuses on protected species interactions with commercial fisheries. This includes ACAP-listed seabird species. The priority audience for this publication is commercial fishers. However, copies are distributed widely, including amongst scientists, government, NGOs, and international stakeholders. Videos profiling industry representatives and their work on seabird bycatch issues have been promulgated by Southern Seabird Solutions Trust (<http://southernseabirds.org/>). Other resources available through SSST include posters and brochures describing more seabird-friendly fishing practices.

6.2 Has the Party conducted training or provided information to the general public? Yes

Information on New Zealand's ACAP-listed species and relevant conservation management that can be readily accessed by the general public has been made available through a number of channels including: The New Zealand Department of Conservation webpage (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/birds/birds-a-z/>) New Zealand Birds Online webpage (<http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/>) Southern Seabirds Solutions Trust webpage (<http://www.southernseabirds.org/>)

## 7. Reporting against priorities for land-based conservation actions (see MoP5 Doc 15 Rev 1 - Prioritising ACAP Conservation Actions)

7.1 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Kerguelen (Grande Terre)? No

7.2 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to house mice on Gough Island? No

7.3 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to reindeer on Kerguelen (Grande Terre)? No

7.4 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Formentera? No

7.5 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Menorca? No

7.6 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Kerguelen (Grande Terre)? No

7.7 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Cabrera? No

7.8 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Cabrera? No

7.9 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Cabrera? No

actions in relation to black rats on Formentera?

7.10 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Ibiza? No

7.11 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Mallorca? No

7.12 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Menorca? No

7.13 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Ile Saint Lanne Gramont? No

7.14 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Ile Saint Lanne Gramont? No

7.15 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to brown rats on South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)? No

7.16 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Auckland Island? Yes

Having completed the Antipodes Island mouse eradication operation, the eradication of pests from Auckland Island is now back in focus for the New Zealand Department of Conservation. Eradication, as opposed to ongoing control is considered to be the only feasible long term option. A planning team is currently being recruited and partners are being sought for a project to eradicate pests from Auckland Island. A funding bid will be made once the plan has identified the strategy and methodologies to be used.

7.17 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to pigs on Auckland Island? Yes

Having completed the Antipodes Island mouse eradication operation, the eradication of pests from Auckland Island is now back in focus for the New Zealand Department of Conservation. Eradication, as opposed to ongoing control is considered to be the only feasible long term option. A planning team is currently being recruited and partners are being sought for a project to eradicate pests from Auckland Island. A funding bid will be made once the plan has identified the strategy and methodologies to be used.

7.18 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to house mice on Marion Island? No

7.19 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to Avian cholera on Ile Amsterdam? No

7.20 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to mosquitos on Isla Espanola? No

7.21 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to Avian pox virus on Albatross Island (AU)? No

7.22 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to Australasian gannets on Pedra Branca? No

7.23 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to human disturbance (recreation/tourism) of breeding sites on Ibiza? No

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**8. Reporting against priorities for at-sea conservation actions (see MoP5 Doc 15 Rev 1 - Prioritising ACAP Conservation Actions)**

8.1 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Angola Pelagic longline fishery? No

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- 8.2 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Argentina Demersal trawl fishery? No
- 8.3 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Australia demersal longline fishery? No
- 8.4 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Australia demersal trawl fishery? No
- 8.5 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Australia Pelagic trawl fishery? No
- 8.6 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Australia trawl fishery? No
- 8.7 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Brazil demersal longline fishery? No
- 8.8 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Brazil Pelagic longline fishery? No
- 8.9 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Brazil Pelagic longline fishery (Itaipava fleet)? No
- 8.10 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the CCSBT Pelagic longline fishery? Yes  
New Zealand has actively participated in CCSBT to progress actions to mitigation the bycatch of albatross and petrels in this RFMO. For example, New Zealand undertook work to assess the risk of pelagic longline fisheries in the southern hemisphere to ACAP seabird species (CCSBT-ERS/1703/12) and to define areas of high risk of seabird bycatch (CCSBT-ERS/1703/13).
- 8.11 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the IATTC Pelagic longline fishery? No
- 8.12 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the ICCAT Pelagic longline fishery? No
- 8.13 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the IOTC Pelagic longline fishery? No
- 8.14 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Namibia Demersal longline fishery? No
- 8.15 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Namibia demersal trawl fishery? No
- 8.16 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Namibia Pelagic longline fishery? No
- 8.17 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Namibia Pelagic trawl fishery? No
- 8.18 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Namibia Demersal trawl fishery? No

actions relevant to seabird  
bycatch in the Peru demersal  
longline fishery?

8.19 Has the Party taken any No  
actions relevant to seabird  
bycatch in the Peru Pelagic  
longline fishery?

8.20 Has the Party taken any No  
actions relevant to seabird  
bycatch in the SEAFO  
demersal trawl fishery?

8.21 Has the Party taken any No  
actions relevant to seabird  
bycatch in the Spain  
demersal longline fishery?

8.22 Has the Party taken any No  
actions relevant to seabird  
bycatch in the Spain Pelagic  
longline fishery?

8.23 Has the Party taken any No  
actions relevant to seabird  
bycatch in the Spain purse  
seine fishery?

8.24 Has the Party taken any No  
actions relevant to seabird  
bycatch in the Spain trawl  
fishery?

8.25 Has the Party taken any Yes  
actions relevant to seabird  
bycatch in the SPRFMO  
demersal trawl fishery?

New Zealand has actively participated in SPRFMO to progress matters related to seabird bycatch. Key New Zealand led initiatives have included: a proposal (COMM-02-08) for a conservation management measure on seabird bycatch which was adopted in January 2014 at the Second Commission Meeting; and proposals (CTC-02-2015) to better define data collection and reporting standards related to seabird bycatch, which were agreed at the Second Compliance and Technical Committee. New Zealand has also contributed various scientific papers supporting these proposals as well other matters such as seabird observation protocols.

8.26 Has the Party taken any No  
actions relevant to seabird  
bycatch in the UK (OT)  
Pelagic longline fishery?

8.27 Has the Party taken any Yes  
actions relevant to seabird  
bycatch in the WCPFC  
Pelagic longline fishery?

New Zealand has actively participated in WCPFC to progress matters related to seabird bycatch. During the period 2014-2016 New Zealand presented papers on the risks of bycatch posed to a number of ACAP-listed species (e.g. WCPFC-SC12-2016/EB-WP-09), resulting in the recognition by the Scientific Committee that at-risk seabird distribution exceeds the area where seabird bycatch mitigation is currently required. New Zealand supported the proposal to require seabird bycatch mitigation use over a wider area. Other New Zealand inputs have included developments on mitigation measures such as bird scaring lines for smaller vessels (WCPFC-SC12-2016/EB-WP-10).

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## 9. Other

Does the Party have any No  
new information to report on  
research into observed  
impacts, or mitigation of,  
climate change on  
albatrosses and petrels?

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## 10. Additional Comments

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### Final submission details

Report is closed for editing.

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