



Agreement on the Conservation
of Albatrosses and Petrels

Twelfth Meeting of the Advisory Committee
Virtual meeting, 31 August – 2 September 2021 (UTC+10)

2021 Implementation Report – New Zealand

New Zealand



Agreement on the Conservation
of Albatrosses and Petrels

Report - MOP-7 (2022)

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Implementation Report for the Meeting of Parties - MOP-7 (2022)

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?

Response: Yes

As detailed in sub-questions below.

1.1.1 to ensure that appropriate mechanisms are established/maintained to identify and robustly assess seabird bycatch in relevant fisheries and to monitor the implementation of effective bycatch mitigation strategies (7.1.13 MoP6 Report)

Response: Yes

Continued implementation of a government fisheries observer programme, establishment of an Electronic Monitoring programme, and an improved fisheries reporting process including digital reporting of bycatch.

1.1.2 to actively support and participate in the ACAP process to better understand and address barriers and drivers in the effective use of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation strategies (7.1.13 MoP6 Report)

Response: Yes

Active contribution to SBWG intersessional work, including describing and sharing New Zealand case studies and investigations.

1.1.3 to review, based on the information provided by the Seabird Bycatch Working Group, the efficacy of seabird bycatch mitigation measures used in the fisheries that they manage and explore the performance of new mitigation technologies and related safety and other operational issues (7.1.13 MoP6 Report)

Response: Yes

New Zealand has developed Mitigation Standards for fisheries posing seabird bycatch risk. These standards reflect, where relevant, ACAP Best Practice mitigation advice.

1.1.4 to use the revised bycatch reporting template as part of annual reporting (Advisory Committee Annual Report, Section C), to enable the assessment and reporting of performance indicators on seabird bycatch (7.1.13 MoP6 Report)

Response: Yes

Reporting provided annually

1.1.5 to support the collection and provision of seabird bycatch data by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and Regional Conservation Bodies (RCBs) that they are members of (7.1.13 MoP6 Report)

Response: Yes

All required reporting provided.

1.1.6 to support their priority population monitoring programmes, including the maintenance of long-term monitoring (see AC10 Doc 11 Rev 1, p. 22-26)

Response: Yes

Details of monitoring programmes reported to PaCSWG.

1.1.7 to implement best practice monitoring practices that include censuses of breeding sites conducted at a minimum of 10 year intervals, and annual monitoring of population trend and demography at a minimum of one representative site for each island group (7.1.13 MoP6 Report)

Response: Yes

New Zealand maintains an extensive range of monitoring, subject to logistical and funding constraints. The ability to implement some monitoring programmes was impacted by COVID-19 in 2020. Addressing all remaining data gaps is a high priority for New Zealand.

1.1.8 to conduct priority tracking programmes to enable a better understanding of at-sea distribution of albatrosses and petrels (see AC10 Doc 11 Rev 1, p. 26-28)

Response: Yes

New Zealand has implementing an expanded tracking programme targeted at species at highest risk from fisheries bycatch. Tracking studies are conducted as part of the monitoring programmes reported to PaCSWG. Continuing the tracking programme to fill the last remaining data gaps is a high priority for New Zealand.

1.1.9 to update the ACAP database on an ongoing basis to maintain the currency of information underpinning analyses (7.1.13 MoP6 Report)

Response: Yes

Updated annually.

1.1.10 to support the allocation of funds for the operation of the Advisory Committee to enable its effective operation, taking into account the growth in the complexity and number of matters it now addresses (7.1.13 MoP6 Report)

Response: Yes

1.1.11 to provide the necessary resources for the conduct of the research and conservation programmes identified by the Advisory Committee's Working Groups (7.1.13 MoP6 Report)

Response: Yes

New Zealand actively contributes to a range of Working Group research and conservation programmes.

1.1.12 to engage in domestic consultation processes to facilitate the effective implementation of the Agreement (7.1.13, MoP6 Report)

Response: Yes

A number of domestic consultation processes are conducted that facilitate effective implementation of the Agreement, including biannual meetings of a Seabird Advisory Group.

1.1.13 to report on Capacity Building indicators (MoP6 Report, 7.6.3). See Advisory Committee Annual Report Section D: Other Annual Reporting Requirements, Question 3.

Response: Yes

Progress reported.

1.1.14 Resolution 6.4 AC Work Programme 2019-2021 - Tasks 4.2 (Accession of non-Party Range states) and 5.2 (Action Plans)

Response: Yes

An Action Plan for the priority Antipodean albatross population at Antipodes Island was developed in collaboration with Chile and Australia as part of the process to list the species on Appendix 1 of CMS. Reporting on progress against the plan, developed in 2020, will be provided from AC12 onwards. New Zealand recognises that further ongoing work is required to progress and implement the strategy to add new Parties to the Agreement.

1.1.15 Resolution 4.5 Financial Regulations: 5.1 to contribute to the budget in accordance with the scale of contributions agreed by the Meeting of Parties (Resolution 6.6 Agreement Budget 201-2021)

Response: Yes

Full contribution provided annually, within required timeframe.

1.2 Is action for national implementation planned to occur in the next three years?

Response: Yes

See detail in answers to sub-questions below.

1.2.1 on species conservation?

Response: Yes

Continued implementation of the Action Plan for the priority population of Antipodean albatross. In addition to Antipodean albatross, Black petrel, Salvin's albatross, Westland petrel and Buller's albatross are all listed as species of particular concern under New Zealand's NPOA-Seabirds

2020. As such there is a programme of targeted research, monitoring and fisheries bycatch management in place for each of these species. Additional site-based management actions will continue to be taken at most ACAP-species breeding sites in New Zealand to protect birds at breeding sites. New Zealand will also continue implementation of its NPOA-Seabirds 2020 which addresses the full range of direct fishing-related threats to all seabirds, including ACAP-listed species.

1.2.2 on habitat conservation?

Response: Yes

Continued protection of breeding sites of ACAP-listed species, through implementation of relevant Conservation Management Strategy as recorded in breeding site database.

1.2.3 on management of human activities?

Response: Yes

Fisheries bycatch is the human activity posing most risk to ACAP-listed species in New Zealand. A range of activities will be undertaken to reduce this threat through the implementation of New Zealand's NPOA-Seabirds. The potential risk of visitor disturbance at breeding sites will be managed through implementation of relevant Conservation Management Strategy as recorded in breeding site database.

1.2.4 on research programmes?

Response: Yes

Continued implementation of the Action Plan for the priority population of Antipodean albatross includes a range of dedicated research. In addition to Antipodean albatross, Black petrel, Salvin's albatross, Westland petrel and Buller's albatross are all listed as species of particular concern under New Zealand's NPOA-Seabirds 2020. There will be continued implementation of the NPOA-Seabirds, involving a programme of targeted research and monitoring each of these species. As part of the Department of Conservation Bycatch Programme there will also be an annual research planning process to identify priority research needs for other New Zealand breeding species, which will include relevant population and tracking studies.

1.2.5 on education and public awareness?

Response: Yes

New Zealand will continue to implement dedicated education and awareness raising programmes amongst both commercial and recreational fishers to address seabird bycatch. The Department of Conservation will also continue to implement a range of public awareness activities around the nature, status and threats to ACAP-listed species, including a focus around World Albatross Day. A mix of methods, both traditional and through social media will be used to maximise the outreach.

1.2.6 on impacts or mitigation of climate change?

Response: Yes

The Department of Conservation launched a Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan in 2020: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/climate-change-and-conservation/adapting-to-climate-change/> Work is currently underway to develop an implementation plan for the marine domain, which will be of relevance to planning for any adaptation relevant to ACAP-listed species in New Zealand. Research programmes on ACAP-listed species in New Zealand will aim to collect data, where possible, to better understand the impacts of climate change on these populations and inform any required adaptation actions.

2. Species conservation

2.1 Has the Party provided any exemptions to prohibitions on the taking or harmful interference with albatrosses and petrels? (do not include exemptions provided for scientific research purposes here)

Response: No

2.2 Has any authorised use or trade in albatrosses or petrels occurred? (e.g. to accommodate the traditional needs and practices of Indigenous people, for scientific, educational or similar purposes)

Response: Yes

Seabirds landed dead on commercial fishing vessels carrying government fisheries observers are retained for necropsy. The carcasses of these birds are subsequently made available (free of

charge) to museums, researchers and to New Zealand's indigenous Maori people for traditional uses. These seabirds include ACAP-listed species, of which albatross are of particular interest for traditional uses.

2.3 Has the Party implemented any new single or multi-species conservation strategies / Action Plans?

Response: Yes

In addition to the Concerted Action Plan developed for Antipodean albatross in association with the listing of this species on Appendix 1 of CM in 2020, New Zealand also published an updated NPOA-Seabirds in 2020 which describes a holistic strategy for address fisheries bycatch for all New Zealand breeding seabirds, and bycatch of other seabirds in New Zealand waters. In addition to Antipodean albatross, black petrel, Salvin's albatross, Westland petrel and Buller's albatross are all listed as species of particular concern under New Zealand's NPOA-Seabirds 2020, for which focussed research, monitoring and fisheries management actions have been progressed.

Albatrosses	Year		Petrels	Year	
	Published	Revised		Published	Revised
<i>Diomedea antipodensis</i> 2020					

2.4 Has the Party taken any emergency measures, as defined in [Resolution 1.4](#), involving albatrosses or petrels?

Response: No

2.5 Has the Party conducted any re-establishment schemes?

Response: Yes

The translocation of Chatham Island albatross to Chatham Island has continued, with completion of the transfer of over 300 chicks in 2018: <https://www.taiko.org.nz/projects/albatross-translocation>

2.6 Has the Party introduced any **new** legal or policy instruments for species protection of albatrosses and petrels?

Response: Yes

New Zealand launched a new NPOA-Seabirds in 2020 which sets a new policy framework for reducing seabird bycatch. This includes the establishment of bycatch mitigation standards to set new expectations on best practice operation of commercial fleets. Te Mana o te Taiao, the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020, was also launched in 2020 which sets a range of policy objectives related to species conservation and fisheries bycatch which are relevant to the protection of ACAP-listed species. A number of improvements to fisheries regulations on seabird bycatch mitigation were made, including the addition of hook-shielding devices as an option for use in pelagic longline fisheries, in alignment with ACAP Best Practice Mitigation Advice.

2.7 Has the Party implemented any legal or policy instruments for environmental impact assessments? (Completion of any new environmental impact assessments is addressed in Question 4.1)

Response: No

2.8.1 Has the Party taken action to submit any albatross and/or petrel species for addition to Annex 1 (please indicate which species)?

Response: No

2.8.2 Does the Party intend to submit any albatross and/or petrel species for addition to Annex 1 during the next triennium 2023 - 2025 (please indicate which species)?

Response: No

Whilst New Zealand has considered the merits of proposing the addition of flesh-footed shearwater to Annex 1, at this stage we do not intend to submit a proposal during the next triennium.

2.9 Are there any other conservation projects for ACAP species not already mentioned in Questions 2.3 to 2.6?

Response: Yes

See Q7.16.

3. Habitat conservation

3.1 Has the Party introduced any legal or policy instruments or actions to implement protection

and management of breeding sites, including habitat restoration?

Response: No

Adequate legal and policy instruments already in place.

3.2 Has the Party implemented any sustainable management measures for marine living resources which provide food for albatrosses and petrels? (e.g. temporal or spatial area closures, adjustment to a fishing quota for a species known to be eaten by an albatross or petrel, size limits, issue of licences, observer programmes/reporting, research/surveys).

Response: Yes

New Zealand's NPOA-Seabirds 2020 provides new framework for addressing seabird bycatch in fisheries, including setting mitigation standards, fisheries data collection, monitoring and compliance, and seabird research.

3.3 Has the Party implemented any management or protection of important marine areas for albatrosses and petrels?

Response: Yes

Work is underway to establish a network of Marine Protected Areas on the south-east coast of the South Island – from Timaru to Waipapa Point, which includes important foraging areas for albatrosses and petrels: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/south-eastern-south-island-marine-protection/> A response strategy to the Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari Marine Spatial Plan for the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park is also underway. This area contains the only breeding sites for black petrel, and covers important foraging areas for albatrosses and petrels.

4. Management of human activities

4.1 Has the Party completed any **new** environmental impact assessments related to albatrosses and petrels? (legal and policy instruments are addressed in Question 2.7)

Response: Yes

An updated assessment of the risk of commercial fisheries to New Zealand seabirds was published in 2020: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/39407-AEBR-237-Assessment-of-the-risk-of-commercial-fisheries-to-New-Zealand-seabirds-200607-to-201617> Most recent results are reported annually in Aquatic Environment and Biodiversity Annual Reviews. New Zealand has also continued to develop an Assessment of the risk of surface longline fisheries in the Southern Hemisphere to albatrosses and petrels.

4.2 Has the Party implemented any **new** measures to minimise discharge of pollutants and marine debris ([MARPOL](#))?

Response: No

Adequate measures are already in place.

4.3 Has the Party introduced any other **new** measures to minimise the disturbance to albatrosses and petrels in marine and terrestrial habitats not already reported in Questions 3.1 to 4.2?

Response: No

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 in Sections 2, 3 and 4?

Response: No

5.2 Does the Party have any **new** national institutions (authorities or research centres), or NGOs involved in albatross and petrel conservation?

Response: Yes

The recently established NGO Live Ocean Charitable Trust has been active in albatross and petrel conservation, notably through their project to save the Antipodean albatross.

6. Education and public awareness

6.1 Has the Party conducted training or provided information for user audiences (eg scientists, fishers)?

Response: Yes

A programme of dedicated liaison officers visiting commercial inshore fishing vessels to engage crew on seabird bycatch matters has been continued and expanded by the New Zealand Department of Conservation and compliments a similar programme targeting offshore vessels implemented by DeepWater Group. A range of updated education resources for fishers, including videos on seabird bycatch mitigation methods, have been developed and are available at: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/conservation-services-programme/csp-resources-for-fishers/> Training of fishery observers around seabird identification and bycatch mitigation, and provision of appropriate resources, has continued to be implemented and improved. The Charitable Trust Southern Seabirds has continued to develop and provide a range of resources around seabirds and bycatch mitigation targeted at both commercial and recreational fishers: <https://www.catchfishnotbirds.nz/resources> The Department of Conservation and Fisheries New Zealand have implemented new work programmes to engage with recreational fishers around seabird bycatch including development and trial of a dedicated phone app: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/habitats/marine/recreational-fishings-impact-on-protected-species-and-how-to-help/>

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

Response: Yes

Both the New Zealand government and NGO sector have been active in public communication, through information and resources on webpages, media releases on ACAP-listed species conservation challenges (picked up in print, on radio and on national television), and through various social media channels (with the first World Albatross Day in 2020 providing a key focus point) including production of videos and animations.

7. Reporting against priorities for land-based conservation actions ([see MoP6 Doc 13](#))

7.2 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to house mice on Gough Island?

Response: Not Applicable

7.3 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to reindeer on Kerguelen (Grande Terre)?

Response: Not Applicable

7.4 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Formentera?

Response: Not Applicable

7.5 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Menorca?

Response: Not Applicable

7.6 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Kerguelen (Grande Terre)?

Response: Not Applicable

7.7 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Cabrera?

Response: Not Applicable

7.8 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Cabrera?

Response: Not Applicable

7.9 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Formentera?

Response: Not Applicable

7.10 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Ibiza?

Response: Not Applicable

7.11 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Mallorca?

Response: Not Applicable

7.12 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Menorca?

Response: Not Applicable

7.13 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Ile Saint Lanne Gramont?

Response: Not Applicable

7.14 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Ile Saint Lanne Gramont?

Response: Not Applicable

7.15 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to brown rats on South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)?

Response: Not Applicable

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

Response: Yes

Feasibility investigations and project planning for eradication of pigs, cats and mice from Auckland Island, totalling NZD2 million investment to date, have been completed. A number of challenges and uncertainties remain to be overcome, including securing funding and support for the duration of an eradication programme. Further details on the project are available at <https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/maukahuka-pest-free-auckland-island/>

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

Response: Yes

Feasibility investigations and project planning for eradication of pigs, cats and mice from Auckland Island, totalling NZD2 million investment to date, have been completed. A number of challenges and uncertainties remain to be overcome, including securing funding and support for the duration of an eradication programme. Further details on the project are available at <https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/maukahuka-pest-free-auckland-island/>

7.19 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to Avian cholera on Ile Amsterdam?

Response: Not Applicable

7.20 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to mosquitos on Isla Espanola?

Response: Not Applicable

7.21 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to Avian pox virus on Albatross Island (AU)?

Response: Not Applicable

7.22 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to Australasian gannets *Morus serrator* on Pedra Branca?

Response: Not Applicable

8. Reporting against priorities for at-sea conservation actions (see MoP6 Doc 13)

8.1 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Angola Pelagic longline fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.2 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Argentina Demersal trawl fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.4 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Australia demersal trawl fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.5 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Australia Pelagic trawl fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.6 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Australia trawl fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.7 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Brazil demersal longline fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.8 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Brazil Pelagic longline fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.9 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Brazil Pelagic longline fishery (Itaipava fleet)?

Response: Not Applicable

8.10 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the CCSBT Pelagic longline fishery?

Response: Yes

New Zealand undertakes regular monitoring of our own flagged vessels participating in this fishery and if non-compliance with relevant seabird bycatch mitigation and data collection

requirements is detected then we can undertake enforcement actions against the New Zealand operator. Further to this, mitigation standards describing expectations of best practice mitigation by relevant New Zealand flagged vessels, were introduced in 2020 as part of the implementation of New Zealand's NPOA-Seabirds 2020. New Zealand actively participates in CCSBT meetings to promote ongoing improvement in the understand of, and management of, seabird bycatch in this fishery. For example, New Zealand presented papers on assessing seabird bycatch risk, identification of high-risk areas, and improvements to bycatch data reporting at the last meeting of CCSBT ERSWG in 2019.

8.11 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the IATTC Pelagic longline fishery?

Response: Yes

Noting that New Zealand does not have fishing interests in the IATTC area and thus does not participate directly, New Zealand has used existing fisheries bilateral communication channels with IATTC members to highlight the priority of addressing seabird bycatch in this fishery.

8.12 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the ICCAT Pelagic longline fishery?

Response: No

New Zealand does not have fishing interests in the ICCAT area and thus does not participate in this RFMO.

8.13 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the IOTC Pelagic longline fishery?

Response: No

New Zealand does not have fishing interests in the IOTC area and thus does not participate in this RFMO.

8.15 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Namibia demersal trawl fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.16 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Namibia Pelagic longline fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.17 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Namibia pelagic trawl fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.18 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Peru demersal longline fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.19 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Peru Pelagic longline fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.20 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the SEAFO demersal trawl fishery?

Response: No

New Zealand does not have fishing interests in the SEAFO area and thus does not participate in this RFMO.

8.21 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Spain demersal longline fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.22 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Spain Pelagic longline fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.23 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Spain purse seine fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.24 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Spain trawl fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

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

Response: Yes

New Zealand undertakes regular monitoring of our own flagged vessels participating in this

fishery and if non-compliance with relevant seabird bycatch mitigation and data collection requirements is detected then we can undertake enforcement actions against the New Zealand operator. New Zealand actively participates in SPRFMO meetings to promote ongoing improvement in the understand of, and management of, seabird bycatch in this fishery.

8.26 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the UK (OT) Pelagic longline fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

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

Response: Yes

New Zealand undertakes regular monitoring of our own flagged vessels participating in this fishery and if non-compliance with relevant seabird bycatch mitigation and data collection requirements is detected then we can undertake enforcement actions against the New Zealand operator. Further to this, mitigation standards describing expectations of best practice mitigation by relevant New Zealand flagged vessels, were introduced in 2020 as part of the implementation of New Zealand's NPOA-Seabirds 2020. New Zealand championed proposals for improvements to the seabird bycatch measure, most recently amended to expand the area of required mitigation use north from 30S to 25S, allow for the use of hook-shielding devices in accordance with ACAP Best Practice advice and improve bycatch data reporting (CMM2018-03, adopted in Dec 2018). New Zealand also championed the proposal to adopt seabird handling guidelines in accordance with ACAP advice (successfully adopted in Dec 2019). New Zealand actively participates in WCPFC meetings to promote ongoing improvement in the understand of, and management of, seabird bycatch in this fishery.

8.28 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Australia Gillnet fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.29 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch the Uruguay demersal trawl fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

9. Other

Does the Party have any new information to report on research into observed impacts, or mitigation of, climate change on albatrosses and petrels?

Response: No

10. Additional Comments (including feedback about this form or the reporting process)

Final submission details

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Report by Igor Debski

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