



Agreement on the Conservation  
of Albatrosses and Petrels

**Eighth Meeting of the Advisory Committee**  
*Punta del Este, Uruguay, 15 -19 September 2014*

**2014 Implementation Report – New Zealand**

***New Zealand***

## Report for the Meeting of Parties - MOP-5 (2015)

Submitted by - New Zealand

Coverage of report - New Zealand

## Highlights 2004-2014 and challenges remaining

1. Please provide a summary of the Party's key achievements in improving the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels over the last decade (or the period since joining the Agreement).

New Zealand signed the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels in 2001, and the Agreement entered into force in 2004. Since joining the Agreement, New Zealand's activities relating to improving the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels have encompassed legislation, policy, research, and threat management. Key achievements have included: • Revision of the National Plan of Action-Seabirds and implementation of this Plan • The development of a risk-based approach to managing seabird interactions with commercial fisheries • The introduction of mandatory seabird bycatch reduction measures relating to pelagic and demersal longline and trawl fishing methods • An active and ongoing research programme on seabird bycatch mitigation measures, including the exploration of methods to reduce seabird captures in trawl nets, testing line-weighting strategies in pelagic and demersal longline fisheries, improving the construction standards for tori lines in trawl fisheries, and establishing best practice approaches for managing the discharge of trawl processing waste • In-depth monitoring of interactions between ACAP-listed seabirds and some commercial fisheries by government fisheries observers • Making information on incidental captures of ACAP-listed species in New Zealand commercial fisheries publicly available online • Improving knowledge of the populations of ACAP species and their at-sea habitats, by continuing long-term demographic studies e.g., Buller's albatross, northern royal albatross, Gibson's albatross and black petrel, and by initiating new work on at-risk species, e.g., Salvin's albatross and white-capped albatross. • The first translocation of the Chatham albatross, an ACAP species classified as "Vulnerable" by the IUCN. • Improvement of habitat quality for ACAP-listed seabirds through the eradication of introduced pests and implementation of new biosecurity measures for breeding islands • Creation of marine reserves (that exclude fishing) around key breeding islands (Antipodes, Bounty and Campbell islands) • Production and dissemination of a variety of resources aimed at increasing awareness of seabirds and conservation issues, including newsletters, identification guides, and DVDs • Ongoing involvement of a broad group of stakeholders in the conservation of ACAP-listed species, including government, fishers, scientists, and eNGOs.

2. Please provide a brief summary of key challenges remaining for the Party in achieving and maintaining a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels in the coming years.

New Zealand has a large number of breeding seabirds, including 16 of the 30 ACAP-listed species. Managing these species effectively requires a substantial knowledge-base and significant resource commitment, for example, to monitor the status and trends of species' populations. Continuing research on ACAP-listed species populations is important to support their management, especially where populations may be at risk from anthropogenic threats. Work in the past decade has resulted in a relatively strong understanding of interactions between ACAP-listed seabirds and commercial fisheries operating in deeper water. In addition, mitigation measures effective in reducing these interactions are relatively well-known. Implementation of bycatch reduction measures is expected to continue in deepwater fisheries, with refinements to improve efficacy over time as new information becomes available. For inshore commercial and recreational fisheries, there remains research to be done in order to better understand the nature and extent of seabird captures and mitigation strategies. ACAP-listed seabirds are known to be caught in inshore commercial fisheries (e.g., Salvin's albatross and black petrel) and recreational fisheries (e.g., black petrel and flesh-footed shearwater), and the following work is identified as priority action: • Improving knowledge of the nature and extent of seabird captures in inshore commercial, and recreational, fisheries • Developing effective approaches for deployment in inshore commercial fisheries where these are not yet available, to minimise captures of ACAP-listed species • Where effective mitigation approaches are available, ensuring these are implemented in inshore commercial fisheries, where appropriate given the risk of seabird captures • Minimising the captures of seabirds in recreational fisheries and improving fisher knowledge of release methods to maximise post-capture survival Maintaining the quality of ACAP-species' terrestrial and marine habitats will also require ongoing effort in future years. For example, continuing programmes to eradicate introduced predators from seabirds' breeding islands, such as pigs and cats on Auckland Island, is desirable though resource-intensive. Pressure on New Zealand's marine environment from human activities may increase in future. Ensuring the effects of any such activities on ACAP-listed seabird species are avoided or minimised, and do not degrade their conservation status, is vital.

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

1.1 Has action been taken to implement the decisions of previous MoPs? Yes

In relation to at-sea conservation priorities identified at MOP4 (MOP4 Doc17 Annex 1, Appendix 2), New Zealand has updated the requirements for the deployment of mandatory bycatch reduction measures in the pelagic trawl and pelagic longline fisheries. In trawl fisheries, vessels > 28 m in length have been required to deploy one of three devices intended to reduce seabird bycatch since 2006. These regulations were updated in 2010. Regulations relating to the deployment of seabird bycatch reduction measures in pelagic longline fisheries (including WCPFC and CCSBT fisheries) have been updated several times in recent years. The most recent update (<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/Default.aspx?TabId=126&id=2223>) requires the implementation of WCPFC measures. In relation to land-based conservation priorities identified at MOP4 (MOP4 Doc17 Annex 1, Appendix 1), New Zealand has continued preparatory investigations to enable the eradication of pigs from Auckland Island, including the identification and registration of a suitable poison. Securing sufficient funding for an eradication programme remains a challenge and possible partners are being sought.

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

New Zealand has an ongoing conservation and research programme involving ACAP-listed albatrosses and petrels. Examples of actions to be implemented in the next three years include the following. • Implementation and review of the National Plan of Action – Seabirds (<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/Default.aspx?TabId=126&id=1760>) • Updating the assessment of the risk that commercial fisheries represent for New Zealand seabird populations • Continuing observer coverage (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/conservation/marine-and-coastal/marine-conservation-services/approved-csp-annual-plan-2013-14.pdf>) at sea to improve understanding of the nature and extent of bycatch of ACAP-listed species in commercial fisheries • Continuing population monitoring programmes (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/conservation/marine-and-coastal/marine-conservation-services/approved-csp-annual-plan-2013-14.pdf>), focusing on species likely to be at higher risk due to fisheries impacts • Continuing research (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/conservation/marine-and-coastal/marine-conservation-services/approved-csp-annual-plan-2013-14.pdf>) into at-sea distributions of several ACAP-listed species • Continuing research (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/conservation/marine-and-coastal/marine-conservation-services/approved-csp-annual-plan-2013-14.pdf>) on mitigation approaches for reducing bycatch of ACAP-listed species, e.g., in trawl and longline fisheries • Removing mice (<http://garethsworld.com/blog/environment/million-dollar-mouse-update/>) from Antipodes Island, where several ACAP-listed species breed

## 2. Species conservation

2.1 Has the Party No 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 occurred? Yes

Seabirds landed dead on commercial fishing vessels carrying government fisheries observers are retained for necropsy (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/conservation/marine-and-coastal/marine-conservation-services/csp-twg-1-8-2013-bell-presentation-seabird-identify>) The carcasses of these birds are subsequently made available (free of charge) to museums, and to New Zealand's indigenous Māori people for traditional uses. August 2010 – 31 March 2013, 279 bycaught seabirds were given to iwi and 26 were provided to museums. These seabirds included ACAP-listed species.

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

A new National Plan of Action – Seabirds (<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/Default.aspx?TabId=126&id=1760>) was produced in 2013. This applies to all ACAP-listed species occurring in New Zealand, and includes a series of objectives relating to seabird conservation and management. There is a five-year timeframe for the implementation of this Plan.

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 first translocation ( <a href="https://www.facebook.com/chathamtaikotrust">https://www.facebook.com/chathamtaikotrust</a> ) of the Chatham albatross occurred in early 2014. This ACAP-listed species is classified Vulnerable by the IUCN. The Chatham albatross is currently restricted to a single breeding site (The Pyramid) in the Chatham Islands. Chicks were transferred to site on main Chatham Island and hand-fed until they had all fledged on May 9 2014. Additional transfers of chicks are planned for 2015 and 2016.
2.6 Has the Party introduced any new legal or policy instruments for species protection of albatrosses and petrels?	Yes A new National Plan of Action – Seabirds ( <a href="http://www.mpi.govt.nz/Default.aspx?TabId=126&amp;id=1760">http://www.mpi.govt.nz/Default.aspx?TabId=126&amp;id=1760</a> ) was completed in 2013. This Plan will be implemented 2018.
2.7 Has the Party implemented any legal or policy instruments for environmental impact assessments?	Yes The Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 ( <a href="http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2012/0072/latest/DLM46708">http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2012/0072/latest/DLM46708</a> ) was introduced to “promote the sustainable management of the natural resources of the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf”. This Act includes consenting regime that is intended to manage the environmental impacts of activities undertaken in New Zealand’s offshore waters. Assessing environmental includes evaluating the impacts of proposed activities on seabirds where birds may interact or overlap in space and time with the proposed activity.
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 Estimates of the captures of seabird species in commercial fisheries are conducted annually (and made publicly available ( <a href="https://data.dragonfly.co.nz/psc/">https://data.dragonfly.co.nz/psc/</a> )). Estimates are widely used by government and stakeholders, including to guide research and management priorities. Estimates of cryptic mortality were used in assessment ( <a href="https://fs.fish.govt.nz/Doc/23121/AEBR_109_2596_PRO2010-02,%20Obj.%201,%20MS4,%20RR2,1.pdf.ashx">https://fs.fish.govt.nz/Doc/23121/AEBR_109_2596_PRO2010-02,%20Obj.%201,%20MS4,%20RR2,1.pdf.ashx</a> ) exploring the likelihood of commercial affecting seabirds at the population level. Work is underway to refine these assessments, based on data review and expert input. Findings of this work will be incorporated into future risk assessments. Work investigating the population status of ACAP-listed species and bycatch reduction methods relevant to these species ongoing ( <a href="http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/conservation/marine-and-coastal/marine-conservation-services/approved-csp-annual-plan-2013-14.pdf">http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/conservation/marine-and-coastal/marine-conservation-services/approved-csp-annual-plan-2013-14.pdf</a> ). Projects include Salvin’s albatross, white-capped albatross, Gibson’s albatross and black petrel. Mitigation work includes refining the design of bird bafflers on vessels > 28 m in length, continuing development of the Kellian line-setter, testing novel line-weighting approaches in surface longline fisheries, and characterising poorly-known sectors of the commercial fishing fleet represent to seabirds. Population modelling studies are to be conducted to update fully quantitative models to assess population trend and key demographic rates for several ACAP-listed species given that new demographic data are now available. Population is underway for southern Buller’s albatross and black petrel. A global seabird risk assessment is planned as the existing level-2 risk assessment only addresses arising from commercial fisheries within the New Zealand Exclusive Zone (EEZ); however some wide-ranging New Zealand breeding seabird populations are known also encounter substantial commercial fisheries risk outside the EEZ. Full understanding of risks to seabird populations, and by extension evaluation of what proportion of that risk is attributable by New Zealand fisheries, requires an extension of the analysis to include fisheries interactions outside the EEZ.

---

### 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?	Yes A mouse eradication project will commence on Antipodes Island in 2015. The creation of a Conservation Park has been proposed for parts of Great Barrier Island by the New Zealand Government. Government consultation on the formal proposal for this Park closed in early 2014. The outcome of consultation is unknown as yet. Great Barrier Island is the main breeding site of the black petrel.
3.2 Has the Party implemented any sustainable management measures for marine living resources which provide food for albatrosses and petrels?	Yes The Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 ( <a href="http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2012/0072/latest/DLM4670826.html">http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2012/0072/latest/DLM4670826.html</a> ) was introduced to “promote the sustainable management of the natural resources of the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf”. This Act includes a detailed consenting regime that is intended to manage the environmental impacts of marine activities undertaken in New Zealand’s offshore waters. Assessing environmental impacts includes evaluating the impacts of proposed activities on seabirds (where birds may interact or overlap in distribution with the proposed activity) as well as marine ecosystems more broadly.
3.3 Has the Party implemented any management or protection of important marine areas for albatrosses and petrels?	Yes New marine reserves have been created around the Antipodes, Bounty and Campbell islands. These islands are all important breeding areas for ACAP-listed species.

---

### 4. Management of human activities

4.1 Has the Party completed any new environmental impact assessments related to albatrosses and petrels?	Yes A new National Plan of Action – Seabirds ( <a href="http://www.mpi.govt.nz/Default.aspx?TabId=126&amp;id=1760">http://www.mpi.govt.nz/Default.aspx?TabId=126&amp;id=1760</a> ) was produced in 2013. This applies to all ACAP-listed species, and includes a series of objectives relating to seabird conservation and management. There is a five-year timeframe for the implementation of this Plan. The prioritisation of activities in this Plan is supported by an assessment of the risk New Zealand commercial fisheries represent to seabird populations ( <a href="https://fs.fish.govt.nz/Doc/23121/AEBR_109_2596_PRO2010-02,%20Obj.%201,%20MS4,%20RR2,1.pdf.ashx">https://fs.fish.govt.nz/Doc/23121/AEBR_109_2596_PRO2010-02,%20Obj.%201,%20MS4,%20RR2,1.pdf.ashx</a> ).
4.2 Has the Party implemented any new measures to minimise discharge of pollutants and marine debris (MARPOL)?	Yes The discharge of many forms of garbage into the water became illegal ( <a href="http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/Publications-and-forms/Safe-Clean-Seas/Issue-42-11.asp">http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/Publications-and-forms/Safe-Clean-Seas/Issue-42-11.asp</a> ) in January 2013, with the incorporation of Annex V of MARPOL into New Zealand law. The prohibition on garbage discharge includes, but is not limited to, ropes, fishing gear, dunnage, plastics, oils, paper, metal, and glass.
4.3 Has the Party introduced any new measures to minimise the disturbance to albatrosses and petrels in marine and terrestrial habitats?	Yes The Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 ( <a href="http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2012/0072/latest/DLM4670826.html">http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2012/0072/latest/DLM4670826.html</a> ) was introduced to “promote the sustainable management of the natural resources of the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf”. This Act includes a detailed consenting regime that is intended to manage the environmental impacts of marine activities undertaken in New Zealand’s offshore waters. Assessing environmental impacts includes evaluating the impacts of proposed activities on seabird, including disturbance caused by marine activities captured under the Act.

---

### 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 Research projects ( <a href="http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/conservation/marine-and-coastal/marine-conservation-services/plans/draft-csp-annual-plan-2014-15.pdf">http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/conservation/marine-and-coastal/marine-conservation-services/plans/draft-csp-annual-plan-2014-15.pdf</a> ) to be implemented between July 2014 and June 2015 are currently being developed and consulted on amongst stakeholders. Research proposed on populations of ACAP-listed species includes assessing the population size and key population parameters of the black petrel, Salvin’s albatross, white-capped albatross, southern Buller’s albatross, Gibson’s albatross, and white-chinned petrels. The development of mitigation measures relevant to reducing bycatch of ACAP-listed species includes proposed work to improve the safety and efficacy of tori lines for use by smaller longline vessels operating in pelagic and demersal fisheries.
--	---

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: The National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) Te Papa Tongarewa – The Museum of New Zealand Private-sector providers of research relating to seabirds and seabird conservation: Clement and Associates Ltd Dragonfly Science JPEC Ltd Vita Maris Wildlife Management International Ltd NGOs: Black Petrel Action Group Chatham Islands Taiko Trust Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society Southern Seabird Solutions WWF-New Zealand

#### 6. Education and public awareness

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

Yes

Seabird field guides(<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/marine-and-coastal/conservation-services-programme/csp-identification-guides/>) produced by the Department of Conservation and aimed at New Zealand commercial and recreational fishers are available online. A bi-monthly newsletter (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/marine-and-coastal/conservation-services-programme/bycatch-bylines-newsletter/>) produced by the 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 (<http://southernseabirds.org/>) (SSS). Other resources available through SSS include posters and brochures describing more seabird-friendly fishing practices. 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. In addition, most government-funded work on seabirds (including ACAP species) is presented at (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/marine-and-coastal/conservation-services-programme/meetings-and-project-updates/>) accessible to all stakeholders.

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

Yes

Seabird field guides (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/marine-and-coastal/conservation-services-programme/csp-identification-guides/>) aimed at New Zealand commercial and recreational fishers have been produced. While fishers are the primary target audience for these publications, they are publicly available online. Most government-funded work on seabirds (including ACAP species) is presented at public meetings (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/marine-and-coastal/conservation-services-programme/meetings-and-project-updates/>) accessible to all stakeholders. Videos highlighting seabird bycatch and conservation issues have been promulgated by Southern Seabird Solutions (<http://southernseabirds.org/>) (SSS).

#### 7. Other

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

No

#### 8. Additional Comments

#### Final submission details

Report is closed for editing.

Status - Submitted to ACAP - 22-May-2014

Report by Igor Debski