

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Eighth Meeting of the Parties <i>Dunedin, New Zealand, 19 - 23 May 2025</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">ACAP Priority Conservation Actions for 2026 - 2028</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Advisory Committee, Secretariat</i></p>
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SUMMARY

This report presents ACAP's priority conservation actions for the next triennium, as identified by the Advisory Committee, in order to progress the implementation of the Agreement and achieve a favourable conservation status for ACAP species. The actions are derived from the collation of information provided by ACAP Parties, some co-operating non-Party Range States, the Seabird Bycatch Working Group and the Population and Conservation Status Working Group in order to enable the Advisory Committee to meet its obligations to the Meeting of the Parties under Article IX(6)(c) of the Agreement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Parties, and where appropriate, participating non-Party Range States and APEC Member Economies agree to:

1. Endorse the priority conservation actions identified by the Advisory Committee for the 2026 - 2028 triennium.
2. Implement ACAP's Best Practice Advice on seabird bycatch mitigation in all domestic and high-seas fisheries that impact ACAP species and especially those identified as priorities for conservation action.
3. Fully support and implement ACAP's RFMCO Engagement Strategy.
4. Address priority land-based threats through alien species eradications and other management actions.
5. Support all conservation actions that reduce the threats to ACAP's High Priority Populations.

1. BACKGROUND

This report was prepared by the Advisory Committee, together with the Secretariat, to meet its obligations under Article IX(6)c of the Agreement which directs the Committee to make recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties concerning the Action Plan, implementation of the Agreement and further research to be carried out.

The report presents a suite of priorities and recommendations for the Parties to consider in order to progress the Agreement in the next triennium and achieve a favourable conservation status for ACAP species. The priorities and recommendations are derived from the implementation of prioritisation frameworks together with outcomes from discussions within meetings. At its fourth meeting (AC4), the Advisory Committee decided to develop frameworks to identify priority conservation actions to help Parties implement the Agreement more effectively. Prioritisation frameworks have now been developed and agreed by the Advisory Committee for land-based threats and at-sea threats. The Advisory Committee also decided on criteria to identify ACAP High Priority Populations. The framework for the land-based threats and the criteria for High Priority Populations were agreed by the Advisory Committee at AC6 ([AC6 Report](#)). The framework for at-sea threats was agreed by the Advisory Committee intersessionally shortly after AC6.

These frameworks rely on collated information provided to the Secretariat by Parties, some co-operating non-Party Range States, and the Advisory Committee's Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG) and Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG).

2. PRIORITY AT-SEA CONSERVATION ACTIONS

An expert opinion-based framework was developed by ACAP to set, monitor and report progress on identified priority at-sea conservation actions for ACAP species ([SBWG4 Doc 29](#)). The prioritisation framework for at-sea threats is underpinned by information on fisheries, including those operating outside exclusive economic zones (EEZs), provided by Parties, and, where appropriate, participating non-Party Range States and APEC Member Economies.

The latest iteration of the framework (2021) identified and assessed 1258 records where populations from breeding sites of ACAP species overlap, and potentially interact, with domestic and high-seas fisheries. Qualitative scoring of these records was based on: population size and trend, the overlap with the fishery, the effort in the fishery, the risk of the fishing method and the use of mitigation. These scores together with a weighting system provides an assessment of the threat posed by a single fishery to a single population of an ACAP species at the island group level. The fisheries associated with the top 10% of the scored records are presented in **ANNEX 1**. These fisheries likely pose the greatest at-sea threats to populations of ACAP species.

For the fisheries listed in **ANNEX 1**, implementation ACAP's Best Practice Advice for seabird bycatch mitigation is a priority at-sea conservation action for ACAP Parties and RFMOs in the next triennium. As the priority fisheries also include non-Party domestic fisheries, some tangible actions for ACAP and its Parties could include targeted engagement with the relevant Range States. The importance of action in those listed fisheries operating outside EEZs is reflected in ACAP's RFMCO Engagement Strategy (**MoP8 Doc 24**).

This framework was last updated in 2021 and only includes fisheries that have been reported on by Parties or Range States. Therefore, the number of possible fisheries that could impact ACAP species is likely to be higher than those currently included. In 2024 the SBWG and

Advisory Committee agreed the records within the framework need to be reviewed in the next triennium and 'missing' fisheries added.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACAP RFMCO ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Seabird bycatch continues to be the greatest threat to ACAP species (**MoP8 Doc 13**). The implementation of ACAP's seabird bycatch mitigation Best Practice Advice by Parties and fisheries organisations remains one of ACAP's highest priorities ([MoP7 Report](#) Section 6.1.14).

To drive the reduction of seabird bycatch in high seas fisheries, the Advisory Committee and its Working Groups have developed a strategy (**MoP8 Doc 24**) to engage in Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and regional Conservation Organisations such as the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

The ACAP Regional Fisheries Management and Conservation Organisations (RFMCO) Engagement Strategy aims to:

1. Strengthen implementation of measures by regional fisheries management and conservation organisations to prevent, minimize or reduce the incidental bycatch of seabirds.
2. Strengthen implementation of measures by regional fisheries management and conservation organisations that ensure the effective implementation and monitoring of fishing operations to prevent, minimize or reduce the incidental bycatch of seabirds.
3. Ensure the ongoing review by regional fisheries management and conservation organisations of measures to prevent, minimize or reduce the incidental take of seabirds to update such measures in the light of changes in best practice.

The RFMCO Engagement Strategy recommends individualised approaches with targeted outcomes for each RFMCO, which were last reviewed at AC14.

The Advisory Committee urges Parties, and, where appropriate, participating non-Party Range States and APEC Member Economies to support and implement this strategy in full.

4. PRIORITY LAND-BASED CONSERVATION ACTIONS

Table 1 presents the threats (by island and threat type) identified as the highest priority for land-based conservation actions by ACAP Parties. These threats were identified through the implementation of the prioritisation framework (see [BSWG4-STWG6 Doc 08 Rev 2](#)), which considers 1) the global population size of the species at the site; 2) proportion of the global population at the site; 3) population trend; 4) the magnitude of threat; and 5) likelihood of success of any management action. **Table 1** lists 10 priority threats at 15 islands that could be eliminated or reduced through management actions.

The prioritisation used to generate **Table 1** did not take account of the financial cost of the management action. Since the bulk of the costs would be associated with planning and mobilisation, economies of scale are substantial if an eradication campaign targets more than one species on the same island(s), or more than one island in the same group (cells highlighted using the same colour in **Table 1**). The analysis also excluded sites with <1% of the total number of global breeding pairs for a species.

Threats from alien species

Formentera, Menorca and Gough Island were identified as the three highest priority islands for conservation actions to address ‘threats from alien species’. Permanent control of cats on Formentera and Menorca and the eradication of house mouse *Mus musculus* from Gough Island are likely to deliver significant conservation benefits for the Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* and Tristan Albatross *Diomedea dabbenena* respectively. Both species are designated as globally Critically Endangered by the IUCN Red List.

Table 1. Priorities for land-based conservation actions for ACAP breeding sites based on vulnerability of population, threat magnitude and likelihood of success of management action. Multiple threat species at the same island or island group are highlighted in the same colour. Excludes sites with <1% of global annual breeding pairs.

Island	Management responsibility	Threat	Rank	Explanation
Threat from alien species (predation, habitat loss, habitat destruction)				
Gough Island ^a	United Kingdom	<i>Mus musculus</i> (House mouse)	1	High threat to two large ACAP populations
Formentera ^b	Spain	<i>Felis catus</i> (Cat)	1	High threat to large, declining population. Permanent control at breeding sites.
Menorca ^b	Spain	<i>Felis catus</i> (Cat)	1	High threat to large, declining population. Exclusion feasible by physical barriers.
Marion Island	South Africa	<i>Mus musculus</i> (House mouse)	2	Threatens to two ACAP populations
Cabrera ^{b, c}	Spain	<i>Felis catus</i> (Cat)	2	Threat to large, declining population
Cabrera ^b	Spain	<i>Rattus rattus</i> (Black rat)	2	Threat to large, declining population. Eradication feasible
Formentera ^b	Spain	<i>Rattus rattus</i> (Black rat)	2	Threat to large, declining population
Ibiza ^b	Spain	<i>Rattus rattus</i> (Black rat)	2	Threat to large, declining population
Mallorca ^b	Spain	<i>Rattus rattus</i> (Black rat)	2	Threat to large, declining population
Menorca ^b	Spain	<i>Rattus rattus</i> (Black rat)	2	Threat to large, declining population
Kerguelen (Grande Terre) ^d	France	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i> (Reindeer)	2	Threat to two ACAP populations. High probability of eradication
Kerguelen (Grande Terre) ^d	France	<i>Felis catus</i> (Cat)	2	Threat to three ACAP populations
Kerguelen (Grande Terre) ^d	France	<i>Rattus rattus</i> (Black rat)	2	Threat to two ACAP populations. Medium feasibility of eradication
Ile Saint Lanne Gramont	France	<i>Felis catus</i> (Cat)	2	High feasibility of eradication
Ile Saint Lanne Gramont	France	<i>Rattus rattus</i> (Black rat)	2	High feasibility of eradication
Auckland Island	New Zealand	<i>Felis catus</i> (Cat)	2	Medium feasibility of eradication
Auckland Island ^c	New Zealand	<i>Sus scrofa</i> (Pig)	2	Medium feasibility of eradication
Parasite or Pathogen				
Ile Amsterdam	France	<i>Pasteurella multocida</i> (Avian cholera)	1	High threat to several ACAP species
Isla Espanola	Ecuador	Mosquito	2	Low feasibility of action
Albatross Island (AU)	Australia	Avian pox virus	2	Low feasibility of action.
Bird Island	Disputed	Avian Influenza	2	Low feasibility of action.

Increased competition with native species				
Pedra Branca	Australia	<i>Morus serrator</i> (Australasian gannet)	2	Threat to small population

^a The attempt in 2021 did not completely eradicate the target species. Another attempt is planned.

^b Refers to affected colonies which may include offshore islets.

^c Eradication project in progress, nearly completed.

^d Management at this site would also benefit small breeding populations (<1% global) of other ACAP species affected by the same threat.

Many ACAP Parties have made significant and largely successful efforts to eradicate alien species from ACAP breeding sites and more eradication programs are underway or planned (see **MoP8 Doc 14** Table 4). Of the priority breeding sites for conservation action identified in **Table 1** there have been alien species eradication plans developed for Auckland Island, Cabrera, Gough Island and Marion Island. There are now practically no cats present in Cabrera National Park thanks to control campaigns (control work is still underway in relation to the few genets present). A rat extermination campaign is also planned for the islet of Tagomago, one of the most important Balearic Shearwater colonies on the island of Ibiza. For Marion Island planning is well-advanced, with rodent eradication programme scheduled to commence in 2027. Another eradication attempt is planned for Gough Island following an unsuccessful campaign in 2021.

Further information on actions taken by Parties to date is presented in **MoP8 Doc 12** Table 2.

Other land-based threats

The highest priority action for a land-based threat from a ‘Parasite or Pathogen’ is to continue addressing avian cholera at Amsterdam Island. Field operations to eradicate rodents (rats *Rattus norvegicus* and mice *Mus musculus*) which began in austral autumn/winter 2024, could assist with this target. Amsterdam Island’s rats have been suspected of being a carrier for the bacterium *Pasteurella multocida*, responsible for avian cholera which kills chicks of the Endangered Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche carteri* on the island.

An emerging land-based threat not yet captured in the prioritisation framework, is the high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 panzootic. Two breeding populations of ACAP species have been affected by HPAI H5N1 thus far: Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris* in the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)¹ and Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans* in South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)¹.

An intersessional group of experts created within the PaCSWG is working on an emergency disease risk assessment of HPAI in albatrosses for the next triennium (see [AC14 Report](#) Annex 7). This group is continuously engaged in updating ACAP’s “[Guidelines](#)” for working with albatrosses and petrels during the high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 panzootic”.

5. ACAP HIGH PRIORITY POPULATIONS

Nine ACAP populations (at island or island group level) are currently designated by ACAP as High Priority Populations (**Table 2**). These populations meet the agreed criteria ([AC6 Report](#)) of declining at more than 3% per year, more than 10% of the global population, and are at risk

¹ A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty of the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (Islas Georgias del Sur e Islas Sandwich del Sur) and the surrounding maritime areas.

from interactions with fisheries. Case studies for two High Priority Populations are provided in **ANNEX 2**.

The Advisory Committee supports urgent and coordinated international conservation action by Parties and other relevant stakeholders to address threats to High Priority Populations (**AC6 Report**, para 12.8.1). The High Priority Populations correlate well with the wider at-sea priorities identified by experts, with all nine High Priority Populations affected by the fisheries identified as priority targets for action (see **ANNEX 1**). The Agreement has used these High Priority Populations as emblematic case studies to highlight threats to albatrosses and petrels in other international fora.

Table 2. Populations that have been identified as meeting the criteria for **ACAP High Priority Populations**.

<i>Species</i>	Breeding Site or Island Group	Action Plan	Year identified as HPP
<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur) ¹	http://www.gov.gs/albatross-action-plans/	2011
<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur) ¹	http://www.gov.gs/albatross-action-plans/	2011
<i>Diomedea dabbenena</i>	Gough Island	Required Generic Tristan da Cunha Plan: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/pub1_0_TristandaCunhaACAPplan.pdf	2011
<i>Phoebetria fusca</i>	Crozet Island	Required	2011
<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>	South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur) ¹	http://www.gov.gs/albatross-action-plans/	2016
<i>Thalassarche carteri</i>	Amsterdam Island	Required Second National Plan of Action for the Amsterdam Albatross 2018-2027 includes some actions relevant to this population: https://reserve-australes.taaf.fr/en/protection/national-action-plan-for-the-amsterdam-albatross/	2016
<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	Balearic Islands	International Species Action Plan for the Balearic shearwater, <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> 2011 (currently being updated)	2016
<i>Phoebastria irrorata</i>	Espanola Island	AC4 Doc 50 Rev 4 and AC6 Doc 29 (currently being updated, see PaCSWG5 Inf 21)	2016
<i>Diomedea antipodensis</i>	Antipodes Islands	CMS Concerted Action Plan (New Zealand, Chile, Australia)	2017

¹ A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty of the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (Islas Georgias del Sur e Islas Sandwich del Sur) and the surrounding maritime areas.

6. NEXT STEPS FOR THE AGREEMENT

The Advisory Committee considers that it is paramount to the success of the Agreement in the next triennium for Parties to agree to provide human and financial resources to support actions, develop policy, facilitate sector collaboration, forge cooperative agreements and implement the priority at-sea and on-land conservation actions, to fully implement the RFMCO Engagement Strategy, and address the threats to ACAP's High Priority Populations.

Other key challenges for the Agreement in the next triennium remain the same as those identified in the past, namely to continue to improve the collation of information on the implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation and data on seabird bycatch in relevant fisheries (see Recommendations **MoP8 Doc 14**).

The overall effectiveness of these conservation actions can only be assessed through ongoing monitoring of population status and trends. Supporting such monitoring work, especially for species in decline, should also remain a priority for Parties (see Recommendations **MoP8 Doc 13**).

All of the above actions and activities are essential to the effective implementation of the Agreement and require continued support and investment from Parties over the next triennium.

ANNEX 1. Priorities for ACAP at-sea conservation actions **summarised by fishery**. Note that the complete prioritisation framework from which this table was generated only includes fisheries that have been reported on by Parties or Range States, and therefore the number of possible fisheries that could be assessed is likely to be higher than those currently included. The scoring for the RFMO fisheries has not been reviewed since 2014. ACAP High Priority Populations are highlighted.

Fishery	Population (breeding island group) affected	Actions for ACAP/ Parties/ others
Angola Pelagic LL	Tristan Albatross Gough Island	ACAP to engage with the Benguela Current Commission, with the assistance of South Africa, to raise the issue and advocate mitigation use.
Argentina Demersal trawl	Northern Royal Albatross Chatham Islands	ACAP Party to implement BPA (Best Practice Advice).
	Southern Giant Petrel Islas de los Estados & Observatorio	Need consideration of improved advice on net monitoring cables. Improve on-board observer coverage and capacity through human and electronic monitoring.
	Wandering Albatross SG (IGS) ¹	
Australia Demersal trawl	Black Petrel Great and Little Barrier Islands	ACAP Party to implement BPA
	Indian yellow-nosed Albatross Amsterdam Island	
	Shy Albatross Albatross Island	
	Shy Albatross Pedra Branca	
Australia Gillnet	Black Petrel Great and Little Barrier Islands	ACAP Party to consider time-area closures.
	Indian yellow-nosed Albatross Amsterdam Island	Encourage reporting of seabird bycatch from ACAP Party.
	Shy Albatross Pedra Branca	Development of mitigation options and ACAP advice for gillnet fisheries.
	Sooty Albatross Iles Crozet	
Australia Pelagic trawl	Black Petrel Great and Little Barrier Islands	ACAP Party to implement BPA.

Fishery	Population (breeding island group) affected	Actions for ACAP/ Parties/ others
Brazil Demersal LL	Northern Royal Albatross Chatham Islands	ACAP Party to: implement BPA, conduct at-sea trials to adapt mitigation measures to fleet's reality, implement on-board monitoring (human and electronic – e.g cameras) and create regulations to mitigate seabird bycatch.
	Tristan Albatross Gough Island	
	Wandering Albatross SG (IGS) ¹	
Brazil Pelagic LL	Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross Tristan da Cunha	ACAP Party to implement BPA and on-board monitoring (human and electronic – e.g. cameras), as well as mechanisms for effective compliance monitoring and enforcement with current domestic regulations.
	Northern Royal Albatross Chatham Islands	
	Tristan Albatross Gough Island	
	Wandering Albatross SG (IGS) ¹	
	White-chinned Petrel SG (IGS) ¹	
Brazil Pelagic LL (Itaipava fleet)	Tristan Albatross Gough Island	Fishery definition to be reviewed and updated. ACAP Party to implement BPA.
	Wandering Albatross SG (IGS) ¹	
	Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross Tristan da Cunha	
	White-chinned Petrel SG (IGS) ¹	
Namibia Demersal trawl	Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross Tristan da Cunha	<p>ACAP to engage with the Benguela Current Commission, with the assistance of South Africa, to raise the issue and advocate mitigation use.</p> <p>Encourage Namibia to join ACAP and adopt BPA.</p> <p>Encourage BLI (BridLife International) to use existing programmes to support further bycatch mitigation implementation.</p>

Fishery	Population (breeding island group) affected	Actions for ACAP/ Parties/ others
Namibia Pelagic LL	Shy Albatross Pedra Branca	<p>ACAP to engage with the Benguela Current Commission, with the assistance of South Africa, to raise the issue and advocate mitigation use.</p> <p>Encourage Namibia to join ACAP and adopt BPA.</p> <p>Encourage BLI to use existing programmes to support further bycatch mitigation implementation.</p>
Namibia Pelagic trawl	Shy Albatross Pedra Branca	<p>ACAP to engage with the Benguela Current Commission, with the assistance of South Africa, to raise the issue and advocate mitigation use.</p> <p>Encourage Namibia to join ACAP and adopt BPA.</p> <p>Encourage BLI to use existing programmes to support further bycatch mitigation implementation.</p>
Peru Demersal LL	Black Petrel Great and Little Barrier Islands	<p>ACAP Party to continue development of appropriate mitigation options and implement an on-board observer program and standardized electronic logbooks.</p> <p>ACAP to prioritise support of development and implementation of mitigation, for example through Small Grant process.</p>
Peru Pelagic LL	Black Petrel Great and Little Barrier Islands	<p>ACAP Party to continue development of appropriate mitigation options and implement an on-board observer program and standardized electronic logbooks.</p>
	Grey Petrel All sites	<p>ACAP to prioritise support of development and implementation of mitigation, for example through Small Grant process.</p>
Spain Demersal LL	Balearic Shearwater Balearic Archipelago	<p>ACAP Party to implement BPA.</p> <p>ACAP Party to implement species action plan and MPAs (Marine Protected Areas).</p>
Spain Pelagic LL	Balearic Shearwater Balearic Archipelago	<p>ACAP Party to implement BPA.</p> <p>ACAP Party to implement species action plan and MPAs.</p>

Fishery	Population (breeding island group) affected	Actions for ACAP/ Parties/ others
Spain Purse seine	Balearic Shearwater Balearic Archipelago	ACAP Party to implement, and further improve where appropriate, the mitigation advice being developed by ACAP. ACAP Party to implement species action plan and MPAs
Spain Trawl	Balearic Shearwater Balearic Archipelago	ACAP Party to implement BPA, or develop appropriate mitigation options if BPA is not practical. ACAP Party to implement species action plan and MPAs
Uruguay Demersal trawl	Northern Royal Albatross Chatham Islands	ACAP Party to implement BPA
RFMOs		
CCSBT Pelagic LL	Antipodean Albatross Auckland Islands	ACAP and Parties to implement the ACAP RFMCO Engagement Strategy.
	Black-browed Albatross Antipodes Islands	
	Black-browed Albatross Campbell Island	
	Black-browed Albatross Iles Crozet	
	Black-browed Albatross SG (IGS) ¹	
	Black Petrel Great and Little Barrier Islands	
	Grey-headed Albatross SG (IGS) ¹	ACAP and Parties to implement the ACAP RFMCO Engagement Strategy.
	Grey Petrel All sites	
	Indian yellow-nosed Albatross Amsterdam Island	
	Indian yellow-nosed Albatross Crozet Island	
	Northern Giant Petrel Prince Edward Islands	
	Northern Royal Albatross Chatham Islands	
	Sooty Albatross Iles Crozet	
	Sooty Albatross Prince Edward Islands	
Southern Giant Petrel Prince Edward Islands		

Fishery	Population (breeding island group) affected	Actions for ACAP/ Parties/ others
	Tristan Albatross Gough Island	
	Wandering Albatross Iles Kerguelen	
	Wandering Albatross SG (IGS) ¹	
	White-chinned Petrel SG (IGS) ¹	
IATTC Pelagic LL	Laysan Albatross Central Pacific - Laysan	ACAP and Parties to implement the ACAP RFMO Engagement Strategy.
	Waved Albatross Islas Galapagos	
ICCAT Pelagic LL	Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross Tristan da Cunha	ACAP and Parties to implement the ACAP RFMO Engagement Strategy.
	Black-browed Albatross SG (IGS) ¹	
	Grey-headed Albatross SG (IGS) ¹	
	Grey Petrel All sites	
	Northern Royal Albatross Chatham Islands	
	Tristan Albatross Gough Island	
	Wandering Albatross SG (IGS) ¹	
	White-chinned Petrel SG (IGS) ¹	

Fishery	Population (breeding island group) affected	Actions for ACAP/ Parties/ others
IOTC Pelagic LL	Grey-headed Albatross SG (IGS) ¹	ACAP and Parties to implement the ACAP RFMO Engagement Strategy.
	Grey Petrel All sites	
	Indian yellow-nosed Albatross Amsterdam Island	
	Indian yellow-nosed Albatross Crozet Island	
	Indian yellow-nosed Albatross Prince Edward Island	
	Northern Giant Petrel Prince Edward Islands	
	Shy Albatross Pedra Branca	
	Sooty Albatross Iles Crozet	
	Sooty Albatross Prince Edward Islands	
	Southern Giant Petrel Prince Edward Islands	
	Tristan Albatross Gough Island	
	Wandering Albatross Iles Kerguelen	
SEAFO Demersal trawl	Black-browed Albatross SG (IGS) ¹	ACAP and Parties to implement the ACAP RFMO Engagement Strategy.
SPRFMO Demersal trawl	Black Petrel Great and Little Barrier Islands	ACAP and Parties to implement the ACAP RFMO Engagement Strategy.
	Northern Royal Albatross Chatham Islands	
WCPFC Pelagic LL	Antipodean Albatross Antipodes Islands	ACAP and Parties to implement the ACAP RFMO Engagement Strategy.
	Antipodean Albatross Auckland Islands	
	Black-browed Albatross Antipodes Islands	
	Black-browed Albatross Campbell Island	
	Black Petrel Great and Little Barrier Islands	
	Grey Petrel All sites	
	Laysan Albatross Central Pacific - Laysan	
	Northern Royal Albatross Chatham Islands	

¹ A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty of the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (Islas Georgias del Sur e Islas Sandwich del Sur) and the surrounding maritime areas.

ANNEX 2. HIGH PRIORITY POPULATIONS: TWO CASE STUDIES

High Priority Population: Antipodean Albatross at Antipodes Island

Breeding site Antipodes Island, New Zealand

Action Plan CMS [Concerted Action Plan](#) (New Zealand, Chile, Australia)

Population status Antipodean Albatross *Diomedea antipodensis* have been in overall decline since the first population surveys in the 1970s (Fig 1a). There are now approximately 50,300 fewer adult birds. Whilst the rate of decline appears to have reduced in recent years, population modelling estimates a further 88% decline in the next 30 years (approximately one generation period) if survival and breeding rates do not improve (Fig 1b).

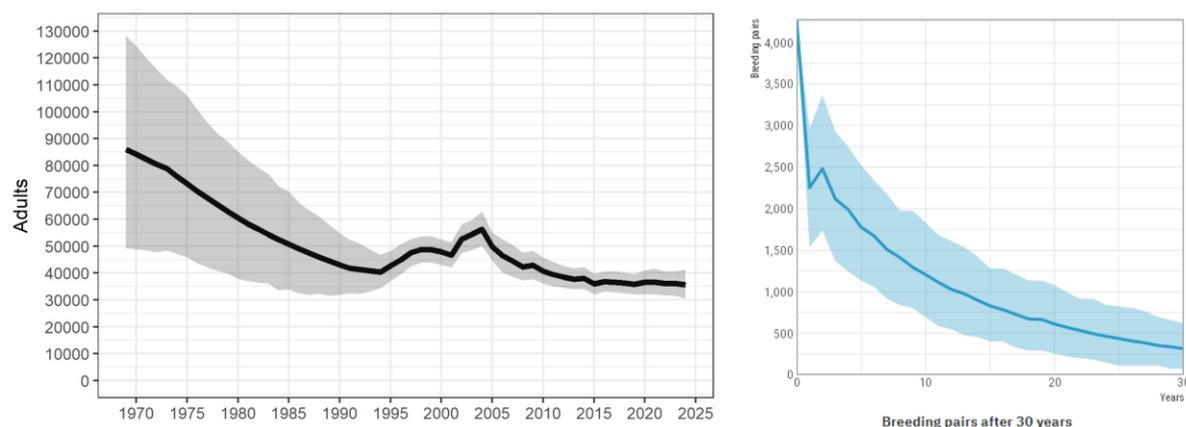


Figure 1. Historic population trend in number of adults at the species level based on survey data (left; Fischer et al, 2025) and future projection of number of breeding pairs at Antipodes Island under current demographic rates (right; Richard, 2021). Shaded area shows modelled uncertainty (95% C.I.).

Key threats A multi-threat risk assessment ([Joint SBWG12/PaCSWG8 Doc 08](#)) concluded that bycatch in high seas within the Western Pacific is a significant cause of the decline. Potential non-fishing threats did not explain changes in the population. Fine scale overlap analysis of tracked birds with fishing effort ([Joint SBWG12/PaCSWG8 Doc 07](#)) identified a number of high seas fleets in the Western Pacific posing high risk (Fig 2).

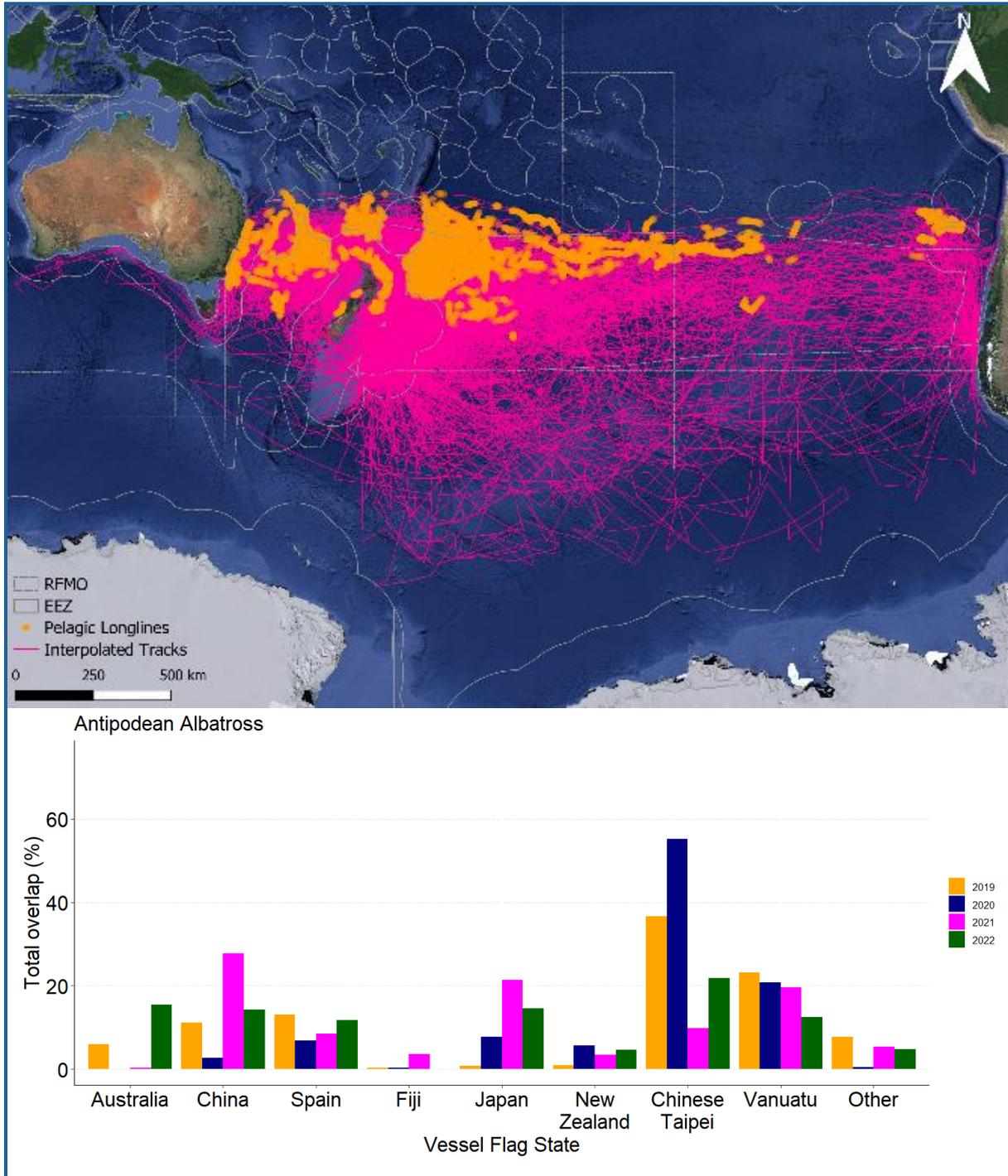


Figure 2. At sea distribution of tracked Antipodean Albatross showing bird-vessel overlap events in yellow (top) and corresponding bird-vessel overlap by flag state (bottom). For details see [Joint SBWG12/PaCSWG8 Doc 07](#).

Achievements New Zealand, Australia and Chile have all reported actions to implement domestic fisheries management measures to reduce bycatch of Antipodean Albatross ([Joint SBWG11/PaCSWG7 Inf 14 Rev 1](#)), with New Zealand recently regulating the use ACAP Best Practice mitigation in their pelagic longline fishery. The potential threat from introduced mice on Antipodes Island was eliminated through a successful eradication in 2018. An intensive tracking programme has provided a strong evidence base for identifying key fisheries posing risk.

Priority actions required Minimising bycatch in high seas fisheries, in particular those in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) area south of 22° South, is the most important action required. ACAP's RFMCO Strategy (MoP8 Doc 24) provides a number of actions for Parties, ACAP and others to strengthen implementation of relevant measures in WCPFC.

References

Fischer, J.H. 2025. Processing and standardising ACAP abundance data. A paper to the ACAP Intersessional Group on Reporting on Species Status and Trends.

Richard, Y. 2021. Integrated population model of Antipodean albatross for simulating management scenarios, 31 pages. Technical report prepared for Department of Conservation – June 2021.

Photograph courtesy of Oscar Thomas



High Priority Population: Wandering Albatross at South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)¹

Breeding sites South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)¹ archipelago

Action Plan ‘*Conservation Action Plan for Wandering Albatrosses at South Georgia (2016-2020)*’¹

Population status This breeding population of Wandering Albatrosses *Diomedea exulans* has been in decline since the first counts at Bird Island in the early 1960s (Fig 1). Surveys of the entire island group indicate an overall decrease of 39.3% from 2105 pairs in 1984 to 1278 pairs in 2024). The decline at Bird Island was at its steepest from 1995 to 2007 (-4.5% per year), which represented the loss, without replacement, of 90-100 adults per year. The rate has slowed in the last decade but the population remains far below its original size and will take decades to recover.

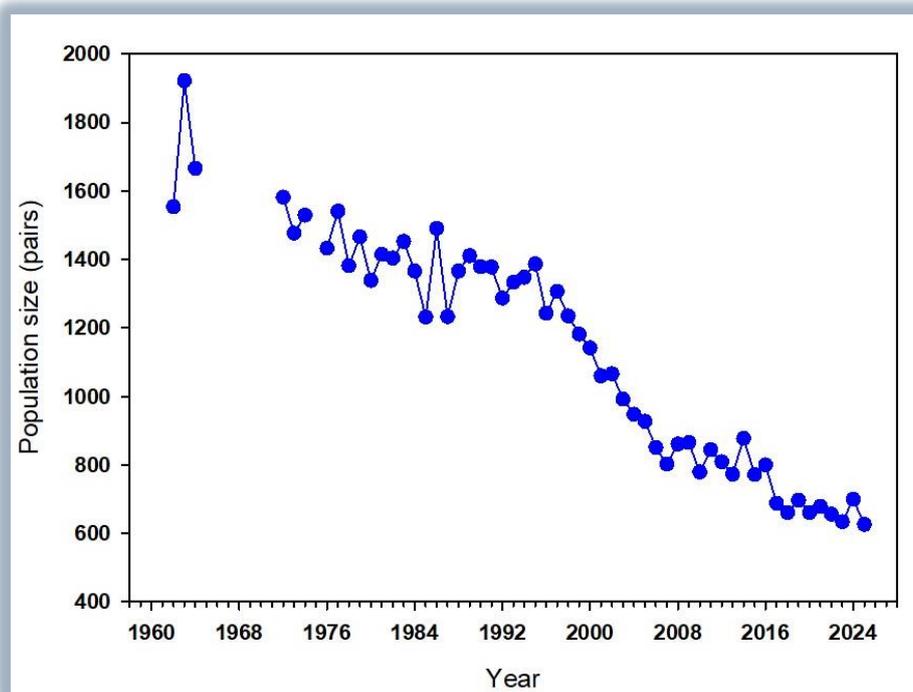


Figure 1. Changes in the annual breeding population size of Wandering Albatrosses at Bird Island between 1962 and 2025.

Key threats Breeding success at Bird Island is very high (mean 73% since 1981) and was higher in the last two decades than previously (Pardo et al. 2017); as such, prey availability and environmental conditions at sea do not appear to have deteriorated. There were no terrestrial threats until the outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in 2024 (Bennison et al. in press). The driver of the long-term population decline is therefore bycatch in fisheries outside local waters. The trend at South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)¹ contrasts

with populations of Wandering Albatrosses in the Indian Ocean, which decreased until the mid-1980 but slowly recovered thereafter. The greatest overlaps of tracking data and reported fishing effort at large spatial scales (5 x 5° cell) are with pelagic longline vessels operating in the area managed by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) flagged to Japan, Chinese Taipei, Brazil, Uruguay, Spain and Portugal, and demersal longline vessels flagged to Argentina, Chile, South Africa, Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)¹, New Zealand and in the CCAMLR area (Jiménez et al. 2016, Clay et al. 2019) (Fig. 2). Recent analyses of fine-scale data in the southwest Atlantic also identified high overlap with demersal longliners flagged to South Korea and Chile, trawlers flagged to Argentina and Uruguay, and undeclared vessels without Automatic Identification System (AIS) positions (Carneiro et al. 2022a) (Fig 3).

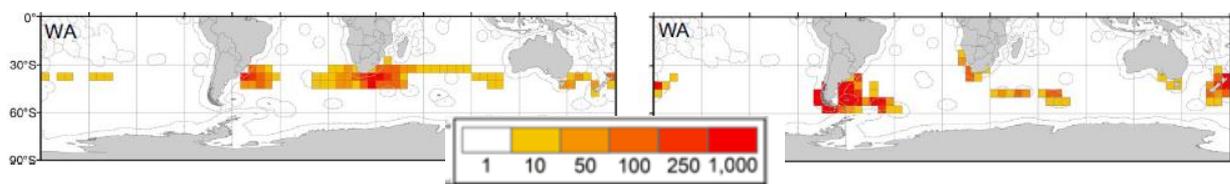


Figure 2. Annual overlap of tracked Wandering Albatrosses (WA) from South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)¹ with pelagic longline (left) and demersal longline (right) averaged across months and years (1990-2009; x 103). Figure adapted from Clay et al. (2019).

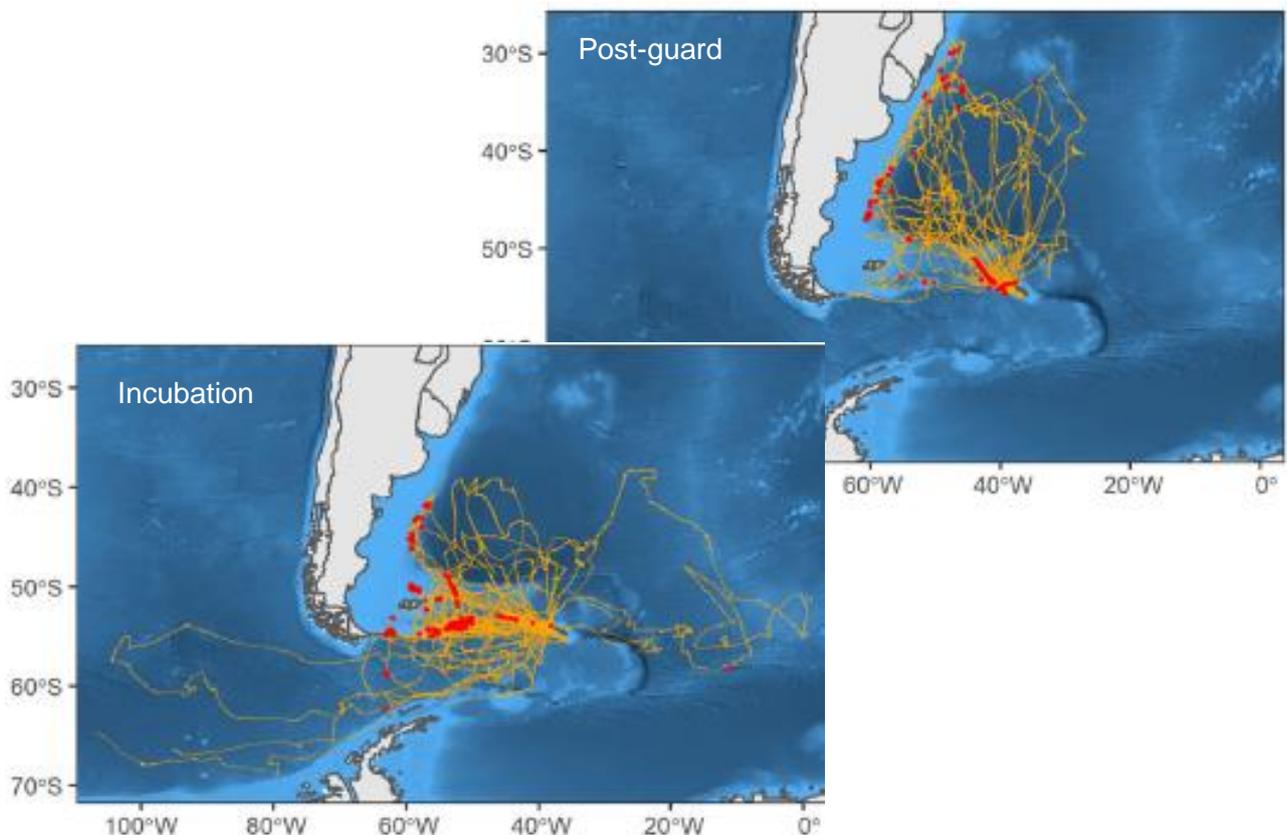


Figure 3. Foraging trips of Wandering Albatrosses tracked from Bird Island during incubation and post-guard chick rearing in 2020. Red dots represent locations where vessels were encountered, detected by bird-borne radar or from satellite AIS data indicating active fishing. Figure adapted from Carneiro et al. (2022b).

Achievements The very high levels of seabird bycatch in fisheries operating near this breeding colony have now been reduced to negligible levels (Collins et al. 2021). Data from long-term demographic monitoring and tracking programmes show where and when particular fleets pose the greatest risk to different age classes and sexes.

Priority actions required The current conservation priorities for this High Priority Population are to minimise bycatch in high seas pelagic longline fisheries, particularly in the ICCAT area, and in some demersal longline fisheries off South America and southern Africa. ACAP's RFMCO Strategy (MoP8 Doc 24) provides a number of actions for Parties, ACAP and others to strengthen implementation of relevant measures.

References

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¹ A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty of the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (Islas Georgias del Sur e Islas Sandwich del Sur) and the surrounding maritime areas.

Photograph courtesy of Richard Phillips

