



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.



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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: 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

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#### 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.

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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).

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#### 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

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#### 8. Additional Comments

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#### Final submission details

Report is closed for editing.  
Status - Submitted to ACAP - 22-May-2014  
Report by Igor Debski