



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Third Meeting of Advisory Committee

Valdivia, Chile, 12 - 15 June 2007

**Report on consideration of seabird bycatch by the
Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin
Tuna**

Author: Australia

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At the second meeting of the Advisory Committee to ACAP (AC2), held in Brazil from 5-8 June 2006, Australia was asked to report on consideration of seabird bycatch in the then coming rounds of meetings of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT).

Since AC2, there have been several meetings of CCSBT or its subsidiary committees and working groups. Principal amongst these meetings was the thirteenth annual meeting of CCSBT in Japan from 10-13 October 2006. These meetings have focussed heavily on target stock and related matters and there has been no significant new consideration of seabird bycatch matters or other business relevant to ACAP.

The next meeting of CCSBT's Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG) has been brought forward from its originally scheduled date in 2008 to now meet in 2007, from 3 to 6 July in Japan. The agenda for this meeting includes items on seabird bycatch; data gathering and reporting on ecologically related species, including seabirds, by observers; and on shark bycatch.

Australia, in conjunction with New Zealand, has submitted joint papers to the ERSWG meeting proposing recommendations on all of these topics. Of particular relevance to ACAP, these papers include proposals for improved mitigation measures to minimise seabird bycatch in CCSBT-managed fishing, including those species covered by ACAP Annex 1, and improved gathering of data on ecologically related species by observers. If these proposal are agreed to by the ERSWG, they would then be presented as recommendations to the next annual meeting of CCSBT in October 2007 for adoption.