



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

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BirdLife International
Global Seabird Programme

Author: BirdLife International

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Management of Human Activity

3.2 One of the core work streams for the BirdLife International Global Seabird Programme continues to focus on advocacy and scientific input to the RFMO meetings, particularly to identify the areas where albatrosses and fisheries overlap, thereby highlighting the main potential areas where seabird bycatch problems exist. This work uses the BirdLife Global *Procellariiform* Tracking Database (BirdLife 2004). BirdLife has continued to work with DEFRA to strengthen the UK input into the EC position at RFMO meetings.

Over the last 18 months the BirdLife Global Seabird Programme has played a major role in drafting resolutions on the adoption of RFMO seabird bycatch mitigation measures. In 2005 we provided input which contributed to the 2005 seabird resolution by WCPFC (Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission), and were part of a small group to draft a 2006 seabird bycatch mitigation resolution. In 2006 IOTC (Indian Ocean Tuna Commission) adopted seabird bycatch mitigation requirements, following BirdLife input in 2005, and we have been invited to draft a paper to inform further developments in 2007. In the East Pacific, we have provided input to the first IATTC seabird assessment. We are also providing input to RFMOs on best practice for developing observer programmes including seabird bycatch data collection protocols.

The Global Seabird Programme is working closely with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to develop a project proposal to secure Project Development Funds (PDF) funds from the Global Environment Facility to develop a project to reduce seabird bycatch in Southern Ocean longline (and trawl) fisheries. If successful, the project would be conducted in two stages. Phase I would provide capacity to assist in the implementation of FAO IPOA-S, support countries input into Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), and strengthen input into Regional Fisheries Management Organisations. Phase I (years 1-4) will also identify a fishery suitable for a pilot study to investigate the feasibility of market and other economic mechanisms. This will create an opportunity to explore market forces, create strong links and partnerships, and will lead to Phase II of the project (years 5-10), which will focus on further developing market and financial incentives for sustainable fisheries and work toward raising the standard of fisheries to reach a level appropriate for certification processes, and roll out pilot programmes and demonstration activities across the region.

Research and Monitoring

4.2 As reported in reports of AC 1 and AC 2, the BirdLife Global Seabird Programme is continuing to implement the Albatross Task Force, which is a team of mitigation instructors working with fishers and fisheries managers in global seabird bycatch 'hotspots'. This involves conducting at-sea trips and holding on-shore workshops with fishers and fisheries managers. This on-going project has deployed three instructors in South Africa (based in Cape Town with BirdLife South Africa); two working in pelagic longline fisheries and one in the hake trawl fishery. The Task Force also has two instructors working in pelagic longline fisheries in Brasil, based with Projeto Albatroz (Brasil) and supported by SAVE Brasil. Plans are currently underway to deploy two

further instructors in Chile by late 2006/early 2007 and to expand into other southern African and South American countries in 2007/08.

Education and Public Awareness

6.1 BirdLife has an on-going involvement with fundraising through the IAATO 'Save the Albatross' initiative and is involved in the processes of peer-review and allocation of funds to successful applicants.

BirdLife South Africa and Projeto Albatroz (Brazil) are currently running a series of workshops with fishermen and fisheries managers (as part of the Albatross Task Force project) to demonstrate the effective use of mitigation measures to reduce mortality.

The Wild Bird Federation of Taiwan is also conducting a series of in-port training workshops with the Taiwanese distant water longline fleet to increase awareness of appropriate mitigation measures.

The BirdLife partner in New Zealand (Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society) has an on-going programme for producing and disseminating educational materials to raise awareness of the seabird mortality in fisheries.