

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Sixth Meeting of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group</p> <p><i>Virtual meeting, 24 – 25 August 2021 (UTC+10)</i></p> <p>Research and management actions for the Antipodes Island population of Antipodean Albatross</p> <p><i>New Zealand, Australia, Chile</i></p>
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SUMMARY

AC 11 recognised the Antipodes Island population of Antipodean Albatross, *Diomedea antipodensis*, as an ACAP priority population for conservation management.

Since the reporting to PaCSWG5 of the research and management actions undertaken by New Zealand, there has been substantial collaborative activity to develop and implement a conservation plan for this priority population. This has centred on the listing of *D. antipodensis* on Appendix I of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) in 2020, as proposed by New Zealand, Australia and Chile. The objective of the listing included to increase cooperation between Range States, RFMOs, ACAP, non-governmental organisations and other concerned parties to improve the uptake and effectiveness of bycatch mitigation use, including compliance monitoring and bycatch data collection, and to reduce the capture of Antipodean Albatross (and other seabird species) in longline fisheries. As part of the CMS listing process, New Zealand, Australia and Chile developed a plan for Concerted Action, which includes a full suite of actions to be taken by the CMS Party Range States and CMS Parties that are Members of, or engage with, key RFMOs.

This paper provides details of the CMS Concerted Action plan for the Antipodean Albatross, implementation progress since 2020, further updates on the research and population status of the Antipodes Island population of Antipodean Albatross, as well as trial reporting using the proposed ACAP reporting template for priority populations.

1. BACKGROUND

The Antipodes Islands population of Antipodean Albatross, *Diomedea antipodensis*, was recognised as an ACAP priority population for conservation management at AC10 following the assessment made by Walker & Elliott reported in [PaCSWG4 Doc 03](#). Due to the lack of land-based threats to this population, it was identified that the major human-induced threat was incidental mortality in fisheries. An update on research and management actions for this population was provided by New Zealand to PaCSWG5 in [PaCSWG5 Inf 06](#).

The foraging range of this population, across which fisheries bycatch risks are faced, extends across the Pacific from the east coast of Australia to the coast of Chile. To address the (predominantly fisheries bycatch) threats across this range, New Zealand, Australia and Chile jointly developed a proposal to list Antipodean Albatross on Appendix I of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). The objective of listing in Appendix I, while retaining the species' listing in Appendix II, was anticipated:

- (a) to increase cooperation between Range States, RFMOs, ACAP, non-governmental organisations and other concerned parties to improve the uptake and effectiveness of bycatch mitigation use, including compliance monitoring and bycatch data collection
- (b) to reduce the capture of Antipodean Albatross (and other seabird species) in longline fisheries
- (c) to potentially also incentivise development of advocacy and educational material to fishers and fishing companies about the threat status of this bird.

These measures should assist in reducing the high mortality rate currently driving the decline of the species. In particular, bycatch reduction over the foraging range of female Antipodean Albatross will address the most urgent conservation issue, i.e. the extremely high mortality rate among these birds. CMS adopted the proposal in February 2020. The full listing proposal is available on the [CMS website](#).

As part of the CMS listing process, New Zealand, Australia and Chile developed a plan for Concerted Action (Annex 1). This plan outlines the suite of actions to be taken by the CMS Party Range States and CMS Parties that are Members of, or engage with, key RFMOs.

One key consideration concerning the alignment of the CMS listing and the ACAP priority population listing is that the CMS listing was at the species level *D. antipodensis*, including the subspecies *D. a. gibsoni* breeding at the Auckland Islands (New Zealand), as well as the smaller population of *D. a. antipodensis* on Campbell Island (New Zealand). This was considered beneficial as *D. a. gibsoni* is showing similar levels of population decline to the Antipodes Island population of *D. a. antipodensis*, and they face similar bycatch threats at-sea. Birds from these different populations are also difficult to distinguish in fisheries bycatch records.

This paper provides an update on progress to implement the Concerted Action plan based on the year one implementation report to CMS ([UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Inf.2](#)). In order to trial the reporting templates proposed in [PaCSWG5 Doc 06](#), reporting forms have also been completed for the two major fisheries bycatch actions identified in the CMS Concerted Action plan (fisheries bycatch in Range State jurisdictions and on the high seas) and are provided in Annex 2.

2. PROGRESS IN ACTIVITIES

2.1. New Zealand

New Zealand continued to implement a range of domestic fisheries bycatch management actions as part of the implementation of the [New Zealand National Plan of Action \(NPOA\) – Seabirds 2020](#). This included the introduction of Mitigation Standards in fisheries that pose bycatch risk to Antipodean Albatross, which set best practice mitigation use expectations. This is supported by an expanded outreach programme to assist fishers and a programme to supply hook-shielding devices, an innovative best practice mitigation measure, for the pelagic longline fishery (the highest risk domestic fishery for Antipodean Albatross). A programme of improved digital monitoring of fisheries was also continued which will improve bycatch data collection.

New Zealand's research programme on Antipodean Albatross was affected by COVID-19, with the suspension of government research at subantarctic islands in 2020-21. Fortunately, independent research was conducted at Antipodes Island, which continued planned monitoring at that site, and allowed for continued intensive satellite tracking to identify fisheries that may pose bycatch risk.

2.2. Australia

2.2.1 National Recovery Plan

Australia's [National Recovery Plan for albatrosses and giant petrels](#) guides the activities of government, industry, research organisations and other stakeholders in the protection, conservation and management of listed threatened albatross and petrel species including the Antipodean Albatross. The plan highlights threats to the Antipodean Albatross where these occur in Australian jurisdiction and identifies research and management actions to support the recovery of this, and other threatened albatross and petrel species.

Australia is developing a new [National Recovery Plan for albatrosses and petrels](#), which will outline the future recovery actions for listed threatened albatross and petrel species. The recovery plan recognises that threatened albatrosses and petrels will take longer than the 10-year life of the current plan to recover. It further acknowledges that a recovery plan should remain in place for affected species until the conservation status of the species breeding and/or foraging in Australian jurisdiction has improved to the point where populations are considered secure. The plan aims to provide continuity for recovery actions for these long-lived species, and continuity for international advocacy by Australia, particularly through ACAP, relevant regional fisheries and conservation bodies, and through engaging with range states, and international bodies with an interest and expertise in conserving the species. The long-term vision under the new recovery plan is that the albatross and petrel species' populations breeding and/or foraging in Australian jurisdiction have increased to such a size that the species no longer qualify for listing as threatened under environmental legislation.

2.2.2 National Plan of Action

Australia is implementing a range of actions under its [National Plan of Action for minimising the incidental catch of seabirds in Australian capture fisheries](#) (NPOA-Seabirds). This plan aims to minimise and, where practicable, eliminate the incidental catch of seabirds in capture fisheries. The NPOA-Seabirds promotes national coordination to better understand and mitigate impacts of fishing activities on seabirds across jurisdictions, recognising that

the state, Northern Territory and Australian governments have separate regulatory authority in their own jurisdictions and are best placed to determine what mitigation measures are needed.

2.2.3 Threat Abatement Plan

Australia's [Threat Abatement Plan for the incidental catch \(or bycatch\) of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing operations](#) (TAP-Seabirds) identifies the research, management and other actions needed to reduce the impacts of this key threatening process to an acceptable level. It requires all Commonwealth agencies to act in a manner consistent with the objectives of the plan – to achieve a zero bycatch of seabirds, especially threatened albatrosses and petrels in all longline fisheries. Education outreach initiatives with fishers and mitigation are key actions implemented by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) under this plan.

2.2.4 AFMA programmes

AFMA has also progressed some specific programmes to reduce seabird bycatch (particularly concerning albatrosses and petrels) in the fisheries including the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF), and the Southern Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF):

- (a) Ongoing implementation of AFMA's e-monitoring and observer programme.
- (b) Enhanced reporting requirements for the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (see: [ETBF seabird mitigation and reporting requirements | Australian Fisheries Management Authority \(afma.gov.au\)](#)).
- (c) Development of new offal management and exclusion zones for the South East Trawl Fishery (see summary of arrangement below).

▪ 2.1.1. *Biological material retention requirements for otter board trawl vessels*

Offal management and exclusion zones in the South East Trawl Fishery

Within the AFMA-managed South East Trawl Fishery, the introduction of bafflers has been shown to reduce interactions with seabirds (Koopman et al. 2018). However, there are still instances where vessels interact with seabirds in high-risk areas. To ensure interactions with seabirds are minimised, additional management arrangements were introduced by AFMA in the 2019/20 SESSF season that require zero discharge of biological material for otter board trawl vessels when fishing gear is deployed in high-risk areas. Biological material is defined by AFMA to include whole fish, or any fish-based biological material not being retained, traditionally referred to as discards or offal, but does not include small hard parts such as scales, fins or fish oil. The definitions of biological material allows for the discarding of sensitive large animals such as sharks and rays, as well as small items such as oil and scales that reflect the reality of wet boat operations. Sharks, rays are protected species that, if alive, will have a reasonable likelihood of post-capture survival, and are to be returned to the water quickly and carefully. The arrangements require retention of biological material while fishing gear is in the water south of latitude 38° S and west of longitude 147° E, during daylight hours. Daylight hours are the hours of light between the times of nautical dusk and nautical dawn.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, outreach with Australian commercial fishers and access to research and monitoring sites has been significantly affected, with limited travel and communication opportunities.

2.3. Chile

Chile has continued to implement seabird bycatch measures in fisheries that overlap with Antipodean albatross. An important action in this regard has been to update Chile's National Plan of Action to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds. This included resolution 2941 (August 2019) by SUBPESCA towards the mandatory use of mitigation measures for the reduction of seabird bycatch in the whole trawl fleet. See https://www.subpesca.cl/portal/615/articles-105375_documento.pdf. This work has also included the development of conservation measures and best practices in purse-seine fisheries, introduced on a voluntary basis, with a process being developed to make them mandatory in the near future. All of these actions complement Chile's first NPOA-Seabirds, with a focus on the use of mitigation measures (bird-scaring lines, night setting, line weighting, among others) for both demersal and pelagic longline fisheries implemented 14 years ago by SUBPESCA (https://www.subpesca.cl/portal/616/articles-79723_recurso_1.pdf).

A listing proposal for Antipodean albatross and fisheries bycatch as a threat was drafted and submitted to the National Species Classification Process where the Ministry of the Environment of Chile is updating the identity and conservation status officially in Chile (currently in the process to be approved by the Government). This open participative process is proposing the recognition of the Antipodeans as locally Endangered species: (https://clasificacionespecies.mma.gob.cl/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Diomedea_antipodensis_17RCE_FINAL.pdf; currently under official consideration for final approval).

The Chilean Ministry of Environment has progressed the drafting of a National Strategy for the Conservation of Wild Bird Species of Chile (2020-2030). This includes developing in the conceptual model of the strategy for seabirds. Fisheries bycatch is included as one of the main threats that local breeders and visitors face at sea, and the use of mitigation measures in different fisheries is identified as one of the main conservation measures.

Chile has also remained active in continuing the implementation of scientific monitoring by observers, including their training, and improvements to the analysis of images with incidental captures of seabirds from Chile's Electronic Monitoring System.

2.4. RFMOs

Because of COVID-19, the RFMOs managing high seas fisheries that pose bycatch risk to Antipodean Albatross had reduced meeting times and, in general, little progress was made to improve seabird bycatch mitigation measures, compliance and data collection and reporting. However, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) agreed to assess compliance with the obligations in the seabird bycatch management measure Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 2018-03 in 2021.

2.5. Research

The 2019/20 and 2020/21 field seasons were both affected by logistical challenges due to COVID-19 (and vessel operational issues in 2019/20). However, visits were made to Antipodes Island in both seasons with continued collection of key population demographic data (Elliot & Walker 2020; Walker & Elliot 2021). In 2021, a Bayesian integrated population model was developed to estimate the main demographic parameters of the population (Richard 2021). This model was developed to inform an [online population simulation tool](#) to allow the exploration of potential impact of threats and demographic outcomes of

management strategies. The modelling, using data up to and including the 2020-21 season, shows that the population is declining at five per cent per year. The current population is estimated at around 3200 breeding pairs, but under the projected decline, only about 400 pairs may remain in 2050.

The field research expeditions have also enabled the continued intensive satellite tracking programme initiated in 2019. The tracking data are reported in near live time through the [Albatross Tracking App](#). The tracking programme aims to better understand the entire foraging range of the population and identify where the birds may be at risk of bycatch, to enable the focus of advocacy for bycatch mitigation. An assessment of the spatial distribution and fisheries overlap for 2019 is reported by Bose & Debski (2020). Updated analyses of the 2020 data is due to be reported in July 2021.

2.6 Overview of progress against Concerted Action Plan

Activity	Output/outcome	Timeframe	Responsibility	Progress by	Progress reported
1. Fisheries bycatch in Range State jurisdictions					
1.1 Continue implementation of effective bycatch mitigation measures in pelagic longline fisheries, trawl and any other relevant fisheries, including outreach to fishers regarding seabird bycatch	Fisheries bycatch risk minimised within Range State jurisdictions	Ongoing	CMS Party Range States	New Zealand	Implementation of New Zealand's NPOA-Seabirds 2020 commenced, including setting new Mitigation Standards, and expanded outreach programmes. This is supported by an expanded outreach programme to assist fishers.
				Chile	Continued implementation Chile's NPOA-Seabirds, with update actions to implement resolution 2941 (August 2019) towards the mandatory use of mitigation measures for the reduction of seabird bycatch in the trawl fleet and development of conservation measures and best practices in purse seine fisheries.
				Chile	Development of proposals to list Antipodean Albatross in the National Species Classification Process, and a National Strategy for the Conservation of Wild Bird Species which both consider fisheries threats and bycatch mitigation
				Australia	Ongoing implementation of Australia's TAP-Seabirds and NPOA-Seabirds ensures effective mitigation of seabird bycatch in oceanic longline and trawl fisheries, in particular in the ETBF and SESSF along Australia's eastern seaboard.

Activity	Output/outcome	Timeframe	Responsibility	Progress by	Progress reported
1.2 Ensure there is adequate observation coverage to monitor mitigation use and identify any seabird bycatch to species level	Fisheries bycatch levels and risk, at species level, are known and can be reported	Ongoing	CMS Party Range States	New Zealand	Continued implementation of New Zealand's fishery observer programme and rollout of digital monitoring.
				Australia	AFMA's e-monitoring programme applies to the ETBF along Australia's eastern seaboard, and the TAP-Seabirds aims to identify bycaught seabirds to species level though collection of feather samples and photographs.
				Chile	Continued implementation of scientific monitoring by observers, including their training, and improvements to the analysis of images with incidental captures of seabirds from Chile's Electronic Monitoring System.
1.3 Develop and maintain bilateral/multilateral collaboration on mitigation development, data collection, data sharing and risk assessment. A cooperation arrangement between New Zealand and Chile on seabird conservation has already been agreed and provides a framework for this activity between these two Range States	Collaboration facilities achieving Activities 1.1 and 1.2	Ongoing	CMS Party Range States	New Zealand and Chile	Continued collaboration between New Zealand and Chile under an inter-governmental cooperative arrangement on seabird conservation, including bycatch risk and management.
				New Zealand and Australia	Investigation of opportunities for collaboration to better understanding bycatch risks in the Tasman Sea.

Activity	Output/outcome	Timeframe	Responsibility	Progress by	Progress reported
2. Fisheries bycatch on the high seas					
2.1 Support regular review, and improvement where necessary, of seabird bycatch conservation and management measures to ensure use of effective bycatch mitigation measures is required, in the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and in relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs): Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin (CCSBT) and the South Pacific Regional Fisheries management Organisation (SPRFMO)	Fisheries bycatch risk minimised in relevant RFMOs through use of effective bycatch mitigation measures	2020-2022 for initial review; further regular reviews - ongoing	CMS Parties that are Members of, or engage with, key RFMOs	New Zealand and Australia	Progress at many RFMOs was limited because of reduced meeting times due to COVID-19. New Zealand and Australia supported the WCPFC decision to assess compliance with obligations in the seabird bycatch measure CMM2018-03 in 2021.
2.2 Support development and distribution of outreach materials to fishers regarding seabird bycatch, including seabird identification guides	Fisheries bycatch risk minimised in relevant RFMOs through increased awareness, improved use of mitigation by fishers, and more accurate reporting to species level	Ongoing	CMS Parties that are Members of, or engage with, key RFMOs	New Zealand	New Zealand continued the development and update of a range of resources for commercial fishers on seabird bycatch reduction: https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/conservation-services-programme/csp-resources-for-fishers/
				Australia	Australia provides a range of resources to fishers about reducing seabird bycatch, safe release of any live caught seabirds, and concerning seabird identification.

Activity	Output/outcome	Timeframe	Responsibility	Progress by	Progress reported
2.3 Support compliance monitoring of seabird bycatch conservation and management measures in relevant RFMOs	The compliance monitoring and reporting against each RFMO seabird bycatch conservation and management measure is demonstrated in RFMO reports	2020-2022 (and maintained ongoing)	CMS Parties that are Members of, or engage with, key RFMOs	New Zealand	New Zealand's high seas monitoring in the WCPFC area was affected by COVID-19 and whilst no ship boardings were made for this reason, surveillance over-flights continued.
				Australia	Despite the impact of COVID-19 on monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities (largely due to the need to ensure the health and safety of crew and inspectors), Australia still led and participated in high seas MCS operations during the reporting period, that included focus on monitoring compliance with seabird bycatch CMMs. Australia also continues to prioritise effective development and implementation of compliance schemes in the RFMOs we are a party to, including supporting efforts to include seabird bycatch reporting to inform both compliance processes and management actions.
2.4 Support robust bycatch related data collection and sharing in relevant RFMOs	Fisheries bycatch risk is documented and measurable through data reporting	Ongoing	CMS Parties that are Members of, or engage with, key RFMOs	New Zealand & Australia	There was little progress on this matter at RFMOs because of reduced meeting times due to COVID-19

Activity	Output/outcome	Timeframe	Responsibility	Progress by	Progress reported
2.5 Support robust bycatch data reporting and periodic bycatch assessments in relevant RFMOs	Estimation of fisheries seabird bycatch risk at RFMO scale	Ongoing	CMS Parties that are Members of, or engage with, key RFMOs	New Zealand and Australia	Progress at many RFMOs was limited because of reduced meeting times due to COVID-19. New Zealand and Australia supported the WCPFC decision to assess compliance with the obligations in the seabird bycatch measure CMM2018-03 in 2021.
2.6 Support data gathering in high seas fisheries where other types of seabird interactions, including possible utilization of seabirds as wild meat, remains poorly known.	Risks posed by all relevant fishing methods are understood	2020-2025	CMS Parties that are Members of, or engage with, key RFMOs	New Zealand and Australia	New Zealand and Australia supported improved data collection in South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation-(SPRFMO) fisheries, including observer collected data on any seabird interaction with squid jig fisheries.
2.7 Develop collaborations on seabird bycatch mitigation measures with non-CMS Parties fishing in the range of Antipodean Albatross	Fisheries bycatch risk minimised through use of effective bycatch mitigation measures	Ongoing	CMS Party Range States	New Zealand	New Zealand has established communication with non-CMS Parties whose fisheries have been identified as overlapping with Antipodean Albatross. Despite COVID-19 limiting travel, notable progress was made with China, with a New Zealand-China Seabird Bycatch Workshop held online in November 2020.
3. Research					
3.1 Continue a multi-year population project to provide a platform for key research questions (e.g. foraging	Ongoing assessment of the current status of the population	Population monitoring: annual for	New Zealand with collaboration from other	New Zealand	Whilst funds were committed for continued field research at Antipodes and Adams Islands, the New Zealand government suspended subantarctic island research in 2020-21 due to COVID-19. Fortunately,

Activity	Output/outcome	Timeframe	Responsibility	Progress by	Progress reported
range, diet) and monitor progress over time	and a better understanding of biological drivers of change	2019-2024, then reassess	interested CMS Parties		independent research was conducted at Antipodes Island to continue planned monitoring at that site.
3.2 Continue the deployment of tracking devices to better describe areas of fisheries overlap	Detailed knowledge of foraging range, suitable to inform detailed overlap analysis with fishing effort and spatially explicit fisheries risk assessment	2019-21	New Zealand with collaboration from other interested CMS Parties	New Zealand	Intensive satellite tracking was continued at Antipodes Island. See: https://docnewzealand.shinyapps.io/albatrosstracker/
3.3 Continue diet-related sample collection, and undertake analysis, to describe diet and any changes in diet over time	Better understanding of any changes in diet and how this affects population parameters	2019-2024	New Zealand with collaboration from other interested CMS Parties	New Zealand	No progress, because of reduced field research in 2020-21 due to COVID-19.
3.4 Assess levels of plastic ingestion	Better understanding of the potential risk posed by plastic pollution	2021-2024	New Zealand with collaboration from other interested CMS Parties	New Zealand	No progress, because of reduced field research in 2020-21 due to COVID-19.
3.5 Investigate the nature, extent and drivers of land slips at Antipodes Island	Better understanding of potential risks posed by land slips	2021-2024	New Zealand with collaboration from other interested CMS Parties.	New Zealand	No progress, because of reduced field research in 2020-21 due to COVID-19.

Activity	Output/outcome	Timeframe	Responsibility	Progress by	Progress reported
3.6 Develop opportunities into mātauranga Māori (New Zealand's indigenous knowledge) to inform the management of the species and help facilitate opportunities for Ngāi Tahu (the principal indigenous tribe of the southern region of New Zealand) to develop a stronger connection between Ngāi Tahu and <i>D. antipodensis</i>	Mātauranga Māori available to inform future management and conservation actions	Ongoing	New Zealand	New Zealand	No progress, because of reduced opportunities for breeding site visits in 2020-21 due to COVID-19.
4. Breeding site management					
4.1 Eradication of mammalian pests at Auckland Island	Safe and protected breeding sites with no human-induced threats	Programme under development, with 10-year indicative timeline	New Zealand	New Zealand	Preparatory planning was continued, however number of challenges and uncertainties remain to be overcome, including securing funding and support for the duration of an eradication programme. Further details on the project are available at: https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/maukahuka-pest-free-auckland-island/
4.2 Continued protection and biosecurity control to main breeding site islands	Safe and protected breeding sites with no human-induced threats	Ongoing	New Zealand	New Zealand	Implementation of all protection measures was continued.

3. ACTION ASSESSMENT

This paper provides initial progress in the first year of the Concerted Action. The Concerted Action should be continued as planned. Because some activities have not been progressed due to COVID-19, enhanced focus should be made on those areas in future, to the extent possible in these uncertain times. The Concerted Action may need revision in future years enhance progress of the full range of activities outlined in the Concerted Action, and the need for revision will be considered as part of the next report on the implementation of this Concerted Action.

No changes to the Concerted Action plan are proposed at this time.

4. REFERENCES

- Bose, S. & Debski, I. 2020. [Antipodean albatross spatial distribution and fisheries overlap 2019](#). Prepared by the Department of Conservation, 23 p.
- Elliott, G. & Walker, K. 2020. [Antipodean wandering albatross census and population study 2020](#). Prepared by the Department of Conservation, 54 p.
- Koopman, M., Boag, S., Tuck, G.N., Hudson, R., Knuckey, I. & Alderman, R. 2018. Industry-based development of effective new seabird mitigation devices in the southern Australian trawl fisheries. *Endangered Species Research* 36: 197-211. <https://doi.org/10.3354/esr00896>.
- Richard, Y. 2021. [Integrated population model of Antipodean albatross for simulating management scenarios](#). Technical report prepared by Dragonfly Data Science for the Department of Conservation.
- Walker, K. & Elliott, G. [Antipodean Wandering Albatross 2021](#). Albatross Research.

ANNEX 1. CMS CONCERTED ACTION PLAN

<https://www.cms.int/en/document/concerted-action-antipodean-albatross-diomedea-antipodensis>

ANNEX 2. TRIAL ACAP PRIORITY POPULATON REPORTING

ACAP Priority Population: Antipodes Island Antipodes albatross population

**Population coordinator (responsible for collating report): Igor Debski,
 Department of Conservation, New Zealand**

ACAP Parties or Range States responsible for breeding sites: New Zealand

**ACAP Parties, Range States and management bodies responsible for at-sea
 range: New Zealand, Australia, Chile, WCPFC, IATTC, CCSBT, SPRFMO**

Action #1 Fisheries bycatch in Range State Jurisdictions
Is the action at breeding sites or at sea? At sea.
Action already identified in existing Action/Management Plan for the species/ population/breeding site? Yes, activity 1 of CMS Concerted Action plan
Is this: Priority research, conservation action, education, policy, other? Conservation action (includes policy, advocacy and collaboration)
What needs to be done? Fisheries bycatch risk with Range State jurisdictions is minimized, bycatch risk is known and reported, and Range States collaborate.
Timeframe: Ongoing
Have any actions been taken since the last report (2019)? Yes, a number of plans and strategies have been developed as detailed in Section 2.
Who by? New Zealand, Australia, Chile
Was this action effective? The various plans and strategies developed and implemented over this period are all expected to contribute to minimization of bycatch risk, but it will take some years for outcome reporting (i.e. of levels of bycatch) to enable assessment of effectiveness.
If not, why not?
What remains to be done? Continued implementation of plans and strategies, and any further improvements that may be required once outcome monitoring becomes available.
How will this be achieved? Through continued implementation of the plans and strategies developed.

<p>Compiled by/contributors to this action:</p> <p>Igor Debski, Department of Conservation, New Zealand</p> <p>Jonathon Barrington, Department of Agriculture, water and the Environment, Australia</p> <p>Marcelo Garcia Alvarado, Subsecretaria de Pesca y Acuicultura, Chile</p>
<p>Overall progress for this action: satisfactory or not satisfactory?</p> <p>The plans developed and implemented to date represent satisfactory progress, although as a long-term action, we are not able to measure ultimate outcomes at this stage.</p>

<p>Action #2 Fisheries bycatch on the high seas</p>
<p>Is the action at breeding sites or at sea?</p> <p>At sea.</p>
<p>Action already identified in existing Action/Management Plan for the species/population/breeding site?</p> <p>Yes, activity 2 of CMS Concerted Action plan</p>
<p>Is this: Priority research, conservation action, education, policy, other?</p> <p>Conservation action (includes policy, advocacy and collaboration)</p>
<p>What needs to be done?</p> <p>Fisheries bycatch risk in high seas, including in relevant RFMOs, is minimized through use of effective bycatch mitigation, compliance is demonstrated, and bycatch risk is understood and reported.</p>
<p>Timeframe:</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Have any actions been taken since the last report (2019)?</p> <p>Yes, a number of RFMO activities were progressed and collaboration with non-CMS Parties initiated, as summarized in Section 2.</p>
<p>Who by?</p> <p>New Zealand and Australia</p>
<p>Was this action effective?</p> <p>Progress against many of the planned actions were modest.</p>
<p>If not, why not?</p> <p>COVID-19 impacted upon the functioning of RFMO meetings and monitoring processes, and limited travel related to potential collaboration activities.</p>
<p>What remains to be done?</p> <p>Further activity is required across actions identified in the CMS Concerted Action plan, with many areas requiring ongoing activity.</p>
<p>How will this be achieved?</p>

Through continued implementation of the CMS Concerted Action plan by Parties and others. It is hoped that in coming years there will be greater opportunity to progress planned acidity in RFMOs and develop collaboration opportunities.

Compiled by/contributors to this action:

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Jonathon Barrington, Department of Agriculture, water and the Environment, Australia

Marcelo Garcia Alvarado, Subsecretaria de Pesca y Acuicultura, Chile

Overall progress for this action: satisfactory or not satisfactory?

Due to the impact of COVID-19 progress was slower and more limited than planned during this period.