



**Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels**

**Third Meeting of the Parties**

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**Title: Approaches to Capacity Building Taken by the  
Southern Seabird Solutions Trust**

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## **Approaches to Capacity Building Taken by the Southern Seabird Solutions Trust**

### **Introduction**

This paper outlines approaches the Southern Seabird Solutions Trust has taken to date to help build capacity to address seabird bycatch within southern hemisphere countries. The representatives at the Third Meeting of Parties may wish to consider these approaches when deliberating on the issue of capacity building.

### **Approaches to Capacity Building**

Southern Seabird Solutions Trust is a non-statutory alliance of representatives from the New Zealand fishing industry, government, environmental groups and Maori interests. The purpose of the Trust is to encourage and support fishers operating in the southern hemisphere to adopt responsible fishing practices that avoid the death and injury of seabirds. The Trust believes that the likelihood of achieving this will be greatly enhanced if:

1. Fishers and fishing industries understand the impact that fishing is having on seabird populations and are motivated to address the problem themselves.
2. Fishers and fishing industries have access to the latest information on seabird bycatch mitigation methods.
3. There is good communication and collaboration between government, fishing industries, research institutes and environmental interests in each country.

The Trust's international capacity building programme has worked towards addressing these three outcomes. More detail is provided below.

### **Approach 1: Building understanding and commitment amongst fishers and fishing industries**

In our experience, many fishers don't understand the scale of seabird mortality across the southern hemisphere. They are also often not aware that fishers just like themselves in other countries are facing similar challenges in relation to seabird bycatch. Once they are exposed to this information, and once they actually meet some of these fishers, their interest and commitment to addressing the problem is often heightened. In many cases we've seen fishers become ambassadors in their own fisheries as a result of meeting other like-minded fishers from other countries. Even a few motivated fishers can have a ripple affect through a whole fishery. To this end, we have carried out the following projects:

- skipper exchanges with various countries (e.g. Chile, Peru, Uruguay, and France);
- co-hosting the First South American Fishers Forum in Brazil
- fast tracking the Australian industry's approach to addressing seabird deaths in the South East trawl fishery, using New Zealand's industry experience
- inviting fishers to Southern Seabird Solutions workshops
- a series of Spanish language factsheets for use in fishing schools and fishing communities that build an understanding of seabirds lives and the threats they face

- a Spanish translation of a New Zealand made video about seabirds and mitigation methods.

**Approach 2: Providing fishers and fishing industries with the latest information on seabird bycatch mitigation methods**

Mitigation methods are constantly improving and from time to time new methods are developed. Fishers often don't have access to this information. The second purpose of the projects listed above is to expose fishers to these latest methods and allow fishers to adapt these measures for their own fishing operations. For instance, at the most recent Southern Seabird Solutions workshop in November 2008, New Zealand fishers heard about the very effective hook cover developed in Chile (dubbed the "cachaloteras") and several fishers have since attempted to adapt it to their own fishing operations. This "cross fertilisation" of ideas and adaptation for the local situation is a regular occurrence when fishers come together at such events.

**Approach 3: Building communication and collaboration between interested and affected parties within each country**

In New Zealand, the collaborative approach taken by government, industry, and environmental interests has enabled more trusting and honest communications, and has meant a more coordinated approach can be taken to addressing the seabird problem. It has allowed pooling of resources and access to people's expertise, time and vessels. This collaborative approach taken by the Southern Seabird Solutions Trust has application elsewhere and several countries are investigating establishing similar models. The Trust will continue to promote this collaborative model, share any learnings it has made over the six years it has operated, and assist those countries who wish to establish similar arrangements.

**ACAP's Capacity Building Programme**

The Trust looks forward to working with the Meeting of Parties and the Advisory Committee in looking at additional ways the Southern Seabird Solutions Trust can support ACAP's capacity building work, especially when in relation to the conservation of seabirds that breed in New Zealand.

*[www.southernseabirds.org](http://www.southernseabirds.org)*