ACAP Best Practice Advice for reducing the impact of IATTC pelagic longline fisheries on seabirds

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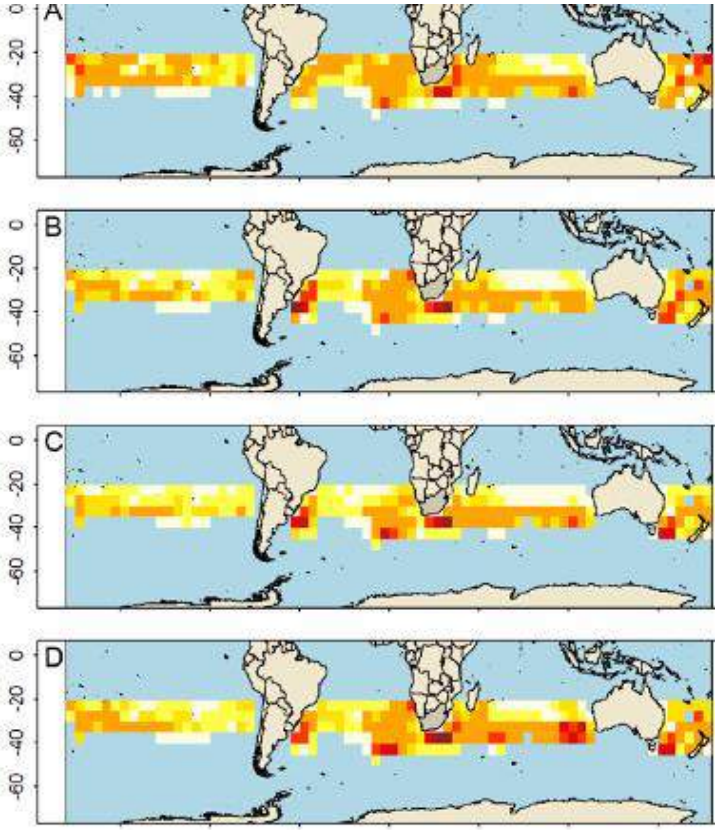
Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)

Bycatch in tuna longline fisheries continues to be a major threat for the conservation of albatrosses and petrels, resulting in a Conservation Crisis being declared by the ACAP in 2019.

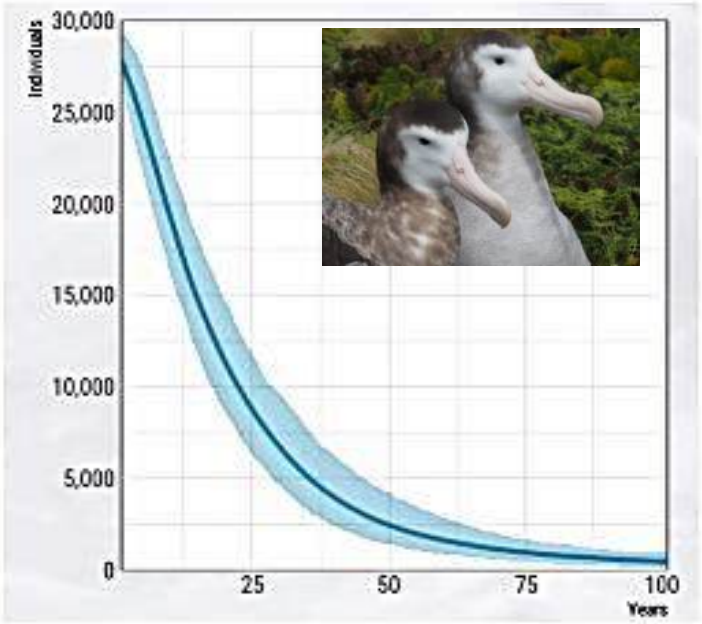
- 30,000 - 40,000 seabirds estimated caught per annum in the Southern Hemisphere alone. **Abraham et al. (2019), FAO *Common Oceans Report***

Seabird bycatch in the Southern Hemisphere



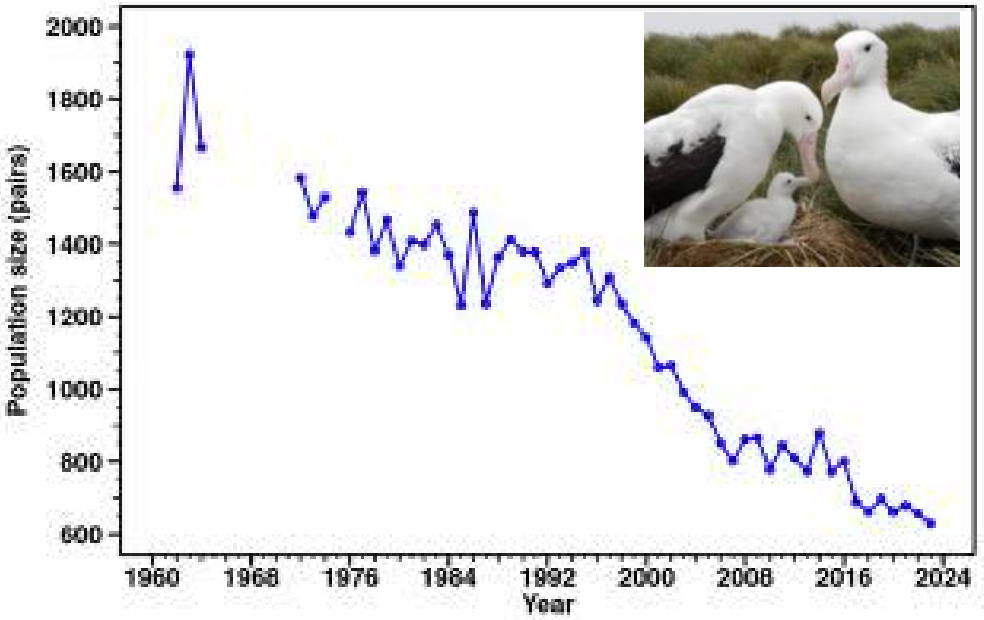
Abraham et al. (2019), FAO *Common Oceans Report*

Projected population decline of Antipodean albatross



Dragonfly (2023), *Unpublished data*

Observed population decline of wandering albatross at Bird Island



British Antarctic Survey (2023), *Unpublished data*

Overlap of ACAP Species with Tuna RFMOs

31 Species
CR = 3
EN = 8
VU = 10
NT = 7
LC = 3

	Albatrosses	Scientific name	IUCN Red List	ICCAT	IOTC	IATTC	WCPFC	CCSBT
1	Northern Royal Albatross	*Diomedea sanfordi*	EN					
2	Southern Royal Albatross	*Diomedea epomophora*	VU					
3	Wandering Albatross	*Diomedea exulans*	VU					
4	Antipodean Albatross	*Diomedea antipodensis*	EN					
5	Amsterdam Albatross	*Diomedea amsterdamensis*	EN					
6	Tristan Albatross	*Diomedea dabbenena*	CR					
7	Sooty Albatross	*Phoebetria fusca*	EN					
8	Light-mantled Albatross	*Phoebetria palpebrata*	NT					
9	Waved Albatross	*Phoebastria irrorata*	CR					
10	Black-footed Albatross	*Phoebastria nigripes*	NT					
11	Laysan Albatross	*Phoebastria immutabilis*	NT					
12	Short-tailed Albatross	*Phoebastria albatrus*	VU					
13	Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross	*Thalassarche chlororhynchos*	EN					
14	Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross	*Thalassarche carteri*	EN					
15	Grey-headed Albatross	*Thalassarche chrysostoma*	EN					
16	Black-browed Albatross	*Thalassarche melanophris*	LC					
17	Campbell Albatross	*Thalassarche impavida*	VU					
18	Buller's Albatross	*Thalassarche bulleri*	NT					
19	Shy Albatross	*Thalassarche cauta*	NT					
20	White-capped Albatross	*Thalassarche steadi*	NT					
21	Chatham Albatross	*Thalassarche eremita*	VU					
22	Salvin's Albatross	*Thalassarche salvini*	VU					

	Petrels			ICCAT	IOTC	IATTC	WCPFC	CCSBT
1	Southern Giant Petrel	*Macronectes giganteus*	LC					
2	Northern Giant Petrel	*Macronectes halli*	LC					
3	White-chinned Petrel	*Procellaria aequinoctialis*	VU					
4	Spectacled Petrel	*Procellaria conspicillata*	VU					
5	Black Petrel	*Procellaria parkinsoni*	VU					
6	Westland Petrel	*Procellaria westlandica*	EN					
7	Grey Petrel	*Procellaria cinerea*	NT					
8	Pink-footed Shearwater	*Ardenna creatopus*	VU					
9	Balearic Shearwater	*Puffinus mauretanicus*	CR					
			N Species/RFMO =	18	21	23	21	25

black petrel (Procellaria parkinsoni)

Memorandum of Understanding between IATTC and ACAP

Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

and

THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (hereafter IATTC) and the Secretariat for the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (hereafter the ACAP Secretariat);

1. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding ('MoU') is to facilitate cooperation between the IATTC and the ACAP Secretariat ("the Participants") with a view to supporting efforts to minimise the incidental by-catch of albatrosses and petrels listed in Annex 1 of ACAP within the IATTC Convention Area.

2. AREAS OF COOPERATION

The IATTC and the ACAP Secretariat may consult, cooperate and collaborate with each other on areas of common interest that are directly or indirectly relevant to the conservation, including the protection and management of albatrosses and petrels, including:

a) development of systems for collecting and analysing data, and exchanging information concerning the bycatch of albatrosses and petrels in the IATTC Convention Area;

b) exchange of information regarding management approaches directly or indirectly relevant to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels;

c) implementation of education and awareness programmes for fishers who operate in areas where albatrosses and petrels may be encountered;

d) design, testing and implementation of albatross and petrel bycatch mitigation measures relevant to fishing operations in the IATTC Convention Area;

e) development of training programmes on conservation techniques and measures to mitigate threats affecting albatrosses and petrels;

f) exchange of expertise, techniques and knowledge relevant to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels in the IATTC Convention Area; and

g) reciprocal participation with observer status at the relevant meetings of ACAP and IATTC.

ACAP Best Practice Advice to reduce seabird bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries

SBWG12 (2024) reviewed a range of studies that reiterated and further endorsed current best practice advice.

- **The use of the following three best practice measures simultaneously**:

  1- Branch line weighting; ⇒
  - **40 g** or greater attached within **0.5 m** of the hook;
  - **60 g** or greater attached whitinh **1 m** of the hooks;
  - **80 g** or grreater attached whthin **2 m** of the hook.

  2- Night setting;

  3- Bird scaring lines.

- Alternatively, **Three hook-shielding devices** (the ‘Hookpod-LED’, the ‘Hookpod-mini’ and the ‘Smart Tuna Hook’) and **one underwater bait setting** device (the ‘Underwater Bait Setter, Skadia Technologies’) are recommended as **stand-alone mitigation measures**.

ACAP Best Practice Advice to reduce seabird bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries

- Measures that are **NOT RECOMMENDED** to mitigate seabird bycatch during logline setting operations, due to the lack of scientific evidence on effectiveness, are:
  - **Line shooters**;
  - Olfactory deterrents;
  - **Blue dyed bait**;
  - Bait thaw status;
  - Laser technology

In addition, SBWG12 further updated the ACAP Best practice advice, in particular to:

- Indicate that best practice branch line weighting should achieve a minimum sink rate under experimentally controlled conditions of 0.5 m/s to 5 m depth;

- Indicate that when weighting is attached to, or integrated into, the hook a minimum of total weight of 50 g will be needed to achieve this sink rate criterion;

- Avoid the use of lead when the lead may be ingested (e.g. attached to or integrated into the hook).

- Clarify that the use of **lighting devices or other fishing accessories as weights is not recommended** unless they achieve the sink rate criterion.

Final Considerations

ACAP note that, overall, the Resoltion C-11-02 varies from ACAP Best Practice Advice in a number of ways; in particular:

- Requires the use of only one or two of eight mitigation options, rather than the simultaneous use of use branch line weighting, bird scaring lines and night setting;

- Specifies branch line weighting options that have been proven to be less effective at sinking baited hooks beyond the reach of seabirds;

- Does not include the option for the use of hook-shielding devices and underwater bait setting devices;

- Includes mitigation methods lacking scientific evidence on effectiveness, thus not recommended by ACAP Best Practice Advice.

Aligning the technical specifications of Resolution C-11-02 with the ACAP advice, as well as developing mechanisms to ensure its implementation, would be decisive to reduce the current impact of pelagic longline fisheries on albatrosses and petrels to negligible levels.

ACAP RELEVANT MATERIALS

ACAP Review & Best Practice Advice for reducing the impact of fisheries on seabirds

- ACAP Mitigation Review & BPA - PELAGIC LONGLINES
- ACAP BPA on Safety when hauling - PELAGIC LONGLINES
- ACAP Mitigation Review & BPA - TRAWL
- ACAP Mitigation Review & BPA - DEMERSAL LONGLINES

ACAP Guidelines

- ACAP Hook Removal Guide
- ACAP Seabird ID guide
- Data collection guidelines for observer programmes to improve knowledge of fishery impacts on ACAP-listed species
- ACAP Guidelines on Fisheries Electronic Monitoring Systems

Materials available in diferente languages

- English
- Portuguese
- Japanese
- Indonesian
- Korean
- Simplified Chinese

Bycatch Mitigation Factsheets

Bycatch Mitigation Infographics


A C A P
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3rd Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch

WAD2025: Effects of Disease

Amsterdam Albatross by ABUN artist Birgit Bührlé, after a photograph by Kirk Zufelt

The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) is pleased to announce "Effects of Disease" as its theme for this year's World Albatross Day (WAD2025), the sixth to be held, on 19 June 2025.

Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

PaCSWG8 Doc 04 SUMMARY
Agenda Item 6.4

Eighth Meeting of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group

Lima, Peru, 9 August 2024

Preparing for a new threat: emergency disease risk assessment of high pathogenicity avian influenza in albatrosses

Serafini, P.P.; Vanstreels, R.E.T.; Uhart, M.; Dewar, M.; Wille, M.; Roberts, L.; Black, J.; Jiménez-Uzcátegui, G.; Baker, H.; Michael, S.; Gartrell, B.; Gamble, A.; Younger, J.; Lopez, V.; Work, T.

For a detailed compilation of confirmed HPAIV H5Nx detections in Procellariiformes, please refer to https://acap.aq/resources/disease-threats/avian-flu

THANK YOU! GRACIAS!

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Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels