

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

EIGHTH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

8-12 May 2017

DOCUMENT SAC-08 INF C(c)

**THE CONSERVATION STATUS AND PRIORITIES FOR ALBATROSSES AND
LARGE PETRELS**

ACAP Secretariat

ACAP Secretariat. Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels. 119 Macquarie Street, Hobart 7000, Tasmania, Australia. Marco.Favero@acap.aq

A review of the conservation status and priorities for albatrosses and large petrels was recently published in *Biological Conservation* (Phillips *et al.* 2016). Here we present the summary and the link where the paper can be accessed. Those species referred in the paper that have distribution in the IATTC area are listed in Appendix 1 together with their current population sizes, trends and conservation status. Further information can also be found in the species assessments developed by ACAP (<http://www.acap.aq/en/acap-species>) which provide comprehensive information on the distribution, biology and threats facing all ACAP species. These assessments are currently being updated.

SUMMARY

Seabirds are amongst the most globally-threatened of all groups of birds, and conservation issues specific to albatrosses (Diomedidae) and large petrels (*Procellaria* spp. and giant petrels *Macronectes* spp.) led to drafting of the multi-lateral Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP). Here we review the taxonomy, breeding and foraging distributions, population status and trends, threats and priorities for the 29 species covered by ACAP. Nineteen (66%) are listed as threatened by IUCN, and 11 (38%) are declining. Most have extensive at-sea distributions, and the greatest threat is incidental mortality (bycatch) in industrial pelagic or demersal longline, trawl or artisanal fisheries, often in both national and international waters. Mitigation measures are available that reduce bycatch in most types of fisheries, but some management bodies are yet to make these mandatory, levels of implementation and monitoring of compliance are often inadequate, and there are insufficient observer programmes collecting robust data on bycatch rates. Intentional take, pollution (including plastic ingestion), and threats at colonies affect fewer species than bycatch; however, the impacts of disease (mainly avian cholera) and of predation by introduced species, including feral cats (*Felis catus*), rats (*Rattus* spp.) and house mice (*Mus musculus*), are severe for some breeding populations. Although major progress has been made in recent years in reducing bycatch rates and in controlling or eradicating pests at breeding sites, unless conservation efforts are intensified, the future prospects of many species of albatrosses and large petrels will remain bleak.

Phillips RA, Gales R, Baker GB, Double MC, Favero M, Quintana F, Tasker ML, Weimerskirch H, Uhart M, Wolfaardt A (2016) The conservation status and priorities for albatrosses and large petrels. *Biological Conservation* 201: 169-183

Full paper available at: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320716302427>

APPENDIX 1. Summary of population size, and conservation status and trends of ACAP species distributed in the IATTC area.

Species	Common name	Annual breeding pairs (latest census year) ¹	Current Trend 1993-2013 ² (trend confidence)	IUCN Status 2016 ³
<i>Phoebastria irrorata</i>	Waved Albatross	9,615 (1990-2010)	↓ (Low)	CR
<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>	Northern Royal Albatross	5,781 (1995-2016)	?	EN
<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>	Grey-headed Albatross	98,096 (1982-2016)	↓ (Medium)	EN
<i>Diomedea antipodensis</i>	Antipodean Albatross	7,029 (1995-2013)	↓ (Medium)	VU
<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	Southern Royal Albatross	7,929 (1989-2015)	↔ (Medium)	VU
<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	Wandering Albatross	8,176 (1981-2016)	↓ (High)	VU
<i>Phoebastria albatrus</i>	Short-tailed Albatross	808 (2002-2013)	↑ (High)	VU
<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>	Black-footed Albatross	69,936 (1976-2016)	↑ (High)	VU
<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	White-chinned Petrel	1,202,568 (1984-2015)	↓ (Very Low)	VU
<i>Procellaria parkinsoni</i>	Black Petrel	1,500 (1998-2016)	↓ (Medium)	VU
<i>Procellaria westlandica</i>	Westland Petrel	2,827 (2011)	↔ (Low)	VU
<i>Puffinus creatopus</i>	Pink-footed Shearwater	28,041 (2009-2011)	?	VU
<i>Thalassarche eremita</i>	Chatham Albatross	5,245 (2011)	↔ (Medium)	VU
<i>Thalassarche impavida</i>	Campbell Albatross	21,648 (2012)	↔ (Low)	VU
<i>Thalassarche salvini</i>	Salvin's Albatross	41,214 (1986-2014)	↓ (Low)	VU
<i>Procellaria cinerea</i>	Grey Petrel	75,610 (1981-2015)	↓ (Very Low)	NT
<i>Thalassarche bulleri</i>	Buller's Albatross	29,941 (1971-2014)	↔ (Low)	NT
<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	Black-browed Albatross	691,194 (1982-2016)	↑ (High)	NT
<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>	Light-mantled Albatross	11,003 (1954-2015)	↔ (Very Low)	NT
<i>Thalassarche steadi</i>	White-capped Albatross	95,917 (1995-2015)	?	NT
<i>Phoebastria immutabilis</i>	Laysan Albatross	656,091 (1976-2016)	↔ (High)	NT
<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Southern Giant Petrel	47,746 (1958-2016)	↑ (Medium)	LC
<i>Macronectes halli</i>	Northern Giant Petrel	10,608 (1973-2015)	↑ (Medium)	LC

¹ ACAP database <data.acap.aq>. 13 February 2017.

² **ACAP Trend:** ↑ increasing, ↓ declining, ↔ stable, ? unknown

³ **IUCN Status:** CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened, LC = Least Concern. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2016-3. <www.iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded on 13 February 2017.