



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
Interim Secretariat provided by the Australian Government

First Meeting of Advisory Committee

Hobart, Australia, 20 – 22 July 2005

Agenda Item No .15
ACAP/AC1/Inf.11
Spain

**Paper presented by ACAP's Observer to the Meeting
of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
(IATTC)**

PAPER PRESENTED BY ACAP'S OBSERVER TO THE MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC)

The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) is a multilateral agreement whose aim is the conservation of albatrosses and petrels through the development of cooperation channels and the coordination of international action in order to eliminate all dangers which have an impact on the populations of such marine birds, in the case of dangers which are found in the Southern Hemisphere either on land or in the high seas, which is the habitat for these seabirds.

ACAP is an agreement which is the result of the Bonn Convention (the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species). This Agreement came into force on 1 February 2004 and the First Meeting of the Parties was held in November 2004 in Hobart (Tasmania) where it is currently based.

11 countries have signed the Agreement to the present date: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, France, New Zealand, Peru, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Spain and 7 of these countries have already ratified the Agreement, Peru being the latest country to have recently formalized its ratification.

ACAP has formed an Advisory Committee and a Plan of Action shall soon be adopted. The Agreement seeks to broaden the support it currently enjoys from the member countries, both from those countries where the seabirds nest as well as other countries whose vessels operate in the high seas.

ACAP is an Agreement for the protection of biodiversity, committed to conservation through cooperation and seeks to articulate interactive channels of international cooperation. The commitment of the international community was recently reiterated during the international Conference on the Governance of High Seas Fisheries and the United Nations Fish Agreement held in St John's in May 2005, for all countries and RFOs to focus their management and conservation of fishing resources from an ecosystem's perspective and their involvement in the protection of marine biodiversity.

Thus, ACAP hopes that the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) expresses a clear indication of its concern for the conservation of albatrosses and petrels and that all IATTC Parties consider joining the ACAP Agreement.

June 2005