



Agreement on the Conservation  
of Albatrosses and Petrels

**Tenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee**  
*Wellington, New Zealand, 11 - 15 September 2017*

**2017 Implementation Report - Australia**

***Australia***



Agreement on the Conservation  
of Albatrosses and Petrels

## Report - MoP-6 (2018)

created 30-Jun-2017 10:46

### Implementation Report for the Meeting of Parties - MoP-6 (2018)

**Submitted by** - Australia

**Coverage of report** - Australia

#### 1. Overview of implementation of Agreement and Action Plan

- 1.1 Has action been taken to implement the decisions of previous MoPs? (For list of current Resolutions see <http://www.acap.aq/en/documents/resolutions>) Yes  
Amendment to Annex 1 of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP™) of 19 June 2001, done 8 May 2015, [2015] ATS 6 (entered into force on 6 August 2015), .
- 1.2 Is action for national implementation planned to occur in the next three years? Not answered
- 

#### 2. Species conservation

- 2.1 Has the Party provided any exemptions to prohibitions on the taking or harmful interference with albatrosses and petrels? No
- 2.2 Has any use or trade in albatrosses or petrels occurred? No
- 2.3 Has the Party implemented any new single or multi-species conservation strategies / Action Plans? Yes  
An updated Threat Abatement Plan for the incidental catch (or bycatch) of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing was released for public comment in March 2017 and the finalised plan is anticipated to come into effect by early 2018. Australia has released a draft National Plan of Action for reducing the incidental catch of seabirds in Australian capture fisheries- the

plan is anticipated to be finalised by late 2017.

1) Draft Threat abatement plan for the incidental catch (or bycatch) of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing operations.pdf (size 426579 bytes)  [→](#)

2) consulation-draft-npoa-seabirds.pdf (size 1452357 bytes)  [→](#)

2.4 Has the Party taken any emergency measures involving albatrosses or petrels?	No
2.5 Has the Party conducted any re-establishment schemes?	No
2.6 Has the Party introduced any new legal or policy instruments for species protection of albatrosses and petrels?	Yes Yes, see response at item 2.3, above.
2.7 Has the Party implemented any legal or policy instruments for environmental impact assessments?	No
2.8 Does the Party have any species it would like to submit for addition to Annex 1?	No
2.9 Are there any other conservation projects for ACAP species not already mentioned?	Yes Proposed revisions to the global threat status (IUCN Red List Category of Extinction Risk) for selected species includes Thalassarche cauta (Shy Albatross). Consideration is being given to uplisting Shy Albatross from Near Threatened to Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, however, the timing of the process is asynchronous with meetings of the Advisory Committee.

### 3. Habitat conservation

3.1 Has the Party introduced any legal or policy instruments or actions to implement protection and management of	No
---	----

breeding sites,  
including habitat  
restoration?

3.2 Has the Party  
implemented any  
sustainable  
management  
measures for marine  
living resources  
which provide food  
for albatrosses and  
petrels? No

3.3 Has the Party  
implemented any  
management or  
protection of  
important marine  
areas for albatrosses  
and petrels? No

Following a recent review updated arrangements for Commonwealth marine reserves will be progressively implemented under Australian environment law. The reserves will help to conserve marine life including albatrosses and petrels that breed and/or forage in Australian jurisdiction, while allowing for ecologically sustainable use of the marine resources (see ).

---

#### 4. Management of human activities

4.1 Has the Party  
completed any new  
environmental  
impact assessments  
related to  
albatrosses and  
petrels? No

4.2 Has the Party  
implemented any  
new measures to  
minimise discharge  
of pollutants and  
marine debris  
(MARPOL)? Not answered

An updated Threat Abatement Plan for the impact of marine debris on vertebrate marine life was released for public comment in early 2017 and the finalised plan is anticipated to come into effect by late 2017.

1) draft-tap-marine-debris-2017.pdf (size 691454 bytes)  

4.3 Has the Party  
introduced any new  
measures to  
minimise the  
disturbance to  
albatrosses and  
petrels in marine and  
terrestrial habitats? No

---

#### 5. Research programmes

5.1 Does the Party  
have any ongoing  
research? No

programmes relating to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels not already reported on?

---

5.2 Does the Party have any additional national institutions (authorities or research centres), or NGOs involved in albatross and petrel conservation?

---

No

## 6. Education and public awareness

6.1 Has the Party conducted training or provided information for user audiences (eg scientists, fishers, etc)?

---

Yes

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority routinely conducts in port visits to inform fishing operators about applicable seabird bycatch mitigation measures.

6.2 Has the Party conducted training or provided information to the general public?

---

Yes

The Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston Tasmania ran an art exhibition 'On Albatross Island' in early 2016, highlighting the conservation issues affecting *Thalassarche cauta* (Shy Albatross) on Albatross Island in Bass Strait. The exhibition included a school-based component 'Albatrossity: an albatross-inspired artistic adventure' to inform and inspire young Australians about the importance of albatross conservation.

## 7. Reporting against priorities for land-based conservation actions (see MoP5 Doc 15 Rev 1 - Prioritising ACAP Conservation Actions)

7.1 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Kerguelen (Grande Terre)?

---

Not answered

7.2 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to house mice on Gough Island?

Not answered

7.3 Has the Party

Not answered

taken any actions in relation to reindeer on Kerguelen (Grande Terre)?	
7.4 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Formentera?	Not answered
7.5 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Menorca?	Not answered
7.6 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Kerguelen (Grande Terre)?	Not answered
7.7 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Cabrera?	Not answered
7.8 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Cabrera?	Not answered
7.9 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Formentera?	Not answered
7.10 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Ibiza?	Not answered
7.11 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Mallorca?	Not answered
7.12 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Menorca?	Not answered
7.13 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Ile Saint Lanne Gramont?	Not answered
7.14 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Ile Saint Lanne Gramont?	Not answered

7.15 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to brown rats on South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)?	Not answered	
7.16 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Auckland Island?	Not answered	
7.17 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to pigs on Auckland Island?	Not answered	
7.18 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to house mice on Marion Island?	Not answered	
7.19 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to Avian cholera on Ile Amsterdam?	Not answered	
7.20 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to mosquitos on Isla Espanola?	Not answered	
7.21 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to Avian pox virus on Albatross Island (AU)?	Yes	Monitoring of external symptoms of Avian pox virus in pre-fledging <i>Thalassarche cauta</i> (Shy Albatross) chicks has been ongoing for the past 10 years. Whether there is a negative relationship between annual breeding success and pox frequency of occurrence will require more data to confirm the effect. As part of a targeted study to evaluate and develop climate change mitigation options, trials have been undertaken of ways to reduce the disease loads of affected albatrosses. Chicks are sprayed with commercially available insecticide to reduce the transmission of avian pox, reduce the severity of general disease impacts, and increase the overall health of chicks. Survival of treated chicks was significantly higher than those in control areas within the colony (Alderman RA, and Hobday AJ (2016). Developing a climate adaptation strategy for vulnerable seabirds based on prioritisation of intervention options. <i>Deep-Sea Research II</i> 140: 290-297).
7.22 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to Australasian gannets on Pedra Branca?	Yes	Aerial surveys are undertaken biannually of Pedra Branca to determine relative numbers and distribution of <i>Thalassarche cauta</i> (Shy Albatross) and <i>Morus serrator</i> (Australasian Gannet). Monitoring cameras have been deployed. Results suggest damage may be occurring to albatross nesting sites by gannets

stealing nesting material . A trial of artificial nests is proceeding on Albatross Island, which may be extended to Pedra Branca, if successful.

7.23 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to human disturbance (recreation/tourism) of breeding sites on Ibiza?

Not answered

---

## **8. Reporting against priorities for at-sea conservation actions (see MoP5 Doc 15 Rev 1 - Prioritising ACAP Conservation Actions)**

8.1 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Angola Pelagic longline fishery?

Not answered

8.2 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Argentina Demersal trawl fishery?

Not answered

8.3 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Australia demersal longline fishery?

Yes

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority has implemented new mitigation methods, for boats in the demersal longline fishery that require fishing vessels to use electronic monitoring systems to monitor seabird bycatch, to improve sink rates of fishing gear (to achieve minimum line sink rates of 0.3 m/sec to 15 m depth), and to implement individual boat seabird mitigation plans. An individual boat-based response will apply in future should excessive seabird bycatch rates are detected. These mitigation measures apply in addition to existing mitigation.

8.4 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Australia demersal trawl fishery?

Yes

See response to 8.6, below.

8.5 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Australia Pelagic trawl fishery?

Yes

Vessels operating in the small pelagic fishery carry independent observers and/or use electronic monitoring (including cameras) to monitor fishing operations. Vessels employ seabird bycatch mitigation measures including tori lines or bafflers and offal management to minimise risks to seabirds. This includes using

	tori lines to minimise interactions with net sonde cable.
8.6 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Australia trawl fishery?	Yes  Trawl vessels now apply one of three mitigation strategies to reduce seabird interactions with warp wires: (1) deploying large brightly coloured inflatable buoys along warp wires to deter birds from striking the warp wires, with stringent offal management, (2) using bird bafflers, or (3) using bird sprayers.
8.7 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Brazil demersal longline fishery?	Not answered
8.8 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Brazil Pelagic longline fishery?	Not answered
8.9 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Brazil Pelagic longline fishery (Itaipava fleet)?	Not answered
8.10 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the CCSBT Pelagic longline fishery?	Yes  Australia implements seabird mitigation requirements for its flagged fishing vessels that exceed the existing binding conservation measures applying in the fishery. These include requirements concerning branch line weighting, use of at least one tori line, a prohibition on offal discharge during line setting, and about using electronic monitoring systems and logbook reporting to monitor and report bycatch.
8.11 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the IATTC Pelagic longline fishery?	Not answered
8.12 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the ICCAT Pelagic longline fishery?	Not answered
8.13 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the IOTC	Yes  Australia implements seabird mitigation requirements for its flagged fishing vessels that exceed the existing binding

Pelagic longline fishery?	conservation measures applying in the fishery. These include requirements concerning branch line weighting, use of at least one tori line, a prohibition on offal discharge during line setting, and about using electronic monitoring systems and logbook reporting to monitor and report bycatch.
8.14 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Namibia Demersal longline fishery?	Not answered
8.15 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Namibia demersal trawl fishery?	Not answered
8.16 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Namibia Pelagic longline fishery?	Not answered
8.17 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Namibia Pelagic trawl fishery?	Not answered
8.18 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Peru demersal longline fishery?	Not answered
8.19 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Peru Pelagic longline fishery?	Not answered
8.20 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the SEAFO demersal trawl fishery?	Not answered
8.21 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Spain	Not answered

demersal longline fishery?	
8.22 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Spain Pelagic longline fishery?	Not answered
8.23 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Spain purse seine fishery?	Not answered
8.24 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Spain trawl fishery?	Not answered
8.25 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the SPRFMO demersal trawl fishery?	Not answered
8.26 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the UK (OT) Pelagic longline fishery?	Not answered
8.27 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the WCPFC Pelagic longline fishery?	Yes  Australia implements seabird mitigation requirements for its flagged fishing vessels that exceed the existing binding conservation measures applying in the fishery. These include requirements concerning branch line weighting, use of at least one tori line, a prohibition on offal discharge during line setting, and about using electronic monitoring systems and logbook reporting to monitor and report bycatch.

---

## 9. Other

Does the Party have any new information to report on research into observed impacts, or mitigation of, climate change on albatrosses and petrels?	Yes  See: Thompson, R.B., Alderman, R.L., Tuck, G.N., and Hobday, A.J. (2015). Effects of climate change and fisheries bycatch on Shy Albatross ( <i>Thalassarche cauta</i> ) in southern Australia. PLOS One 10(6): e012706. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0127006, and Alderman RA, and Hobday AJ (2016). Developing a climate adaptation strategy for vulnerable seabirds based on prioritisation of intervention options. Deep-Sea Research II 140: 290-297.
---	---

---

---

**Final submission details**

Report is closed for editing.

Status - Submitted to ACAP - 30-Jun-2017

Report by Jonathon Barrington

Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels - [www.acap.aq](http://www.acap.aq) © 2017