

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Campbell Albatross

1	Family	Diomedidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Thalassarche impavida</i> (Mathews, 1912)
3	Common name	Campbell Albatross
4	Conservation status	Population visiting Australian territory Vulnerable: A1ad+2d

5 Reasons for listing

A decrease of at least 20% has been recorded in the population size over the last three generations (45 years: Vulnerable: A1) as a result of fishing bycatch (d), and is likely to continue (A2d). Globally, the species breeds at fewer than five locations (Vulnerable: D2).

Australian Fishing Zone	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	5,000,000 km ²	medium
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	5,000 km ²	low
trend	stable	medium
No. of breeding birds	45,500	medium
trend	decreasing	high
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	15 years	medium

6 Intraspecific taxa

None described. Until recently, considered conspecific with the Black-browed Albatross, *T. melanophrys*.

7 Past range and abundance

Breeding restricted to Campbell I., New Zealand; breeding birds foraging over the continental shelf around New Zealand. When not breeding, forages over temperate shelf waters of New Zealand, Australia and the central and western Pacific Is. (Marchant and Higgins, 1990, Waugh *et al.*, 1999a). Population in the 1960s appears to have been over 30,000 pairs (Croxall and Gales, 1998).

8 Present range and abundance

Counts from 1966 to 1984 suggested a rapid decline but this appears to have stabilised since 1984 (Waugh *et al.*, 1999b). The population has been estimated as between 19,000 and 26,000 breeding pairs on Campbell I. (Croxall and Gales, 1998).

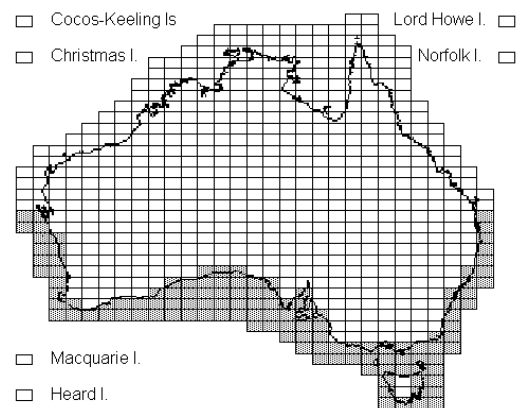
9 Ecology

Campbell Albatross breeds annually in colonies among grass tussocks and feeds pelagically over near-shore water taking squid, fish and crustaceans. It also follows fishing boats to retrieve offal (Marchant and Higgins, 1990, Gales, 1998, Waugh *et al.*, 1999b).

10 Threats

Although the species is still numerous, its decreasing population size and association with fishing boats are a

cause for concern. Drowning in longline fishing gear is the primary threat in Australian waters, with sub-adults being over-represented in the bycatch (Waugh *et al.*, 1999b). Birds may also suffer from collision with cables and warps used on fishing trawlers (Gales, 1998, EABG, 1999).



11 Information required

11.1 Develop genetic profiles to determine provenance of birds caught as bycatch.

12 Recovery objectives

12.1 Reduce at-sea threats to acceptable levels.

12.2 Obtain global agreement on conservation measures required.

12.3 Promote public awareness of the conservation needs of albatrosses.

13 Actions completed or under way

13.1 A Threat Abatement Plan (TAP) to minimise fishing bycatch has been prepared (EABG, 1998).

13.2 Effective mitigation techniques have been developed and are being improved.

13.3 Bycatch rates in the AFZ and the success of mitigation measures are monitored and the results quickly analysed.

13.4 Measures known to be effective in mitigating seabird bycatch within the AFZ are promoted by legislation, a code of practice and education programs.

- 13.5 A Recovery Plan has been written and a Recovery Team is in place. Australian Fisheries Management Authority, Convention for Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Ecologically Related Species Working Group of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and its Committee on Fisheries, Incidental Mortality Arising from Longline Fishing – ad hoc Working Group of the Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment of Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, Tasmanian Fisheries Service, professional fishing industry groups.
- 14 Management actions required
None.
- 15 Organisations responsible for conservation
Environment Australia
- 16 Other organisations involved
Antarctic Science Advisory Committee, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia,

17 Staff and financial resources required for recovery to be carried out

<i>Staff resources required 2001-2005</i>	1.0	<i>Project Officer (international liaison)¹</i>	
	1.0	<i>Extension Officer¹</i>	
	3.0	<i>Technical Officers (fisheries observers)¹</i>	
<i>Financial resources required 2001-2005</i>			
<i>Action</i>	<i>Conservation agencies</i>	<i>Other funding sources</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Develop improved fishing bycatch mitigation¹</i>	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$21,000
<i>Monitor bycatch rates in the AFZ and success of mitigation measures¹</i>	\$3,600	\$8,600	\$12,200
<i>Analysis of annual bycatch data¹</i>	\$8,300	\$0	\$8,300
<i>Educate fishers in the AFZ in mitigation techniques¹</i>	\$6,300	\$5,400	\$11,700
<i>Inform national fora about the TAP¹</i>	\$2,300	\$0	\$2,300
<i>Inform international fora about the TAP and pursue international threat abatement¹</i>	\$3,900	\$0	\$3,900
<i>Maintain currency of TAP and report annually¹</i>	\$2,100	\$0	\$2,100
<i>Research on genetics²</i>	\$500	\$500	\$1,000
<i>Managing recovery process²</i>	\$4,600	\$1,800	\$6,400
<i>Total</i>	\$42,100	\$26,800	\$68,900

¹ Costs for TAP actions divided amongst all 20 albatrosses, ² giant-petrels, White-chinned Petrel and Grey Petrel

² Costs shared among 20 albatrosses and 2 giant-petrels

18 Bibliography

- Croxall, J. P. and Gales, R. 1998. An assessment of the conservation status of albatrosses. Pp. 46-65. in *The Albatross: Biology and Conservation*. G. Robertson, and R. Gales (eds). Surrey Beatty and Sons, Chipping Norton.
- EABG 1998. *Threat Abatement Plan for the incidental catch (or by-catch) of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing operations*. Environment Australia Biodiversity Group, Canberra.
- EABG 1999. Draft Recovery Plan for Albatrosses and Giant Petrels. Environment Australia Biodiversity Group, Canberra.
- Gales, R. 1998. Albatross populations: status and threats. Pp. 20-45 in *The Albatross: Biology and Conservation*. G. Robertson and R. Gales (eds). Surrey Beatty and Sons, Chipping Norton.
- Marchant, S. and Higgins, P. J. (eds) 1990. *The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds*. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.
- Waugh, S. M., Sagar, P. M. and Cossee, R. O. 1999a. New Zealand Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophrys impavida* and Grey-headed Albatross *D. chrysostoma* banded at Campbell Island: Recoveries from the South Pacific Region. *Emu* 99:29-35.
- Waugh, S. M., Weimerskirch, H. and Sagar, P.M. 1999b. Population dynamics of Black-browed and Grey-headed Albatrosses *Diomedea melanophrys* and *D. chrysostoma* at Campbell Island, New Zealand, 1942-96. *Ibis* 141:216-225.
- Comments received from
Barry Baker, Nigel Brothers, Rosemary Gales, Tim Reid.