

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Pacific Albatross

1	Family	Diomedidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Thalassarche</i> sp. nov. "platei"
3	Common name	Pacific Albatross
4	Conservation status	
	Population visiting Australian territory	Vulnerable: A2d

5 Reasons for listing

The size of the population visiting Australian waters is likely to decrease by more than 20% over the next three generations (45 years: Vulnerable: A2) as a result of fishing bycatch (d). 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	medium
Area of occupancy	5,000 km ²	low
trend	stable	medium
No. of breeding birds	36,000	low
trend	stable	low
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	15 years	medium

6 Intraspecific taxa

Separation of species from *T. bulleri* (Robertson and Nunn, 1998) is controversial, but adopted here pending publication of genetic analysis.

7 Past range and abundance

Breeding on Chatham and Three Kings Is, New Zealand (EABG, 1999). Foraging range mostly limited to the Pacific Ocean and Tasman Sea, although birds do reach the east coast of the Australian mainland (EABG, 1999).

8 Present range and abundance

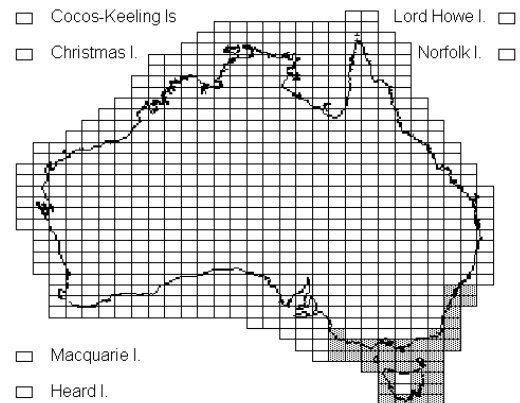
Current global population estimated at 80,000-90,000 individuals, with 18,000 pairs breeding annually (Croxall and Gales, 1998, Gales, 1998). Trends in distribution and abundance not known.

9 Ecology

The Pacific Albatross nests annually in colonies and is likely to eat cephalopods and fish. It also attends fishing boats (Marchant and Higgins, 1990, EABG, 1999).

10 Threats

Although there is little data, likely threats to the Pacific Albatross in its Australian distribution include drowning in longline fishing gear and collision with cables and warps used on fishing trawlers (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.

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, 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.

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.

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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.

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