

COORDINATED CONSERVATION PLAN

Southern Ocean

1 Description

The Southern Ocean of the Australian Fishing Zone. Oceanic waters off the southern Australia from about Brisbane in the east to Carnarvon in the west and 300 nautical miles out to sea.

2 IBRA Regions

Not applicable

3 Core taxa

Critically Endangered

Amsterdam Albatross

Chatham Albatross

Endangered

Tristan Albatross

Northern Royal Albatross

Southern Giant-Petrel

Vulnerable

White-chinned Petrel

Wandering Albatross

Antipodean Albatross

Gibson's Albatross

Southern Royal Albatross

Campbell Albatross

Shy Albatross

White-capped Albatross

Salvin's Albatross

Grey-headed Albatross

Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross

Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross

Buller's Albatross

Pacific Albatross

Sooty Albatross

Light-mantled Albatross

Near Threatened

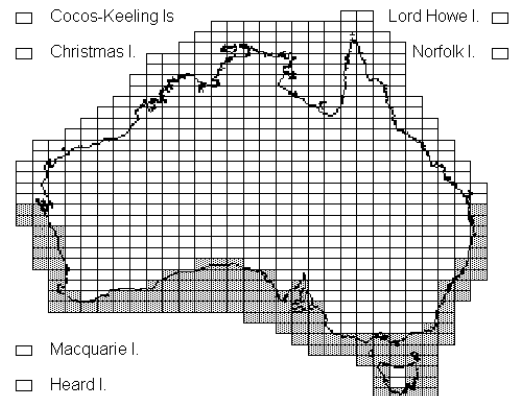
Northern Giant-Petrel

Grey Petrel

Black-browed Albatross

4 Conservation issues

Drowning in longline fishing gear is the primary threat in Australian waters. Birds may also suffer from collision with cables and warps used on fishing trawlers or shooting to protect bait. Pollution may also be a problem but is much less of a problem than longlining.



A Threat Abatement Plan (TAP) to minimise fishing bycatch has been prepared and effective mitigation techniques have been developed and are being improved. Measures known to be effective in mitigating seabird bycatch within the AFZ are promoted by legislation, a code of practice and education programs and bycatch rates in the AFZ and the success of mitigation measures are monitored and the results quickly analysed. In addition a Recovery Plan for albatrosses and giant-petrels has been written and a Recovery Team is in place.

5 Recommended management

- 5.1 Develop genetic profiles to determine provenance of birds caught as bycatch.
- 5.2 Continue to implement the Threat Abatement Plan and the Recovery Plan.

6 Organisations responsible for conservation

Environment Australia.

7 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.

8 References

- 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.