

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Amsterdam Albatross

| | | |
|---|---------------------|---|
| 1 | Family | Diomedidae |
| 2 | Scientific name | <i>Diomedea amsterdamensis</i> Roux <i>et al.</i> 1983 |
| 3 | Common name | Amsterdam Albatross |
| 4 | Conservation status | Population visiting Australian territory Critically Endangered: D |

5 Reasons for listing

Although no confirmed records from Australian waters (T. Reid), only three mature birds need visit to be classed as a visitor. Movements of close relatives suggest such a visitation rate is likely to occur. It is estimated that the single population consists of 40 mature individuals. Both global and Australian status must therefore be considered Critically Endangered: D.

| Australian Fishing Zone | Estimate | Reliability |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence | 5,000,000 km ² | high |
| trend | stable | high |
| Area of occupancy | 5,000 km ² | low |
| trend | stable | medium |
| No. of breeding birds | 40 | high |
| trend | stable | medium |
| No. of sub-populations | 1 | high |
| Generation time | 25 years | low |

6 Intraspecific taxa

None described.

7 Past range and abundance

Breeding on Amsterdam I. and foraging mainly in the surrounding Indian Ocean, but possibly occurring as far afield as Tasmania and New Zealand (Gales, 1998).

8 Present range and abundance

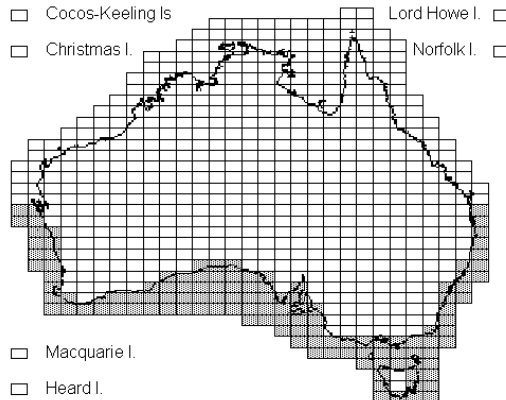
About 13 pairs breeding annually but the total population of 40 mature individuals in 1997 is higher than was estimated in 1984 (Weimerskirch *et al.*, 1997).

9 Ecology

Amsterdam Albatrosses breed biennially (when successful) in colonies among grass tussocks and feed pelagically on squid, fish and crustaceans (Weimerskirch *et al.*, 1997, Weimerskirch and Jouventin, 1998).

10 Threats

For the world's rarest seabird, any deaths from drowning in longline fishing gear, the primary threats in Australian waters, could be catastrophic. Birds may also suffer from collision with cables and warps used on fishing trawlers (Weimerskirch *et al.*, 1997, Weimerskirch and Jouventin, 1998, 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.

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 genetics⁵</i> | \$500 | \$500 | \$1,000 |
| <i>Managing recovery process⁵</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

EABG 1998. *Threat Abatement Plan for the incidental catch (or by-catch) of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing operations*. Environment Australia Biodiversity Group, Canberra.

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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.

Weimerskirch, H., Brothers, N. and Jouventin, J. 1997. Population dynamics of wandering albatross, *Diomedea exulans*, and Amsterdam albatross *D. amsterdamensis* in the Indian Ocean and their relationships with long-line fisheries: conservation implications. *Biol. Conserv.* 79:257-270.

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