

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Antipodean Albatross

1	Family	Diomedidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Diomedea antipodensis</i> Robertson and Warham, 1992
3	Common name	Antipodean Albatross
4	Conservation status	
	Population visiting Australian territory	Vulnerable: A2d

5 Reasons for listing

The size of the population visiting Australian waters will probably decrease by more than 20% over the next three generations (75 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	high
trend	stable	medium
Area of occupancy	5,000 km ²	low
trend	stable	medium
No. of breeding birds	17,000	medium
trend	decreasing	medium
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	25 years	medium

6 Intraspecific taxa

Separation of *D. antipodensis* from *D. gibsoni* (Robertson and Nunn, 1998) is controversial, but adopted here pending publication of genetic analysis.

7 Past range and abundance

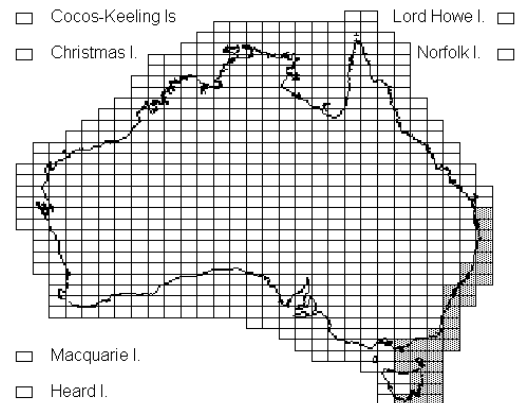
Breeding on Antipodes and Campbell Is, New Zealand, feeding in south-west Pacific and Tasman Sea, notably off the coast of New South Wales (EABG, 1999). Non-breeding birds usually move east to South American waters between 30° and 50°S, following weather systems to exploit food resources (Nicholls *et al.*, 1997, Gales, 1998). There are no estimates of former abundance.

8 Present range and abundance

Current global population estimated at 5,150 pairs breeding annually; about 6 breed on Campbell I., the remainder on Antipodes I. (Gales, 1998). Decreases inferred, but long term data needed for confirmation.

9 Ecology

Antipodean Albatrosses breed biennially (when successful) in colonies among grass tussocks on isolated subantarctic islands and feed pelagically on squid, fish and crustaceans (Marchant and Higgins, 1990, Gales, 1998).



10 Threats

Drowning in longline fishing gear appears to be the primary threat faced by Antipodean Albatrosses in Australian waters (Murray *et al.*, 1993). Birds may also suffer from collision with cables and warps used on fishing trawlers or shooting to protect bait (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.

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>

Financial resources required 2001-2005

<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

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