

## RECOVERY OUTLINE

# Chatham Albatross

1	Family	Diomedidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Thalassarche eremita</i> (Murphy 1930)
3	Common name	Chatham Albatross
4	Conservation status	Population visiting Australian territory Critically Endangered: B1+2c

### 5 Reasons for listing

Globally, the species is listed as Critically Endangered because the area of occupancy is small (B1) and a decrease in the number of individuals has been inferred (2e). Although the status in Australian waters more closely fits Vulnerable (A2d, C2b), on the basis of probable decreases in population over the next three generations (75 years), it is upgraded as per Gärdenfors *et al.* (1999) to match the global status, because all visiting birds are from an Endangered population.

Australian Fishing Zone	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	1,500,000 km <sup>2</sup>	medium
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	5,000 km <sup>2</sup>	medium
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	8,000	medium
trend	stable	low
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	15 years	medium

### 6 Intraspecific taxa

None described. Previously considered to be a subspecies of Shy Albatross *T. cauta*.

### 7 Past range and abundance

Breeding restricted to Pyramid Rock, Chatham Is (Gales, 1998). Principal foraging range in coastal waters off eastern and southern New Zealand and Tasmania, as well as the central south Pacific and off South America (Marchant and Higgins, 1990, EABG, 1999). Estimates of the breeding population 2,000 and 4,000 pairs, with the total population approximately 20,000 individuals (Gales, 1993, Croxall and Gales, 1998).

### 8 Present range and abundance

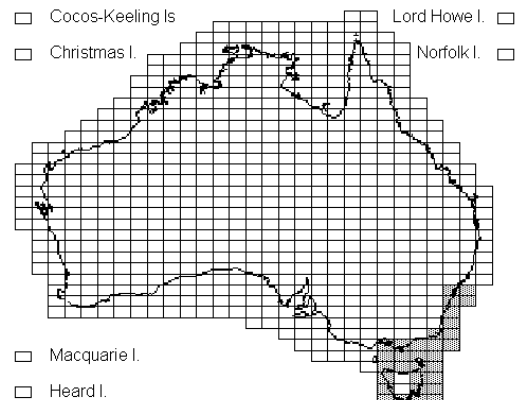
No change in abundance or distribution documented.

### 9 Ecology

Chatham Albatrosses nest in dense colonies on the grassy slopes of Pyramid Rock (Marchant and Higgins, 1990). They probably eat fish and cephalopods, and have been recorded following fishing boats (T. Reid).

### 10 Threats

Longline fisheries are responsible for deaths of Chatham Albatross both inside and outside the Australian Fishing Zone (Gales, 1993, 1998, NZMF, 1997, EABG, 1999). Threats to the species at Pyramid Rock include predation by introduced predators, degradation of breeding habitat through human or other disturbance, and hunting (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
- 14.1 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)<sup>1</sup></i>
	1.0	<i>Extension Officer<sup>1</sup></i>
	3.0	<i>Technical Officers (fisheries observers)<sup>1</sup></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 mitigation<sup>1</sup></i>	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$21,000
<i>Monitor bycatch rates in the AFZ and success of mitigation measures<sup>1</sup></i>	\$3,600	\$8,600	\$12,200
<i>Analysis of annual bycatch data<sup>1</sup></i>	\$8,300	\$0	\$8,300
<i>Educate fishers in the AFZ in mitigation techniques<sup>1</sup></i>	\$6,300	\$5,400	\$11,700
<i>Inform national fora about the TAP<sup>1</sup></i>	\$2,300	\$0	\$2,300
<i>Inform international fora about the TAP and pursue international threat abatement<sup>1</sup></i>	\$3,900	\$0	\$3,900
<i>Maintain currency of TAP and report annually<sup>1</sup></i>	\$2,100	\$0	\$2,100
<i>Research on genetics<sup>5</sup></i>	\$500	\$500	\$1,000
<i>Managing recovery process<sup>5</sup></i>	\$4,600	\$1,800	\$6,400
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>\$42,100</b>	<b>\$26,800</b>	<b>\$68,900</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.
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- Gales, R. 1993. *Co-operative Mechanisms for the Conservation of Albatrosses*. ANCA. Tasmanian Government Printer, Hobart.
- 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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- Marchant, S. and Higgins, P. J. (eds) 1990. *The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds*. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.
- NZMF, 1997. *Managing the Incidental Capture of Seabirds in New Zealand Fisheries*. Ministry of Fisheries and Department of Conservation, New Zealand.

#### Comments received from

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