

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross

1	Family	Diomedidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Thalassarche carteri</i> (Mathews, 1912)
3	Common name	Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross
4	Conservation status	Population visiting Australian territory Vulnerable: A1a+2d

5 Reasons for listing

A decrease in the population size of at least 20% has been recorded over the last three generations (45 years): Vulnerable: A1) as a result of direct observation (a) and is likely to continue (A2) as a result of fishing bycatch (d). Globally, the species breeds at fewer than five locations (Vulnerable: A1a, D2).

Australian Fishing Zone	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	5,000,000 km ²	medium
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	5,000 km ²	low
trend	stable	medium
No. of breeding birds	73,000	medium
trend	decreasing	high
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	15 years	medium

6 Intraspecific taxa

None described, the species having recently been separated from the Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross *T. chlororhynchos* (Robertson and Nunn, 1998).

7 Past range and abundance

Breeding on islands in the Indian Ocean (Amsterdam, Crozet, Kerguelen and St Paul Is; Gales, 1998). Mostly foraging in the southern Indian Ocean, where particularly abundant off Western Australia (Marchant and Higgins, 1990).

8 Present range and abundance

Current global population estimated at 160,000-180,000 individuals, with 36,500 pairs breeding annually (Gales, 1998). High adult and juvenile mortality has reduced main breeding colony on Amsterdam I. by about 30% since the early 1980s, with the decline continuing (Weimerskirch and Jouventin, 1998).

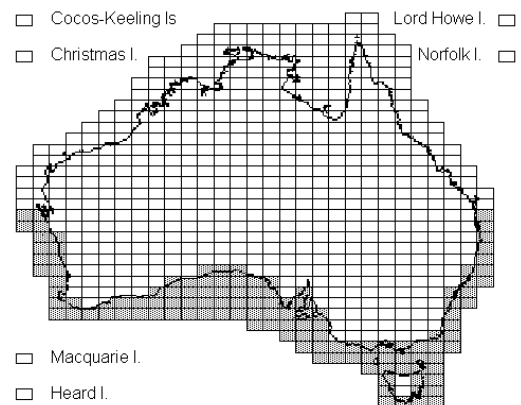
9 Ecology

The Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross nests in colonies (EABG, 1999). It takes cephalopods and fish, and attends fishing boats (Weimerskirch *et al.* 1986, Klaer and Polacheck, 1997, Cherel and Klages, 1998).

10 Threats

Considerable and continuing population decline of the Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross, and the species'

association with fishing boats are a cause for concern. The most serious threat in Australian waters is probably drowning in longline fishing gear and collision with cables and warps used on fishing trawlers (Klaer and Polacheck, 1997, 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 Legislation has been passed and a code of practice adopted to ensure measures known to be effective in mitigating seabird bycatch are used by pelagic longline fishing operations within the AFZ.

13.4 Education programs for Australian and international fishers are being instituted.

- 13.5 Bycatch rates in the AFZ and the success of mitigation measures are monitored and the results quickly analysed. 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 – as 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.
- 13.6 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 and individuals involved
Antarctic Science Advisory Committee, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian

17 Staff and financial resources required for recovery to be carried out

<i>Staff resources required 2001-2005</i>			
	1.0	Project Officer (international liaison) ¹	
	1.0	Extension Officer ¹	
	3.0	Technical Officers (fisheries observers) ¹	
<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

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