

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Tristan Albatross

1	Family	Diomedidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Diomedea dabbenena</i> Matthews, 1929
3	Common name	Tristan Albatross
4	Conservation status	Endangered: B1+2e
	Population visiting Australian territory	Endangered: B1+2e

5 Reasons for listing

Globally, the species is listed as 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, 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	5,000,000 km ²	low
trend	stable	medium
Area of occupancy	5,000 km ²	low
trend	decreasing	medium
No. of breeding birds	3,300	medium
trend	decreasing	high
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	25 years	medium

6 Intraspecific taxa

None described. This species was previously considered part of the Wandering Albatross *D. exulans* species complex.

7 Past range and abundance

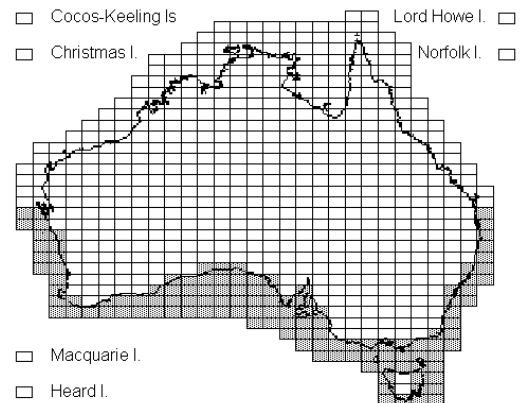
Breeding range restricted to the South Atlantic Ocean, with colonies on Inaccessible I. (several hundred pairs), the main island of the Tristan Group and Gough I. (Gales, 1998). Birds forage almost to the equator (Marchant and Higgins, 1990).

8 Present range and abundance

Breeding now restricted to Inaccessible and Gough Is., having been eliminated from the main island of Tristan de Cunha by 1907 (EABG, 1999). Current global population estimated to contain about 1,000 breeding pairs (Gales, 1998). There is only one record from Australian waters (EABG, 1999).

9 Ecology

Tristan 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 in Australian waters. 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 Measures known to be effective in mitigating seabird bycatch within the AFZ are promoted by legislation, a code of practice and education programs.

13.4 Bycatch rates in the AFZ and the success of mitigation measures are monitored and the results quickly analysed.

- 13.5 A Recovery Plan has been written and a Recovery Team is in place. 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.
- 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,

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 genetics²</i>	\$500	\$500	\$1,000
<i>Managing recovery process²</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.
- 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.
- Gärdenfors, U., Rodríguez, J.P., Hilton-Taylor, C., Hyslop, C., Mace, G., Molur, S. and Poss, S. 1999. Draft guidelines for the Application of IUCN Red List Criteria at National and Regional Levels. *Species* 31-32:58-70.
- Marchant, S. and Higgins, P. J. (eds) 1990. *The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds*. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.
- Comments received from
Barry Baker, Nigel Brothers, Rosemary Gales, Tim Reid.