

RECOVERY OUTLINE

White-capped Albatross

1	Family	Diomedidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Thalassarche steadi</i> (Falla, 1933)
3	Common name	White-capped Albatross
4	Conservation status	Population visiting Australian territory Vulnerable: A2d

5 Reasons for listing

The size of the population visiting Australian waters is likely to decrease by more than 20% over the next three generations (45 years: Vulnerable: A2) as a result of fishing bycatch (d). Globally, the subspecies breeds at fewer than five locations (Vulnerable: 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	medium
trend:	stable	high
Estimated population:	150,000	low
trend:	decreasing	low
No. of sub-populations:	1	high
Generation time:	15 years	medium

6 Intra-specific taxa

Separation of *T. steadi* from *T. cauta* (Robertson and Nunn, 1998) is controversial, but adopted here pending publication of genetic analysis.

7 Past range and abundance

Breeding on Adams, Auckland, Bollons, Disappointment and Chatham Is, south of New Zealand, breeding birds foraging in nearby waters. Probably common off the coast of south-eastern Australia, where birds have been caught on longline hooks off Tasmania, but hard to identify (Marchant and Higgins, 1990, Gales 1993, EABG, 1999).

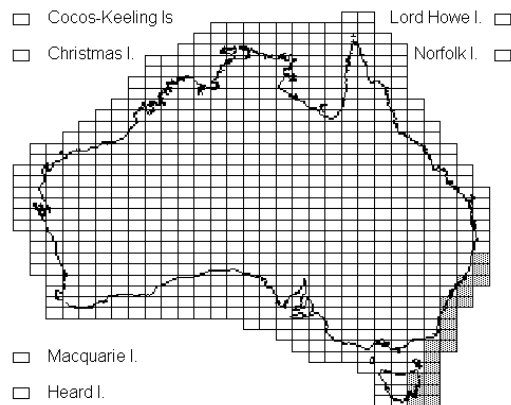
8 Present range and abundance

Distribution as above. Current global population estimated at 70,000 to 80,000 pairs breeding annually at Disappointment I., 100 on Auckland and Adams Is, 100 at Bollon's I., Antipodes Is and one pair at Forty-Fours I., Chatham Is (Croxall and Gales, 1998, EABG, 1999, Birdlife International, 2000). Trends are based on inference since mortalities from an association with fishing boats have been high (Bartle, 1991, Murray *et al.*, 1993, EABG, 1999).

9 Ecology

Breeding is probably annual, and occurs in colonies among tussock grassland. The species' diet is probably composed of inshore cephalopods and fish, but has

not been studied (Marchant and Higgins, 1990, Gales, 1993).



10 Threats

White-capped Albatross are threatened by drowning in longline fishing gear and collision with cables and warps used on fishing trawlers (Gales, 1993, 1998, EABG, 1999). The species has also been affected on Auckland I. by pig predation of nests (Croxall and 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 Bycatch rates in the AFZ and the success of mitigation measures are monitored and the results quickly analysed.

13.3 Effective mitigation techniques have been developed and are being improved.

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 Develop techniques for identifying the species in the wild and determine foraging site.

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 process¹</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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