



## **Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels**

### **Sixth Meeting of Advisory Committee**

*Guayaquil, Ecuador, 29 August – 2 September 2011*

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### **Report on the Implementation of the Agreement 2008-2011 – United States of America**

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**Report for the Meeting of Parties - MOP-4 (2012)****Submitted by - USA****Coverage of report - USA****1. Overview of implementation of Agreement and Action Plan**

1.1 Has action been taken to implement the decisions of previous MoPs? Not answered

1.2 Is action for national implementation planned to occur in the next three years? Yes  
 Rat eradication Palmyra Atoll 2011 (<http://www.fws.gov/palmyraatoll/rainforestrestoration.html>)  
 Rat eradication Wake Atoll 2012

**2. Species conservation**

2.1 Has the Party provided any exemptions to prohibitions on the taking or harmful interference with albatrosses and petrels? Yes  
 Take of 45 Laysan albatross eggs was allowed (under permit) in 2010 near military airstrips on Kaua'i and O'ahu, to ensure the safety of aircraft operations.

2.2 Has any use or trade in albatrosses or petrels occurred? No

2.3 Has the Party implemented any new single or multi-species conservation strategies / Action Plans? Yes  
 Predator exclusion fence at Ka'ena Point, O'ahu seabird colony (2011). <http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/kaena/index.htm>  
 Invasive weed control of *Verbesina enceliodes* at Midway Atoll (ongoing).

2.4 Has the Party taken any emergency measures involving albatrosses or petrels? Yes  
 Emergency rescue of Laysan and black-footed albatrosses injured and trapped in debris as a result of the March 2011 tsunami. <http://www.fws.gov/midway/tsunami.html>

- 2.5 Has the Party conducted any re-establishment schemes? Yes  
Social attraction for short-tailed albatrosses at Midway Atoll was initiated in 2000. In 2010, an egg was laid and a chick hatched in February 2011. This is the first successful nesting of a short-tailed albatross in the USA. In 2010, a pair of short-tailed albatrosses also laid two eggs at Kure Atoll. However, this pair is a female x female pair and the eggs did not hatch.
- 2.6 Has the Party introduced any new legal or policy instruments for species protection of albatrosses and petrels? No  
See: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/frules/74fr13355.pdf> and <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/frules/72fr71601.pdf>  
Refinements and revisions to seabird avoidance gear requirements in longline fisheries (for groundfish and halibut) off Alaska.
- 2.7 Has the Party implemented any legal or policy instruments for environmental impact assessments? No
- 2.8 Does the Party have any species it would like to submit for addition to Annex 1? No
- 2.9 Are there any other conservation projects for ACAP species not already mentioned? Yes  
A Status Assessment of Laysan and black-footed albatrosses was completed in 2009. (<http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2009/5131/pdf/sir20095131.pdf>)  
Arata, J., P. Sievert, and M. Naughton. 2009. Status Assessment of Laysan and black-footed albatrosses, North Pacific Ocean, 1923-2005. U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigation Report 2009-5131.

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### 3. Habitat conservation

- 3.1 Has the Party introduced any legal or policy instruments or actions to implement protection and management of breeding sites, including habitat restoration? Yes  
See 2.3
- 3.2 Has the Party implemented any sustainable management measures for marine living resources which provide food for albatrosses and petrels? Yes  
See: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/fmp/bsai/BSAI.pdf>  
<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/fmp/goa/GOA.pdf> The BSAI Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and the GOA FMP include management objectives to protect the integrity of the food web through limits on harvest of forage species. These forage fish species are a critical food source for many marine mammal, seabird and fish species. The forage fish species category is established to allow for the management of these species in a manner that prevents the development of a commercial directed fishery for forage fish. Management measures for this species category will be specified in regulations and may include such measures as prohibitions on directed fishing, limitations on allowable bycatch retention amounts, or limitations on the sale, barter, trade or any other commercial exchange, as well as the processing of forage fish in a commercial processing facility. Actions taken by NMFS, Alaska Region for its Bering Sea/Aleutian Island (BSAI) and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) fisheries include: regulations at 50 CFR 679.20(i), which prohibit directed fishing for forage fish at all times in the BSAI and GOA; forage fish include capelin, eulachon and numerous other smelt species, gunnells, krill, lanternfish, Pacific sand fish, Pacific sand lance, see <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/rr/tables/tab12c.pdf>
- 3.3 Has the Party implemented any management or protection of important marine areas for albatrosses and petrels? Yes  
Pacific Remote Islands and Rose Atoll Marine National Monuments were established in 2009. Pacific Remote Islands MNM protects the marine ecosystems of Kingman Reef; Palmyra Atoll; Howland, Baker, and Jarvis Islands; Johnston Atoll; and Wake Island. These areas provide important habitat for seabirds nesting on these islands.  
<http://www.fws.gov/pacificremoteislandsmarinemonument/>  
<http://www.fws.gov/roseatollmarinemonument/>  
1) FR74-7 PacificRemotes MNM.pdf (size 10035731 bytes)    
2) FR74-7 RoseAtoll MNM.pdf (size 1337737 bytes)  

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#### 4. Management of human activities

4.1 Has the Party completed any new environmental impact assessments related to albatrosses and petrels?

No

4.2 Has the Party implemented any new measures to minimise discharge of pollutants and marine debris (MARPOL)?

Not answered

We have implemented or are in the process of implementing several measures related to MARPOL: 1) ban on use or carriage of HGO in the Antarctic Area, will come into effect this summer. 2) review of and amendments to Annex VI (air emissions) will institute limits on the sulfur content of marine fuel globally. 3) we instituted an Emission Control Area for the area 200nm off the coast of the US which will limit SO<sub>x</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and particulate matter. 4) while these negotiations are not done, we are participating in the final review of and amendments to Annex V limiting the types of garbage that can be disposed of at sea. Additional details are found in the attached MEPC document.

1) MEPC\_62-13.pdf (size 74243 bytes)  [→](#)

4.3 Has the Party introduced any new measures to minimise the disturbance to albatrosses and petrels in marine and terrestrial habitats?

No

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#### 5. Research programmes

5.1 Does the Party have any ongoing research programmes relating to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels not already reported on?

Yes

LAYSAN and BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSSES Demographic monitoring at Midway, Laysan, French Frigate Shoals colonies: reproductive success and survival rates (USFWS and USGS). Demographic monitoring at O'ahu colonies (Laysan albatross only): reproductive success, disease rates, population genetics and survival rates. The unique demographic characteristics of this recently established colony (skewed sex ratio and high rates of female-female pairing) provide insights into the colonization and behavioral patterns of a growing colony (Drs. L. Young &

E. VanderWerf, Pacific Rim Conservation). Tracking of adult and fledgling albatrosses to determine habitat utilization, inter-annual variation, and post-breeding dispersal: from French Frigate Shoals (Dr. S. Shaffer, San Jose State University), Midway (Dr. S. Shaffer, San Jose State University and M. Naughton, USFWS), Kure (Oikonos) and O'ahu (Dr. L. Young, Pacific Rim Conservation). Analysis of diet from stomach oil, opportunistic wet diet, and stable isotope analysis from blood and feathers in both albatross species (Dr. S. Shaffer, San Jose State University). Plastic ingestion by black-footed albatross: colony comparisons, inter-annual variation (Dr. D. Hyrenbach, Hawaii Pacific University). Analysis of albatrosses caught in fisheries: diet, plastics, stable isotope (H. Nevins, U.C. Davis California and Oikonos).

- 1) Young\_etal\_2009\_WilsonJ.pdf (size 565619 bytes)  [→](#)
- 2) Young&VanderWerf 2008JFieldOrnithol.pdf (size 930292 bytes)  [→](#)
- 3) Shaffer2011CompBiochemPhysiol158.pdf (size 426118 bytes)  [→](#)
- 4) Young2009PLoSOne4.pdf (size 640297 bytes)  [→](#)
- 5) Young2007JZoo.pdf (size 211257 bytes)  [→](#)
- 6) Kappes2010ProgOcean86.pdf (size 1705676 bytes)  [→](#)
- 7) Suryan\_et\_al\_2008\_PLoS\_ONE.pdf (size 487816 bytes)  [→](#)
- 8) Young\_etal\_2008\_Biol\_Lett.pdf (size 151588 bytes)  [→](#)

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5.2 Does the Party have any additional national institutions (authorities or research centres), or NGOs involved in albatross and petrel conservation?

Not answered  
Audubon Society, American Bird Conservancy, BirdLife International, Washington Sea Grant, Freezer Longline Coalition, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Fishery Management Councils

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## 6. Education and public awareness

6.1 Has the Party conducted training or provided information for user audiences (eg scientists, fishers, etc)?

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6.2 Has the Party conducted training or provided information to the general public?

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### 7. Other

Does the Party have any new information to report on research into observed impacts, or mitigation of, climate change on albatrosses and petrels?

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### 8. Additional Comments

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### Final submission details

Report is closed for editing.

Status - Submitted to ACAP - 8-Apr-2011

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