



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Third Meeting of Advisory Committee

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Capacity Building Initiatives of
the Southern Seabird Solutions Trust

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Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide information to participants of the 3rd Advisory Committee of ACAP on the past and planned capacity building initiatives of the Southern Seabird Solutions Trust.

Background

The Southern Seabird Solutions Trust was formed in New Zealand in 2002 in response to the threat fishing poses to seabirds. The purpose of the Trust is to work with fishermen throughout the southern hemisphere to promote fishing practices that are safer for seabirds. Members include fishermen, representatives of the fishing industry, government agencies, conservation organisations, and marine eco-tourism operators. The Trust is supported financially by the New Zealand government through the Department of Conservation and the fishing industry through the New Zealand Seafood Industry Council and the Deepwater Group Ltd. The Trust is also supported by WWF-NZ. Funding for the Trust's projects comes from a variety of sources both within and outside New Zealand, and includes financial contributions from supporters, grants, sponsorship and services in kind.

Many of Southern Seabird Solutions' initiatives involve fishermen. This is because fishermen tend to be more receptive to hearing messages from their peers, and secondly this helps establish respected role models within the fishing industry who can champion seabird safe fishing practices to others.

Past Capacity Building Initiatives

The following is a brief description of past capacity building initiatives:

Skipper Exchanges

Three exchanges have occurred to date. In 2004 a Chilean fisherman (Luis Uribe) visited New Zealand and spent a month on board a demersal longliner observing the mitigation measures used. On return to Chile, he took part in workshops held in various parts of Chile to discuss and develop the Chilean National Plan of Action. During the workshops, he described the mitigation measures he had observed during his New Zealand trip. This exchange was funded by the fishing company Sanford Ltd.

In a second exchange carried out in 2004, Malcolm McNeill, Vessel Manager for Sealord visited Reunion Island and met with government officials and vessel captains of toothfish vessels, to promote the new integrated weighted longlines. These longlines had been proven to be very successful in reducing the capture of white chinned petrels, the main species caught by the French fleet. This exchange was funded by Fiskevegn and Sealord.

In a third exchange, New Zealand skipper Dave Kellian visited Peru in 2005. He took part in several government led workshops and travelled with IMARPE (Instituto del Mar del Peru) and Pro Delphinus staff to a number of ports where he met and talked with

fishermen about seabirds and mitigation measures suited to their fishery. He also went to sea on a fishing vessel for 5 days and as a result of observing the fishing methods used, was able to suggest measures that would be suited to the fishery. This trip was funded by IMARPE, the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the New Zealand Department of Conservation.

Funding for South African Advisory Officer

In 2003 the Trust coordinated a fund raising effort for South Africa's first advisory officer (Samantha Peterson). This position was funded by IAATO, WWF-NZ, WWF- South Africa, the NZ Department of Conservation and Southern Seabird Solutions. Samantha worked with the domestic pelagic longline fleet, raising awareness of the seabird issue and promoting measures that could be used to reduce interactions. Since this time, Birdlife International and WWF-South Africa have significantly expanded the advisory programmes in South Africa.

South American Fishers Forum

Southern Seabird Solutions and Projecto Albatroz jointly organised a forum in Brazil in December 2006 for fishermen, fishing industry representatives, government officials, environmental groups and marine educators. The purpose was to create a network of people (particularly fishermen) in South America who are aware of the best current mitigation measures for each fishing method and who could act as ambassadors amongst their home fleets. The primary sponsor was Care for the Wild – UK and Projecto Albatroz generously hosted the forum. Funding contributions and support in kind were also received from the US Embassy, Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis (IBAMA), and the NZ Ministry of Fisheries.

Spanish Video – Fishing the Seabird Smart Way

In 2003 Southern Seabird Solutions produced a 'seabird-smart' fishing video, hosted and narrated by a fisherman, featuring skippers and vessel managers from different fleets talking about seabirds. The video proved popular in New Zealand. A Spanish translation has since been produced featuring a special introduction from the Luis Uribe, the Chilean fisherman involved in the skipper exchange programme.

South American and South African participation in Southern Seabird Solutions workshops

Each year the Trust holds an annual workshop in New Zealand with a range of speakers and discussion sessions on specific topics. In 2004, Mr Hugo Arevalo, Presidente DEL Consejo Directivo, IMARPE (Instituto del Mar del Peru) attended the annual workshop and presented information on Peruvian longline fisheries. New Zealand fishermen at the workshop noted that the Peruvian and New Zealand inshore fleets had many similarities, and from this realisation, the idea of a skipper exchange with Peru was borne. IMARPE and Southern Seabird Solutions have since signed an agreement to cooperate in efforts to conserve seabirds. Mr Godofredo Cañote, Director Ejecutivo, IMARPE attended a

subsequent workshop and briefed participants on progress that has been made in Peru to address seabird bycatch.

In 2006 Dr Marco Favero, University del Mar del Plata, Argentina, Mr Barry Watkins, Birdlife South Africa and Mr Barrie Rose, Manager of the fishing company Irwin and Johnson in South Africa attended the Southern Seabird Solutions trawl workshop to share their knowledge of seabirds and trawling in Argentina and South Africa with New Zealand trawl industry representatives and government officials. A continuing interchange of ideas and information between the three countries will continue as advances in seabird bycatch mitigation are made.

Planned Capacity Building Initiatives

Information on South American Seabirds and their Threats

One of the information gaps identified by participants of the South American Fishers Forum was information on seabirds for South American children. Participants felt that children are an important group to educate about seabird conservation.

A series of ten factsheets and lesson plans on seabirds have been produced for school aged children and their teachers in New Zealand. This project was funded by the Department of Conservation and the factsheets and lesson plans are available on the Southern Seabird Solutions webpage www.southernseabirds.org. Examples of the factsheets will be available at the AC3 meeting.

Southern Seabird Solutions is investigating the option of using the same format and some of the same material in the factsheets to prepare a series of similar factsheets in Spanish (and if funding allows Portuguese) focussed on seabirds that live in South America. Southern Seabird Solutions is currently seeking feedback from contacts in South American countries to assess whether this would be a useful resource. The views of participants at AC3 on this would be very helpful. If we receive positive feedback, we will seek funding to write, illustrate and (if needed) produce hard copies of the factsheets and lesson plans. If this project proceeds, we anticipate it will be coordinated from South America and involve South American seabird experts and an education writer to prepare the material.

South American Seabird Safe Award

Recognising and acknowledging the efforts of fishermen is a way to promote new attitudes and behaviours towards seabird bycatch and mitigation. This project involves establishing a South American wide Seabird Smart Award that is modelled on a similar award established in New Zealand. It recognises the commitment (through action) of either a fisherman or fishing company to reducing seabird bycatch. Southern Seabird Solutions will seek funding to establish the award and fund the process for selecting and awarding a winner in the first year. Funding will be sought for a person to coordinate the process in South America.

If a second South American Fishers Forum is held in the near future (as was suggested at the first Forum), this would offer an ideal opportunity for the award ceremony.

Contact for further information

If during the AC3 you wish to discuss these or other Southern Seabird Solution projects, New Zealand delegate Spencer Clubb, would be pleased to talk with you. Alternatively contact the Convenor Janice.molloy@paradise.net.nz. To learn more about Southern Seabird Solutions visit www.southernseabirds.org.