



Agreement on the Conservation
of Albatrosses and Petrels

Fourteenth Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Lima, Peru, 12 – 16 August 2024

2024 Implementation Report - Australia

Australia



Agreement on the Conservation
of Albatrosses and Petrels

Report - MOP-8 (2025)

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Implementation Report for the Meeting of Parties - MOP-8 (2025)

Submitted by - Australia

Coverage of report - Australia

1. Overview of implementation of Agreement and Action Plan

1.1 Has action been taken to implement the decisions of previous MoPs?

Response: Yes

Australia and the United Kingdom developed Resolution 7.1 on amending the MoP Rules of Procedure on timeframes for intersessional voting.

1.1.1 to ensure that appropriate mechanisms are established/maintained to identify and robustly assess seabird bycatch in relevant fisheries and to monitor the implementation of effective bycatch mitigation strategies

Response: Yes

Australia has developed the Threat Abatement Plan for the incidental catch (or bycatch) of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing operations (2018), the National Recovery Plan for albatrosses and petrels (2022), and National Plan of Action for minimising incidental catch of seabirds in Australian capture fisheries (2018).

1) [threat-abatement-plan-for-the-incidental-catch-or-bycatch-of-seabirds-during-longline-oceanic-fishing-operations-2018.pdf](#) (size 475941 bytes) 

2) [national-recovery-plan-albatrosses-and-petrels-2022.pdf](#) (size 5746841 bytes) 

1.1.2 to actively support and participate in the ACAP process to better understand and address barriers and drivers in the effective use of best practice seabird bycatch mitigation strategies

Response: Yes

Australia actively participates in the related Communications Strategy intersessional group, and RFMO Engagement Strategy intersessional group.

1.1.3 to review, based on the information provided by the Seabird Bycatch Working Group, the efficacy of seabird bycatch mitigation measures used in the fisheries that they manage and explore the performance of new mitigation technologies and related safety and other operational issues

Response: Yes

Relevant industry-led research is underway: FRDC 2020-41 — Improving the effectiveness, efficiency and safety of mitigation tools for protected species interactions in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery, and FRDC 2021-78 — Improving the management of wildlife interactions in pelagic longline fisheries, which aims remain commercial in confidence, with the outcomes of this research to be provided to the Seabird Bycatch Working Group.

1.1.4 to use the bycatch reporting template as part of annual reporting (Advisory Committee Annual Report, Section C), to enable the assessment and reporting of performance indicators on seabird bycatch

Response: Yes

1.1.5 to support the collection and provision of seabird bycatch data by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and Regional Conservation Bodies (RCBs) that they are

members of

Response: Yes

Australia routinely submits annual reports to relevant RFMOs and RCBs

1.1.6 to support their priority population monitoring programmes, including the maintenance of long-term monitoring (see AC12 Doc 11)

Response: Yes

Australia has established preferred timeframes for the routine monitoring of albatross and petrel breeding populations in Australia's jurisdiction, while recognising that access to several breeding sites is subject to significant logistical constraints.

1.1.7 to implement best practice monitoring practices that include censuses of breeding sites conducted at a minimum of 10 year intervals, and annual monitoring of population trend and demography at a minimum of one representative site for each island group

Response: Yes

At sites where access is readily available, regular monitoring using best practice is undertaken.

1.1.8 to conduct priority tracking programmes to enable a better understanding of at-sea distribution of albatrosses and petrels (see AC12 Doc 11)

Response: No

Australia notes that access to several breeding sites, prioritised for tracking programmes, is subject to significant logistical constraints.

1.1.9 to update the ACAP database on an ongoing basis to maintain the currency of information underpinning analyses

Response: Yes

Australia routinely submits data to the ACAP database as it becomes available.

1.1.10 to support the allocation of funds for the operation of the Advisory Committee to enable its effective operation, taking into account the growth in the complexity and number of matters it now addresses

Response: Yes

1.1.11 to provide the necessary resources for the conduct of the research and conservation programmes identified by the Advisory Committee's Working Groups

Response: Yes

1.1.12 to engage in domestic consultation processes to facilitate the effective implementation of the Agreement

Response: Yes

Australia routinely consults with stakeholders through the TAP Stakeholder Group and Albatross and Petrel Recovery Team, as well as with relevant federal and state agencies.

1.1.13 to report on Capacity Building indicators. (See Advisory Committee Annual Report Section D: Other Annual Reporting Requirements, Question 3).

Response: Yes

1.1.14 AC Work Programme tasks where relevant: e.g. 4.1 Provide assistance and capacity building to facilitate drafting and implementation of NPOA-Seabirds, 4.2 Continue to develop and implement the strategy for adding further Parties, and engaging with States not Party to ACAP.

Response: Yes

Australia, as the Depositary Government provides advice to the ACAP Secretariat and interested States not Party to ACAP about the process and procedures for accession to the Agreement.

1.1.15 to contribute to the budget in accordance with the scale of contributions agreed by the Meeting of Parties (Resolution 4.5 Financial Regulations: 5.1)

Response: Yes

Australia seeks to provide its annual contribution to ACAP in a timely manner.

1.2 Is action for national implementation planned to occur in the next three years?

Response: Yes

A variation of the TAP-seabirds (2018) is underway (following completing of a five-year review of the plan), the four-year review of the NPOA-Seabirds (2018) is pending, and a review of the National Recovery Plan for albatrosses and petrels (2022) will occur in 2027.

1.2.1 on species conservation?

Response: Yes

Australia is reviewing its federal environmental laws, and these laws, when implemented, may enliven a review of the arrangements for species conservation.

1.2.2 on habitat conservation?

Response: Yes

Australia is reviewing its federal environmental laws, and these laws, when implemented, may enliven a review of the arrangements for habitat conservation including the designation of habitat critical to the survival of albatrosses and petrels. Australia's Macquarie Island Marine Park was expanded in 2023 to cover a total area of 475,465 square kilometres, close to a 300% increase from the previous marine park area.

1) Macquarie Island Marine Park proclamation instrument (2023).pdf (size 5514665 bytes)  [_____](#)

1.2.3 on management of human activities?

Response: Yes

1.2.4 on research programmes?

Response: Yes

1.2.5 on education and public awareness?

Response: Yes

Australia contributes on activities aimed at education and public awareness including celebration of World Albatross Day each year.

1.2.6 on impacts or mitigation of climate change?

Response: Yes

Australian researchers continue to assess the impacts of climate change on albatross and petrel populations.

1) Mason et al 2024 Shy albatross chick mortality & heat stress in a temperate climate.pdf (size 614554 bytes)  [_____](#)

2) Mason et al 2023 Individual consistency in the localised foraging behaviour of shy albatross.pdf (size 1633540 bytes)  [_____](#)

2. Species conservation

2.1 Has the Party provided any exemptions to prohibitions on the taking or harmful interference with albatrosses and petrels? (do not include exemptions provided for scientific research purposes here)

Response: No

2.2 Has any authorised use or trade in albatrosses or petrels occurred? (e.g. to accommodate the traditional needs and practices of Indigenous people, for scientific, educational or similar purposes)

Response: No

2.3 Has the Party implemented any new single or multi-species conservation strategies / Action Plans?

Response: Yes

The National Recovery Plan for albatrosses and petrels (2022) covers 20 listed threatened albatross and petrel species and a further six related albatross and petrel species that occur in Australia's jurisdiction. This updates the National Recovery Plan for threatened albatrosses and giant petrels 2011-2016. (NB. Australia's species listings for albatrosses do not match the ACAP species listings in all respects.)

Albatrosses	Year	Year	Petrels	Year	Year
	Published	Revised		Published	Revised
<i>Diomedea amsterdamensis</i>	2011	2022			
<i>Diomedea antipodensis</i>	2011	2022			
<i>Diomedea dabbenena</i>	2011	2022			
<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	2011	2022			
<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	2011	2022			
<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>	2011	2022			
<i>Phoebetria fusca</i>	2011	2022	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	2011	2022
<i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>	2011	2022	<i>Macronectes halli</i>	2011	2022
<i>Thalassarche bulleri</i>	2011	2022	<i>Procellaria</i>		
<i>Thalassarche carteri</i>	2011	2022	<i>aequinoctialis</i>	2011	2022
<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>	2011	2022	<i>Procellaria cinerea</i>		2022
<i>Thalassarche chlororhynchos</i>	2011	2022	<i>Procellaria parkinsoni</i>	2011	2022
			<i>Procellaria westlandica</i>	2011	2022

<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>	2011	2022
<i>Thalassarche eremita</i>	2011	2022
<i>Thalassarche impavida</i>	2011	2022
<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	2011	2022
<i>Thalassarche salvini</i>	2011	2022
<i>Thalassarche steadi</i>	2011	2022

1) national-recovery-plan-albatrosses-and-petrels-2022.pdf (size 5746841 bytes)  [_____](#)

2.4 Has the Party taken any emergency measures, as defined in [Resolution 1.4](#), involving albatrosses or petrels?

Response: No

Australia has developed contingency plans concerning the potential spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) to its three Antarctic stations and its sub-Antarctic station at Macquarie Island.

2.5 Has the Party conducted any re-establishment schemes?

Response: No

2.6 Has the Party introduced any **new** legal or policy instruments for species protection of albatrosses and petrels?

Response: Yes

Australia commissioned a consultancy to review the potential impacts on birds from offshore wind farms in Australia, and a strategy including research priorities concerning the potential impacts of offshore renewable energy.

1) impact-on-birds-from-offshore-wind-farms-australia.pdf (size 1164881 bytes)  [_____](#)

2) NOPSEMA Research Strategy 2023-2025_0.pdf (size 2443202 bytes)  [_____](#)

2.7 Has the Party implemented any legal or policy instruments for environmental impact assessments? (Completion of any new environmental impact assessments is addressed in Question 4.1)

Response: Yes

Australia has developed guidance for offshore renewable energy environmental approvals.

1) NOPSEMA Offshore renewables environmental approvals guidance (2022).pdf (size 3334699 bytes)  [_____](#)

2.8.1 Has the Party taken action to submit any albatross and/or petrel species for addition to Annex 1 (please indicate which species)?

Response: No

2.8.2 Does the Party intend to submit any albatross and/or petrel species for addition to Annex 1 during the next triennium 2026 - 2028 (please indicate which species)?

Response: No

2.9 Are there any other conservation projects for ACAP species not already mentioned in Questions 2.3 to 2.6?

Response: No

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?

Response: No

3.2 Has the Party implemented any sustainable management measures for marine living resources which provide food for albatrosses and petrels? (e.g. temporal or spatial area closures, adjustment to a fishing quota for a species known to be eaten by an albatross or petrel, size limits, issue of licences, observer programmes/reporting, research/surveys).

Response: No

3.3 Has the Party implemented any management or protection of important marine areas for albatrosses and petrels?

Response: Yes

The Macquarie Island Marine Park has been expanded significantly to cover a total area of 475,465 square kilometres, close to a 300% increase from the previous marine park area.

1) Macquarie Island Marine Park proclamation instrument (2023).pdf (size 5514665 bytes)  [_____](#)

4. Management of human activities

4. Management of human activities

4.1 Has the Party completed any **new** environmental impact assessments related to albatrosses and petrels? (legal and policy instruments are addressed in Question 2.7)

Response: No

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

Response: Yes

The injury and fatality to vertebrate marine life caused by ingestion of, or entanglement in, harmful marine debris is a listed key threatening process under federal environmental laws with a threat abatement plan in effect.

1) tap-marine-debris-2018.pdf (size 4078039 bytes)  [_____](#)

4.3 Has the Party introduced any other **new** measures to minimise the disturbance to albatrosses and petrels in marine and terrestrial habitats not already reported in Questions 3.1 to 4.2?

Response: No

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 in Sections 2, 3 and 4?

Response: No

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

Response: No

6. Education and public awareness

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

Response: Yes

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority routinely conducts port visits to inform fishing operators about applicable seabird bycatch mitigation measures. The level of disruption of these activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic has abated.

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

Response: Yes

Social media posts and platforms are used to raise awareness for World Albatross Day celebrations on 19 June and on Threatened Species Day on 7 September. Outreach statistics demonstrate good communication across platforms.

7. Reporting against priorities for land-based conservation actions (see [MoP7 Doc 10 Rev 1](#))

Australia has developed a new National Recovery Plan for Albatrosses and Petrels in 2022, which includes a range of land-based conservation actions designed to protect breeding sites and habitats.

1) national-recovery-plan-albatrosses-and-petrels-2022.pdf (size 5746841 bytes)  [_____](#)

7.2 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to house mice on Gough Island?

Response: Not Applicable

7.18 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to house mice on Marion Island?

Response: Not Applicable

7.4 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Formentera?

Response: Not Applicable

7.5 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Menorca?

Response: Not Applicable

7.7 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Cabrera?

Response: Not Applicable

7.8 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Cabrera?

Response: Not Applicable

7.9 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Formentera?

Response: Not Applicable

7.10 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Ibiza?

Response: Not Applicable

7.11 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Mallorca?

Response: Not Applicable

7.12 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Menorca?

Response: Not Applicable

7.1 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Kerguelen (Grande Terre)?

Response: Not Applicable

7.3 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to reindeer on Kerguelen (Grande Terre)?

Response: Not Applicable

7.6 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Kerguelen (Grande Terre)?

Response: Not Applicable

7.13 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Ile Saint Lanne Gramont?

Response: Not Applicable

7.14 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to black rats on Ile Saint Lanne Gramont?

Response: Not Applicable

7.16 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to cats on Auckland Island?

Response: Not Applicable

7.17 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to pigs on Auckland Island?

Response: Not Applicable

7.19 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to Avian cholera on Ile Amsterdam?

Response: Not Applicable

7.20 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to mosquitos on Isla Espanola?

Response: Not Applicable

7.21 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to Avian pox virus on Albatross Island (AU)?

Response: Yes

Ongoing monitoring occurs of the external signs of Avian pox virus in pre-fledging Shy Albatross chicks, as well as the collection of blood and cloacal samples. Analyses in 2016 confirmed that 42% of chicks were showing clinical signs of disease. A trial was undertaken involving spraying chicks with a commercially available insecticide, with chick survival significantly higher in the treated cohort. The trial is part of a series of actions designed to assist the species in coping with changing climatic conditions.

1) Alderman & Hobday (2017) Developing a climate adaption strategy for vulnerable seabirds.pdf (size 520667 bytes)  [_____](#)

7.22 Has the Party taken any actions in relation to Australasian gannets *Morus serrator* on Pedra Branca?

Response: Yes

Biannual aerial surveys determine relative numbers and distribution of Shy Albatross and Australasian Gannet at this breeding site. In field camera monitoring suggests damage to Shy Albatross nesting sites is occurring, whereby Australian Gannets are stealing nesting material. A trial involving deployment of artificial nests was unsuccessful, as storm surges appeared to have dislodged the artificial nests.

8. Reporting against priorities for at-sea conservation actions (see [MoP7 Doc 10 Rev 1](#))

Australia has in place two threat abatement plans and a national plan of action concerning at-sea conservation actions relevant to albatross and petrel conservation. These plans outline a range of actions that implement the at-sea conservation elements of the associated National Recovery Plan for albatrosses and petrels (2022).

- 1) threat-abatement-plan-for-the-incidental-catch-or-bycatch-of-seabirds-during-longline-oceanic-fishing-operations-2018.pdf (size 475941 bytes)  [_____](#)
 - 2) npoa-seabirds.pdf (size 662165 bytes)  [_____](#)
 - 3) national-recovery-plan-albatrosses-and-petrels-2022.pdf (size 5746841 bytes)  [_____](#)
 - 4) tap-marine-debris-2018.pdf (size 4078039 bytes)  [_____](#)
-

8.1 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Angola Pelagic longline fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.2 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Argentina Demersal trawl fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.4 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Australia demersal trawl fishery?

Response: Yes

Fishing vessels are subject to independent monitoring by onboard observers and/or electronic monitoring systems. Seabird bycatch mitigation measures include requirements concerning use of bird scaring lines or bafflers for warp wires, and offal discharge management. Vessels are prohibited from discharging biological material during daylight unless they can demonstrate mitigation approaches that remove the risk to seabirds interacting with warp wires, e.g. discard chutes, and mechanical devices that draw the warp wires underwater.

8.28 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Australia Gillnet fishery?

Response: Yes

Fishing operators must remove all biological material from a gillnet before setting the net. In addition, processing waste, including offal, must not be discharged from the boat while a gillnet is being set.

8.5 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Australia Pelagic trawl fishery?

Response: Yes

Fishing vessels are subject to independent monitoring by onboard observers and/or electronic monitoring systems. Seabird bycatch mitigation measures include requirements concerning use of bird scaring lines or bafflers for warp wires and net sonde cables, and offal discharge management.

8.7 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Brazil demersal longline fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.8 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Brazil Pelagic longline fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.9 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Brazil Pelagic longline fishery (Itaipava fleet)?

Response: Not Applicable

8.15 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Namibia demersal trawl fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.16 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Namibia Pelagic longline fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.17 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Namibia pelagic trawl fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.18 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Peru demersal longline fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.19 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Peru Pelagic longline fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.21 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Spain demersal longline

fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.22 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Spain Pelagic longline fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.23 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Spain purse seine fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.24 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the Spain trawl fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.29 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch the Uruguay demersal trawl fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

8.10 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the CCSBT Pelagic longline fishery?

Response: Yes

Australian flagged fishing vessels adhere to complementary seabird bycatch mitigation measures that exceed those within the applicable conservation and management measures developed under the auspices of this international instrument.

8.11 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the IATTC Pelagic longline fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

Australia is not a States Party to this international instrument.

8.12 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the ICCAT Pelagic longline fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

Australia is not a States Party to this international instrument.

8.13 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the IOTC Pelagic longline fishery?

Response: Yes

Australian flagged fishing vessels adhere to complementary seabird bycatch mitigation measures that exceed those within the applicable conservation and management measures developed under the auspices of this international instrument.

8.20 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the SEAFO demersal trawl fishery?

Response: Not Applicable

Australia is not a States Party to this international instrument.

8.25 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the SPRFMO demersal trawl fishery?

Response: Yes

Australian flagged fishing vessels adhere to complementary seabird bycatch mitigation measures that exceed those within the applicable conservation and management measures developed under the auspices of this international instrument.

8.27 Has the Party taken any actions relevant to seabird bycatch in the WCPFC Pelagic longline fishery?

Response: Yes

Australian flagged fishing vessels adhere to complementary seabird bycatch mitigation measures that exceed those within the applicable conservation and management measures developed under the auspices of this international instrument.

9. Other

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

Response: Yes

Australian researchers have published articles on the effects of heatwaves on a Shy Albatross chick mortalities, as well as on the individual consistency in localised foraging of Shy Albatross, as a baseline for assessing further climate change impacts.

- 1) Mason et al 2024 Shy Albatross chick mortality and heat stress in a temperate climate.pdf (size 602059 bytes)  [_____](#)
- 2) Mason et al 2023 Individual consistency in the localised foraging behaviour of shy albatross.pdf (size 1633540 bytes)  [_____](#)

10. Additional Comments (including feedback about this form or the reporting process)

No.

Final submission details

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Report by Jonathon Barrington