
AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS

Resolution 8.5

Resolution to address the conservation crisis faced by albatrosses and petrels due to the threat of fisheries bycatch

Adopted by the Eighth Session of the Meeting of the Parties, Dunedin, New Zealand,
19 – 23 May 2025

Recalling that the Advisory Committee to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (the Agreement, or ACAP) highlighted at its eleventh meeting in 2019 that albatrosses and petrels face an ongoing conservation crisis;

Recognising that the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels continues to be threatened by incidental mortality associated with commercial fishing activities, including those of non-Party and distant water fishing fleets, both within and beyond areas of national jurisdiction;

Further recognising the importance of ensuring that the threats posed to albatrosses and petrels are effectively mitigated throughout their range;

Recalling Article II (1) of the Agreement that the objective of this Agreement is to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels;

Further recalling Annex 2 (3.2.1) of the Agreement that Parties shall take appropriate operational, management, and other measures to reduce or eliminate the mortality of albatrosses and petrels resulting incidentally from fishing activities. Where possible, the measures applied should follow best current practice;

Further recalling Article XI (1) of the Agreement that Parties shall promote the objectives of this Agreement and develop and maintain coordinated and complementary working relationships with all relevant international, regional, and sub-regional bodies, including those concerned with the conservation and management of seabirds and their habitats and other marine living resources;

Welcoming the adoption of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), which may constitute an opportunity under the BBNJ Agreement to support the objectives of the Agreement;

Aware that achieving adequate protection could be enhanced through cooperation with other Range States whose vessels fish within the range of albatrosses and petrels listed in Annex 1 to the Agreement, particularly those areas with a high incidence of bycatch of albatross and petrels;

Conscious of the benefit to the Agreement of wider cooperation of Range States in the management of fisheries to minimise the bycatch of albatrosses and petrels;

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

1. *Declares* that, based on new evidence on the continued decline in population status, a conservation crisis continues to face the species listed on Annex 1 of the Agreement with hundreds of thousands of albatrosses and petrels dying every year as a result of fisheries operations;
2. *Strongly urges* Parties, according to their national circumstances, to make renewed efforts to review and where necessary improve their operational, management, and other measures to reduce or eliminate the incidental mortality of albatrosses and petrels from fishing activities, in particular through the adoption and implementation of ACAP's Best Practice Advice, and through the collection and monitoring of bycatch and mitigation use data;
3. *Encourages* Parties who are Contracting Parties or Cooperating non-Contracting Parties to regional fisheries management and conservation organisations whose fisheries pose bycatch risks to albatrosses and petrels to promote the adoption and implementation of ACAP's Best Practice Advice to minimise seabird bycatch. These actions should align with ACAP's engagement strategy with regional fisheries management and conservation organisations and include coordinated engagement with relevant Range States;
4. *Further encourages* Parties, as appropriate, to seek avenues to engage with Range States and member economies of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum whose vessels fish within the range of albatrosses and petrels to promote the objectives of the Agreement, according to their respective circumstances, for example in areas not covered by regional fisheries management and conservation organisations, in particular through promoting the adoption and implementation of ACAP's Best Practice Advice to reduce or eliminate the incidental mortality of albatrosses and petrels resulting from fishing activities;
5. *Further encourages* Parties to focus their communication and promotion actions related to the conservation crisis faced by albatrosses and petrels to align with, and support, ACAP's Communication Strategy;
6. *Requests* Parties provide to the Secretariat, in a timely manner, all available information, according to their national circumstances, on their actions taken to reduce or eliminate the incidental mortality of albatrosses and petrels resulting from fishing activities, in particular through the application of ACAP's Best Practice Advice; and
7. *Encourages* Parties to cooperate in the provision of technical assistance that supports Parties with limited capacity to progressively enhance their ability to reduce or eliminate bycatch of albatrosses and petrels.