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## **First Meeting of the Parties**

*Hobart, Australia, 10-12 November 2004*

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*Agenda Item No.10*

*ACAP/MOP1/Inf.2*

**A paper by the Southern Seabird Solutions Trust**

**Southern Seabird Solutions Trust**



## SOUTHERN SEABIRD SOLUTIONS TRUST

### Introduction

The Southern Seabird Solutions Trust is a non-statutory alliance of government, fishing industry and environmental groups. The Trust was formed to work co-operatively within New Zealand and with other countries to promote the adoption of fishing practices that avoid seabird capture throughout the Southern Hemisphere. It was established in July 2002 in New Zealand and has since become a registered charitable trust. The objectives of the Trust are listed in Appendix 1. Current members include longline and trawl skippers, fishing company managers, fishery skills trainers, ecotourism operators, international and national policy experts, environmental campaigners and communication experts.

The premise of Southern Seabird Solutions is that fishers themselves hold the key to resolving the issue of seabird mortality during fishing. To that end, the Trust undertakes projects that facilitate the transfer of knowledge, technology and skills between fishers. Southern Seabird Solutions uses good role models among fishers to pass on knowledge and ideas.

This approach has resulted in a new level of trust and cooperation between the many groups with an interest in the issue in New Zealand, and may have application in other countries.

Resources to administer Southern Seabird Solutions and implement the Trust's projects come from a variety of sources both within and outside New Zealand, and include financial contributions from supporters, grants, sponsorship and services in kind.

### Projects

Since its formation, the following projects have been initiated or completed by Southern Seabird Solutions:

- **Sister Ship Programme – exchanges of crew and technology between New Zealand and southern hemisphere countries.** A Chilean fisher visited New Zealand and undertook a fishing trip on a New Zealand vessel in 2003 to view mitigation measures in use. A New Zealand fisher visited Reunion Island in 2004 to exchange information on mitigation measures with the toothfish fleet based there.
- **South African Seabird/Fisheries Advisory Officer** – employment of an advisory officer in South Africa to work alongside skippers and crew to promote the use of fishing practices that avoid seabird captures

- **South American Fishers' Forum** – this initiative is based on the International Fishers Forum model and will provide an opportunity for fishers from different fleets in South America to meet over several days and exchange ideas and information about mitigation measures to reduce seabird captures. The Forum will be held in either late 2005 or 2006.
- **Production of a video called “Fishing the Seabird Smart Way”** - this video is a series of interviews with New Zealand fishers who describe the fishing practices they use to reduce seabird captures. The video will be available in Spanish by December 2004.
- **Production of laminated sheets of information on seabirds and mitigation measures, for fleets in Peru and Chile** - these sheets are designed to be hung in the wheelhouse of fishing boats and provide information on seabirds and mitigation measures that can be used by longline vessels.
- **Report on Foraging Areas of New Zealand Breeding Seabirds** - this report summarises information on the foraging areas of New Zealand breeding seabirds that are caught in fishing operations. This report is a step towards identifying ocean areas that may be high risk for seabirds.
- **Ongoing support for the development of new measures** such as the underwater bait-setting capsule for pelagic longliners, and weighted lines for demersal longliners.
- **Public display** at the New Zealand Albatross Centre near Dunedin, New Zealand.
- **Portside workshops** for New Zealand fishers

Copies of Southern Seabird Solutions Newsletters and media releases can be found at [www.southernseabirds.com](http://www.southernseabirds.com)

### **Relationship of Southern Seabird Solutions to ACAP**

The scope of ACAP is broader than that of Southern Seabird Solutions in that it addresses all land and sea based threats to albatrosses and petrels. However, fishing is recognised as one of the key issues that will be addressed and forms an important part of the Agreement. Implementation of many of the actions addressed by ACAP will require the engagement of fishing industries.

The Agreement states that the ACAP secretariat can cooperate with other organisations with competence in the field of albatross and petrel conservation, research, and awareness raising and allows for agreements and other arrangements to be entered into. The goal and activities of Southern Seabird Solutions is closely aligned to those outlined in the Agreement and it is envisaged that Southern Seabird Solutions and ACAP could collaborate in areas of mutual interest.

## **Appendix 1: Objectives of the Southern Seabird Solutions Trust**

- (a) establish multi-stakeholder groups with similar objectives to the Trust in other countries;
- (b) implement international and national projects that build commitment for use of fishing practices that minimise seabird mortalities during fishing;
- (c) encourage all fishing nations to join and implement the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels;
- (d) encourage all fishing nations and albatross and petrel range states to implement effective National Plans of Action in accordance with the UN FAO International Plan of Action - Seabirds;
- (e) provide favourable publicity for fishers and fleets that actively pursue high standards for the mitigation of seabird mortality;
- (f) encourage New Zealand fishers to become world leaders in development and use of effective mitigation measures;
- (g) carry out any research that contributes to the conservation of seabirds;
- (h) fund raise and seek resources to be made available to the Trust and its projects.