



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

**Third Meeting of the Parties**

**Bergen, Norway, 27 April – 1 May 2009**

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**Title: Southern Seabird Solutions Trust  
2009 International Work Programme**

**Author: Southern Seabird Solutions**

## **Southern Seabird Solutions Trust 2009 International Work Programme**

Southern Seabird Solutions Trust is a non-statutory alliance of representatives from the New Zealand fishing industry, government, environmental groups and Maori interests who work to promote the conservation of seabirds, both within and outside New Zealand. The main focus of the Trust is to promote fishing practices in the southern hemisphere that avoid the incidental capture of seabirds.

In this paper we provide the Third Meeting of Parties with information on three of the Trust's 2009 international projects that complement the objectives of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels.

Because Southern Seabird Solutions Trust's projects rely on sponsorship, the delivery of projects is conditional on funding being found for each.

### **Theme: Education and awareness**

#### ***Juntos por las aves marinas en Sudamerica***

The Trust is working with Pro Delphinus of Peru to develop a Spanish-language educational resource about seabirds and bycatch for fishing communities and fishing schools that will be appropriate to use in many South American countries. As part of the project, country-specific fact sheets for Peru, Ecuador, Chile and Argentina are also being developed by seabird experts in those countries.

The project is being sponsored by the Marine Conservation Action Fund of the New England Aquarium, WWF-New Zealand, Encounter Kaikoura, American Bird Conservancy and NOAA. This project began in December 2008 and will be completed in 2009. Complete funding has been secured for this project.

### **Theme: Mitigation gear development and information dissemination**

#### ***Development Pathway for new Mitigation Ideas***

This project supports fishermen and inventors in developing new ways to avoid catching seabirds during commercial fishing. It achieves this by providing fishermen and inventors with a confidential assessment of new concepts by a collection of experts from around the world; by linking fishermen and inventors up with researchers, engineers, business investors, patent advisors and others who are needed to fully develop a concept; by assisting with the preparation of funding applications to carry out the required research and development; and by potentially providing seed funding to help get good ideas to the next stage.

Fishermen and others involved in the fishing industry have invented many of the techniques that are currently used to prevent incidental seabird captures and are likely to be the key source of new ideas in the future. The main challenges these inventive people face when they come up with a new concept is knowing who to talk to about their idea, what the various developmental and testing phases are, and how to fund this work.

As part of this project we intend to establish an international expert panel that will be able to provide advice on potential mitigation devices in various commercial fisheries.

The Trust is currently seeking funds for this project. It is anticipated project work will begin 1 June.

**Theme: Exporting the Southern Seabird Solutions Trust Model**

***Focus in 2009 on South Africa and Argentina***

Internationally, the partnership model adopted by Southern Seabird Solutions, which involves the fishing industry, government and environmental NGOs, is recognised as an effective approach to addressing seabird mortalities during fishing. There have been several requests from individuals and organisations from other countries to have the Trust share its experiences on the benefits and challenges of working collaboratively, as well as requests for specific guidance on establishing organisations similar to Southern Seabird Solutions Trust.

In 2009, this project will have a strong focus on South Africa and Argentina/Uruguay based on both an identified need and specific requests the Trust has received from individuals and organisations in both regions. This project strongly correlates with the ACAP Advisory Committee's work programme around capacity building and there may be opportunity for further development within the Agreement's framework.

The Trust is currently seeking funds for this project.

***[www.southernseabirds.org](http://www.southernseabirds.org)***