

Media release; Friday 11 June 2021

WORLD ALBATROSS DAY, 19 JUNE 2021: “ENSURING ALBATROSS-FRIENDLY FISHERIES”



Thousands of albatrosses are dying every year as a result of fishing operations. These magnificent birds get caught on hooks, become entangled in nets and collide with trawl cables, leading to death by drowning or injury. Solutions are available to address this conservation crisis. This year's World Albatross Day, celebrated on 19 June, aims both to draw attention to the problem and to highlight best-practice solutions, such as the use of bird-scaring lines in both longline and trawl fisheries, line weighting and night setting or use of hook-shielding devices by longliners and management of offal discharge by trawlers. The theme this year is “Ensuring Albatross-friendly Fisheries”. The two Critically Endangered albatrosses, the Tristan of Gough Island and the Waved from the Galapagos, have been chosen to serve as ‘feature species’ to draw attention to the continuing threats all the world’s 22 species of albatrosses face at sea from fisheries.

19 June 2021 marks the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels ([ACAP](#)). ACAP is an international agreement which strives to conserve [albatrosses and petrels](#). It coordinates international activities to reduce threats to their populations.

Look out for ACAP's posters and other material (detailed below) that can be drawn on by organisations and media outlets wishing to celebrate World Albatross Day. In addition, there will be six daily posts to *ACAP Latest News* (<https://www.acap.aq/news/latest-news>) for 'WADWEEK2021' starting on Monday 14 June up until the second-ever World Albatross Day on Saturday 19 June. All ACAP website posts are shared to its Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/AlbatrossesandPetrels>.

Please contact ACAP's Information Officer at secretariat@acap.aq if you have any questions or any difficulty finding or downloading any of the items mentioned.

Please mention ACAP in any use on social media or elsewhere of the 'WAD2021' products described below. A notice of their use would also be appreciated.

Background

ACAP Parties (members) and other states

ACAP currently has 13 member countries (known as Parties). Its objective is to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels. This effort is supported by several non-member states and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). ACAP currently lists 31 species of albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters, most of which have a global threatened status.

Parties are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, France, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom and Uruguay (13). Non-Party breeding range states are Japan, Mexico and the USA. Regularly attending non-Parties also include Canada and Namibia.

<https://www.acap.aq/en/resources/parties-to-acap>

ACAP-listed Species

31 species, made up of 22 albatrosses, seven petrels and two shearwaters.

<https://www.acap.aq/en/resources/acap-species>

Background to World Albatross Day

In 2019 ACAP's [Advisory Committee](#) declared that a [conservation crisis](#) continues to be faced by its [31 listed species](#), with thousands of albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters dying every year as a result of fisheries operations. To increase awareness of this crisis ACAP inaugurated a [World Albatross Day](#) to be held annually on 19 June from 2020, the date the Agreement was [signed in 2001](#). World Albatross Day was successfully launched in 2020, with the theme 'Eradicating Island Pests', since many albatross species have to contend with threats from introduced mice, rats, cats and pigs on their breeding islands. This year's theme highlights the continuing threats from fisheries.

Educational material available

ACAP has produced a series of posters depicting the two feature species which can be freely downloaded from its website (<https://www.acap.aq/world-albatross-day/wad2021-ensuring-albatross-friendly-fisheries/world-albatross-day-2021-logos-posters>). Three infographics have also been produced which aim to highlight the threats these species face in an informative and readily understandable way (<https://www.acap.aq/world-albatross-day/species-summaries/species-infographics>). All these products are available in the three ACAP official languages (English, French and Spanish) as well as in Portuguese. Also available are two-page species summaries for all the albatrosses in the three official languages that are aimed for school learners and teachers, and the general public, being written in non-technical language (<https://www.acap.aq/world-albatross-day/species-summaries>). Lastly, an ACAP 'WAD2021' logo in four languages is available for use from the ACAP website.

Contact information

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