

# Seabird captures in trawl nets

## Summary of MFish observer comments

S.J. Baird, NIWA, presentation to CSP/TWG NPOA 6 May 2008



## Available MFish observer information

### Comments and capture information: 2000-2007

Comments depended on observer – not consistent or standardised  
Subset of data which concentrates on obvious net captures

#### **Main info:**

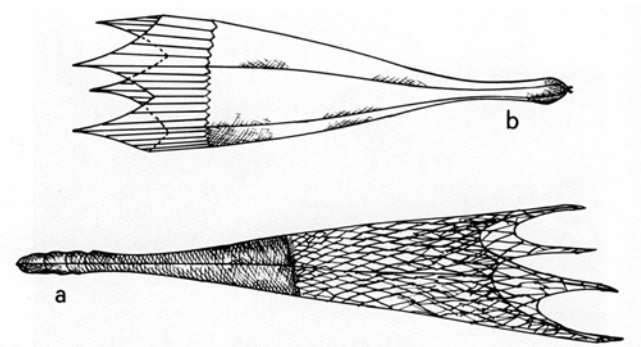
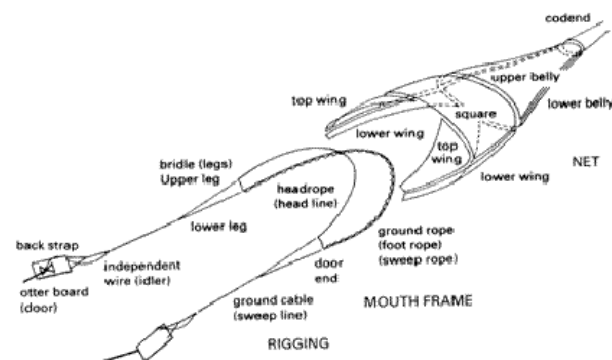
- ▣ state of bird
- ▣ recovery location
- ▣ record information — photograph/specimen number
- ▣ time of capture — shoot, haul, etc
- ▣ gear event
- ▣ fishing management
- ▣ use of mitigation device
- ▣ bird behaviour
- ▣ weather conditions
- ▣ unknown

## What information is available?

1. Area: Chatham Rise, Puysegur, Stewart-Snares shelf, Auckland Islands Shelf
2. Time: January-June
3. Seabird taxa: Albatrosses, petrels, shearwaters
4. Fleets: Korea, NZ, Poland, Russia, Ukraine
5. Target: middle depths species, scampi
6. Gear: bottom and midwater trawls

## When, where, how do captures occur

1. Overlap of fishing and foraging
2. Birds attracted to the vessel
3. Shoot and haul of trawl net — alive/dead
4. Birds feeding from or around the net
5. Birds were recovered from codend through to net wings



## Fishing practices identified — 1

Net at or near surface — prolonged time

- Gear event/breakage
- Problems in shooting net

3. Shooting practices

4. Partial haul during tow — including turn

5. Slow haul — breakage, vessel, weather



## Fishing practices identified — 2

Offal discharge

Deployment of unclean nets

Nets shot immediately after a codend has been lifted

Few vessels in area

**Individual vessel practices increased likelihood**

## Seabird taxa — verified identification

Albatross: Antipodean, Buller's, Campbell, Salvin's , southern royal, white-capped

Petrels: black, grey, southern giant, Westland, **white-chinned**, southern cape, grey-backed storm

Shearwaters: flesh-footed, short-tailed, **sooty**

Others: fairy prion

**Captures of different taxa often fishery/area/time specific — especially multiple captures**

## Life status on recovery

1. More albatrosses and petrels were dead than alive on recovery from **midwater net** hauls
2. Similar numbers of alive and dead albatrosses from **bottom trawl** net hauls
3. Fate of petrels caught during **bottom trawl** net hauls differed by fleet



## Summary — 1

### Main causes of captures

		Bottom trawl		Midwater trawl	
		Shoot	Haul	Shoot	Haul
Gear event	Albatross				
	Petrel				
Fishing management	Albatross				
	Petrel				
Fishing strategy	Albatross				
	Petrel				
Bird behaviour	Albatross				
	Petrel				
Weather	Albatross				
	Petrel				

## Summary — 2

### Specific examples relating to fishing practices

Gear events

Fishing management

Fishing strategy

Weather

Bird behaviour