



**Meeting:** Conservation Services Programme Technical Working Group

**Date:** 31 July 2013

**Time:** 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

**Place:** Ministry for Primary Industries The Terrace, Wellington.

**Chair:** Ian Angus (ph: 04-471-3081; email: [iangus@doc.govt.nz](mailto:iangus@doc.govt.nz)): CSP TWG

**Attendance:** David Middleton (Seafood NZ), Richard Wells (DWG & FINZ), Barry Baker (Latitude 42), Karen Baird (Forest & Bird & Birdlife), Igor Debski, Kris Ramm, (DOC), Rose Grindley, Rohan Currey, Michelle Bertizhoff - Law (MPI), Paul Sagar, David Thompson, Ian Tuck (NIWA), Barry Weeber (ECO), Biz Bell (WMIL), Dave Goad (Vita Maris), Johanna Pierre (JPEC & Dragonfly), Yvan Richard (Dragonfly), Pat Reid (Area 2)

**Apologies:**

**Presentations:**

- 1 **POP2012-06 Salvin's albatross – Bounty Islands population review. Draft results** **Paul Sagar (NIWA)**

BBaker – proportion of loafers likely to be a function of time of day? Any data on timing available?

PS – time was recorded for each count, so could be assessed

DM – weather and logistical difficulties shows difficulties in a census approach – a randomised density approach could be better suited

PS – conducting a randomised survey has difficulties too

BBaker – if looking at change, a block approach as used here is a good approach

DM – can all other islands be accessed?

PS – no, only about half can be landed on, with difficulty

RW – breeding success related to material available for nests?

PS – likely to influence, would require separate study

BBaker – if a suitable aerial platform was available, close up photographs could be used to try and quantify proportion of loafers

KB – what else is planned?

ID – this forms part of a current two year project (POP2012-06) – this year an aerial survey, with ground truthing and retrieval of tracking devices.

DT – high number of loafers is considered indicative of a healthy population

BBaker – caution being alarmed

There was discussion on possible comparison with the 1978 count, that may have included empty nests

IT – is info on empty nests available

PS – yes

ID – how confident are we that they are annual breeders?

PS – based on good information from The Snares

RW – info on other animals related to competition for space?

PS – potential for competition for space, data on seal numbers are also available, but analysis was out of scope for this project

BW – would have survived with higher pre-sealing numbers

BBaker – full fur seal survey not completed since 1994

PS – fur seals would impact on breeding success, adult mortality in fisheries would cause a faster decline

BBaker – by the time fur seals breed, chicks would be quite large so impact would be less

RW – where do birds go after fledging?

PS – South American west coast

**2 POP2012-04 Campbell and grey-headed albatross population estimates. Progress report**

**Paul Sagar (NIWA)**

BBaker – did Moore & Blezard (2004) consider parallex effect as well as height that photograph was taken at?

PS – yes, limits of count areas were tightly defined by Moore

BBaker – use of telephoto lenses may help overcome some of the parallex issues

PS – totals used were those using telephoto lenses

BBaker – any recommendation as to continued use of photo points?

PS – may limit to those with larger numbers of birds, though ground counts would be preferable

PS – some photos were taken on different dates, so correction factors were applied – still working through

DM – plots could be coded according to corrections applied, or variation in date

Issues of biennial breeding in grey-headed albatross were discussed

KB – has rat eradication impacted?

PS – tussocks are getting taller, and influencing ability to count

BW – will data be further modelled?

ID – scope of this contract was limited to direct comparisons

PS – will at least distinguish between count timings in report

**3 For information, Buller's albatross demography and tracking at The Snares. Update on NIWA-funded work in 2013** **Paul Sagar (NIWA)**

RW – when was last full census?

PS – last full population estimate at The Snares was 2002, so over due

RW – when was diet sampling conducted?

PS – late 1990s

RW – what are the main trends of foraging and fisheries overlap over time?

PS - bird and fishery distributions tend to vary independently, with overlap varying by year, and by gender

RW – cause of low counts in 2010?

PS – further analysis showed birds survived but did not breed or failed early (could not distinguish), was a poor year for other species too, including in Australia (BBaker)

KB – any plans for the coming season?

PS – not at this stage, as funding has not been secured

ID – is not part of the CSP Annual Plan for 2013/14

**4 MIT2011-03 and MIT2012-01 Inshore bottom longline seabird mitigation. Draft results** **Dave Goad (Vita Maris) and Johanna Pierre (Dragonfly)**

BW – worth considering effort by vessel days as well to give perspective of coverage

JP – very poor, coverage not representative

RW – lower reporting of live birds by fishermen may be because they may not judge it important

BBaker – are seabird abundance/activity protocols based on Melvin/Robertson protocols

JP – similar, but varied to account for differences in these fisheries, detailed in report

BW – BNS drop lines included?

DG/KR – no, very little coverage, lower seabird bycatch risk

DM – headings should be clear so as not to suggest current practice described for study vessels is representative of the wider fleet

DM – did you consider using cheaper technology, e.g. bottle tests, for sink rates?

DG –no, TDRs were available, deployment was limited by observers and fishermen buy-in not availability of gear

BBaker – shallow sink depth at extent of aerial coverage similar to international work, illustrates tori line by itself is not a silver bullet

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There was discussion on other factors such as moon phase, and how this may inform regulations around time of fishing

- 5 **MIT2012-05 Protected species bycatch newsletter. 2012/13 annual review** **Johanna Pierre (JPEC)**

BW – anything for freshwater or coastal?

IA – possibility to consider, though need to balance against possible loss of focus

- 6 **For information – Southern royal albatross aerial survey Enderby Island. Results from pilot study.** **Barry Baker (Latitude 42)**

Postponed to 1 August 2013.

### **Other business**

IA requested any further written feedback on any of the presentations or reports by 5 pm 14 August 2013.

Meeting closed.