

Janice Molloy- Southern Seabirds Solutions Trust

The various population studies look good - one thought on the Buller's project. Based on the fact that that survivorship of adults has declined, it would be really great to track some birds to understand/rule out some causes for this - perhaps they have altered their foraging area for instance.

In terms of mitigation, awesome that the underwater bait setter project is being funded - that fishery needs new tools, so fingers crossed this results in one.

With the net capture characterisation project, the reason for not proceeding given was " it is premature to the MPI and SSST project planning in June" The June project referred to is a meeting to brainstorm solutions to net captures. We are having to do this with only a general understanding of how/when/where birds become caught in nets. We don't know what type of interaction is the most common (e.g. even the basic things like on the shot versus on the haul, inside the nets versus caught standing on top of the net). We can't wait for perfect information and need to start testing solutions, but in parallel we need to continue to refine our understanding. And observers are very restricted these days in what they can see because most observations happen from the bridge. Because this project ranked quite high, I wonder if we can discuss a way to help progress it, outside the CSP levying process. Perhaps a fishing company could be convinced to work with DOC/MPI/SSST to test video cameras - we would need support of the observer programme. Could we catch up after the net workshop and see what might be possible?

In terms of the sink rate of bottom longline hooks adjacent to floats (the hooks most accessible to black petrels and other high risk species) the DOC assessment table says components of this project will be delivered by other work. It would be useful to know what components - I had in mind a dedicated research project that would need to be conducted by someone on a vessel (or several vessels) testing different float types/sizes/placements to achieve fast sink rates (while meeting the fishermen's fishing strategy). We will need this information very soon to meet the new NPOA mitigation standard. Once we have this, we can review this information along with and historical sink rate work carried out for DOC to see if we can come up with an algorithm or formula that takes account of vessel setting speed, tori line coverage, float use, so we can advise fishermen what weights and spacings they will need to use to achieve the hook depth of the mitigation standard.