



Photo: Graeme Elliott.

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Southern Seabird Solutions Trust



Janice Molloy

Trust Convenor

In 2013, the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) produced an assessment of the risk New Zealand seabirds face from commercial fisheries. Over the ensuing years there have been several revisions of the risk assessment using new data, but the species at highest risk have generally stayed the same. The Trust uses the risk rankings to prioritise its work and consequently has focused effort on fisheries in the northern half of the North Island where black petrels and flesh-footed shearwaters, both in the top risk rankings, breed and feed. Organisations that signed up to the Trust's black petrel pledge in 2014 feel proud of the work that has been carried out to date in the northern longline fleet, and believe it is time to check whether the measures are having an effect. During 2016 the trust spearheaded a trial of cameras as a tool to record seabird mortalities. The trial began in November 2016 and will run until May 2017.

Commercial fishing isn't the only risk these two seabirds face at sea. On a busy weekend, up to 1800 recreational boats can be found fishing in the Hauraki Gulf and a seabird is just as interested in bait on a recreational hook as it is a commercial hook. There are different sets of challenges working with the recreational sector: it is diverse, disparate and growing; only a small proportion of anglers are affiliated to clubs or organisations; and angling gear is constantly changing. However, the Trust has been fortunate to be able to team up with the MPI Recreational Fishing Team and, using funding from the Department of Conservation's Community Conservation Partnership, began an educational programme that hopefully, over time, will result in all anglers knowing how to avoid catching seabirds.

Internationally, many of our seabirds face risks from high seas and coastal fisheries. A species of grave concern is the wandering albatross that breeds on the Antipodes Islands. Numbers of adult females returning to breed have declined by over 40% in the last ten years, and the trend has continued downward this current breeding season. While fishing is unlikely to be the only cause, urgent action is needed to reduce mortalities outside the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and the Trust is well placed to assist. This year the Trust trained the MPI Fisheries Officers involved in boarding and inspecting high seas longline vessels. The officers used the knowledge they gained through the training to talk to each fishing master about seabirds. We hope to continue assisting the Ministry, and to expand our education and outreach work into the Pacific in 2017.

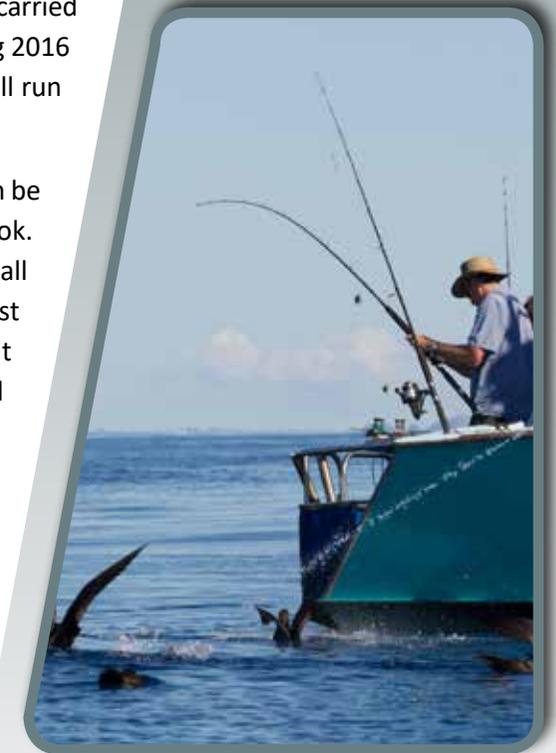


Photo: N. Fitzgerald

A snapshot of our project work in 2016

INSHORE FISHERS' SEABIRD SMART TRAINING PROGRAMME – Sanford, Leigh Fisheries and Moana NZ have committed to training all longline skippers fishing in Fishing Management Area 1 (FMA1). Only a handful of skippers are yet to be trained.

RECREATIONAL FISHING – we raised awareness of how to fish safely around seabirds by talking to hundreds of anglers at boating events, and distributing information via fishing media, fishing personalities, clubs, competitions and schools.

SEABIRD COLONY VISITS – commercial fishers worked with scientists at petrel colonies on Great Barrier Island/Aotea, Little Barrier Island/Hauturu and Punakaiki.

BLACK PETREL WORKING GROUP – we worked with government, NGOs and fishing companies to initiate a camera trial on-board inshore longline vessels that fish in black petrel feeding areas.

INTERNATIONAL MITIGATION MENTOR – we undertook a stock-take of all mitigation devices being used or trialled in New Zealand, as a first step in determining future priorities for research and development.

INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING - we provided seabird smart training to the Ministry for Primary Industries' High Seas Fisheries Officers before they set sail on their fishing inspection Operation Nasse.



MPI High Seas Fisheries Officers wearing the Southern Seabird Solutions Trust 'Catch Fish not Seabirds' tee after their training seminar.

Photo: Southern Seabird Solutions Trust

Our People

Trust patron

HRH Prince of Wales

Board 2016

Bill Mansfield – Chair International Legal Consultant

Peter Douglas/ Dion Tuuta – Te Ohu Kaimoana

Scott Gallacher/ Bryan Wilson – Ministry for Primary Industries

Chris Howe – WWF-New Zealand

Volker Kuntzsch – Sanford Ltd

Bruce Parkes – Department of Conservation

Management Committee 2016

Sonja Austin – Ministry for Primary Industries

Barry Baker – Latitude 42

Jim Fitzgerald/ Michael Cronje – Sanford Ltd

Mike Gerner – Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Debbie Hannan – Seafood NZ

Peter Hardstaff – WWF-New Zealand

Jeremy Helson – Fisheries Inshore New Zealand (FINZ)

Dave Kellian/Geordie Murman – Leigh Commercial Fishermen's Association

Kris Ramm – Department of Conservation

Doug Saunders-Loder – New Zealand Federation of Commercial Fishermen

Daryl Smith – Sealord Group Ltd

Richard Wells – Deepwater Group Ltd

John Willmer – Te Ohu Kaimoana

Personnel 2016

Janice Molloy – Trust Convenor

Barry Baker – International Mitigation Mentor

Kirsten Crawford – Trust Manager

Cam Speedy – Liaison Officer/Trainer

Inshore Fishers' Seabird SMART Training Programme

Our Seabird SMART Training workshops build fishers' knowledge about the seabirds they encounter in their local fisheries and provides them with an understanding of the importance of using practices that keep seabirds safe around their vessels. Our seabird trainer makes contact with each fisher at least twice after each workshop to cement the learnings and to keep seabird smart fishing on their radar. Over the past five years the Trust has trained over 210 skippers and crew from inshore vessels.

Training skippers fishing in Fishing Management Area 1 (FMA1) has been a priority because their operations overlap with two high risk seabirds, black petrel and flesh-footed shearwaters. Sanford, Leigh Fisheries and Moana NZ have committed to training all longline skippers fishing in Fishing Management Area 1 (FMA1), and only a handful of skippers are yet to be trained.

Core components of the training were also used for a seminar with Ministry for Primary Industries' High Seas Fisheries Officers before they set sail on Operation Nasse.

Training continues to be offered to companies throughout New Zealand and the Trust's seabird trainer continues to report positive feedback from the programme.

The ongoing training programme is implemented under a shared funding model between the Ministry for Primary Industries, Department of Conservation, local fishing companies and fishing associations.



Participants at the Seabird SMART Training Workshop in Napier, 2016

Photo: Southern Seabird Solutions Trust

Working with recreational anglers

2016 was the second year of our Department of Conservation funded project 'Building a Seabird Smart Recreational Fishing Culture'. The aim for the year was to engage with recreational fishing audiences through boating events, fishing media, local clubs and organisations, and build the profile of seabird smart fishing practices.

We talked to hundreds of anglers at the Tamaki River Festival, Hutchwilco Boat Show and On Water Boat Show and published articles through several boating media, such as *NZ Fishing News*, the *Boaties Book*, Auckland Council social media channel. Looking towards the fishers of the future, we worked with the 'Hiwi the Kiwi' team to create a seabird song for their travelling fishing and boating safety show which visits hundreds of schools each year. We also took part in a two day 'hands-on' environmental education programme at Mercury Bay Area School in Whitianga where children used a burrow scope to hunt out a black petrel egg in their classroom.

The Trust worked closely with the Ministry for Primary Industries' Recreational Fishing Team, and this allowed us to use our resources effectively and benefit from their significant knowledge and networks. The understanding of why, and how, to look after seabirds whilst out for a day's fishing has significantly increased amongst anglers over the past two years. Whilst there is still more work to do, the Trust has been able to build a profile for seabird smart fishing practices amongst leaders and influencers in the recreational fishing sector that will continue into the future.

The Recreational Fishing Programme in 2016 was financially supported by the Department of Conservation Community Fund, the Pacific Development and Conservation Trust and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). Significant in-kind support was received from the MPI Recreational Fishing Team, NZ Fishing Media, charter skippers, fishing clubs and fishing organisations.



Biz (Elizabeth) Bell showing 'Bob' the black petrel to children at Mercury Bay Area School, Whitianga 2016. Photo: Southern Seabird Solutions Trust

Involving fishers in seabird monitoring

Since 2013, fishers have been crawling through undergrowth, stretching their arms down burrows, and getting bitten by seabirds, all in the name of science. In 2016, the Trust continued to facilitate these trips as part of our Seabird Smart Training Programme. The trips have won over many fishers to the specialness of seabirds and have also enabled fishers and seabird scientists to share their knowledge. Some fishers have returned year after year to help out.

This year fishers helped count, weigh and band young black petrels on Great Barrier Island/Aotea and set up acoustic monitoring devices on Little Barrier Island/Hauturu. 'Off the Beaten Track' reporter Kennedy Warne joined one of these groups and subsequently aired a show on Radio NZ. In the South Island, fishers and their families from Westport and Greymouth walked inland from Punakaiki to spend an evening in the bush with the Westland black petrel.

Seabird colony visits are made possible by the in-kind support of local fishing operators, community groups, Biz Bell and the team from Wildlife Management International and the Department of Conservation.



Skippers and their families taking the evening to enjoy the company of Westland black petrels, inland Punakaiki.

Photo: Bruce Stuart-Menteath

Working together for black petrel/tāiko

Over the last two years, local and central government, fishing industry and environmental groups represented on the Black Petrel Working Group have been working hard to deliver on a public pledge to reduce the risk to seabirds in Fishing Management Area 1 (FMA1). In 2016 the group decided it was time to check whether their efforts were having an effect. The most direct way of determining this is to record numbers of seabirds being captured by fishing vessels. In the past collecting sufficient information across the longline fleet using human observers has proven to be problematic, so the group sought and received Government and industry support to trial camera technology. The trial commenced in November and will continue until May 2017.

This project has a shared funding model whereby member parties contribute financially or in-kind. Members are: the Ministry for Primary Industries, Department of Conservation, Sanford Ltd, Leigh Fisheries, Moana NZ, Fisheries Inshore New Zealand, Leigh Commercial Fisherman's Association, Whitianga and Coromandel Peninsula Commercial Fishermen's Association, the Hauraki Gulf Forum, WWF-New Zealand, Forest and Bird, Ngāti Rehua and Ngāti Manuhiri. The project receives substantial in-kind support from Wildlife Management International Ltd.



Cameras are positioned on an arm outboard of the hauling station to record the longline being hauled on board.

Photo: Gareth Eyres

Mentoring new solutions

A range of different mitigation techniques and technologies are used or in development across New Zealand fisheries. There are also a number of technologies being trialled overseas that could be applicable to New Zealand. In 2016, we commissioned an independent stocktake of all of these measures in an effort to bring together information about their efficacy and practicality for New Zealand fisheries. The results of the review will be discussed in early 2017 and used to identify priorities for future research and development. This will be useful for government as well as providing guidance for the next stages of the Trust's Mitigation Mentor Programme.

A study supported by the Trust that assessed the response of blue penguins to different coloured set net monofilament was accepted for publication in 2016. The study concluded that orange was more visible to penguins than clear or green monofilament and may be useful for near surface set nets.

Our Mitigation Mentor Programme is supported by Sealord Ltd, WWF-New Zealand, Fisheries Inshore New Zealand (FINZ), the Ministry for Primary Industries and the Department of Conservation.



Smart Tuna Hooks are one of the new techniques for reducing seabird captures reviewed in the Trust's stocktake report. Photo: Hans Jusseit

International Networks

Black petrels have been recorded caught on both Japanese and Taiwanese vessels, and wandering albatrosses were the recorded majority (81%) of seabirds caught by Taiwanese fleets targeting albacore in the western and central Pacific between 2008 and 2013. New Zealand wandering albatrosses (called Gibson's and Antipodean albatross) have changed their foraging patterns over the last ten years and now overlap to a much greater extent with these high seas fisheries.

This is an emerging issue that the Trust is well placed to help address. In 2016, we ran a workshop with MPI High Seas Fisheries Officers prior to the commencement of their Pacific fisheries vessel inspection 'Operation Nasse'. We designed a pack of education resources for the fishing vessel masters and a t-shirt to reinforce the message. The MPI Fisheries Officers reported that the materials provided were well received by the fishing masters. The Trust will look for further opportunities to work in with these operations in the future.

Our international work in 2016 was supported by the Ministry for Primary Industries and partners of the Seabird Smart Training Programme.



MPI Fisheries Officers onboard a high seas longline vessel during fisheries inspections, Operation Nasse. The red t-shirt was designed by SSST and given to each vessel's fishing master to reinforce the 'Catch Fish Not Seabirds' message. Photo: MPI

Financial statements*

Southern Seabird Solutions Trust: Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 31 December 2016

Revenue	2016 (\$)	2015(\$)	Less operating expenses	2016 (\$)	2015(\$)
Core funding			General operating expenses		
Core funding income	96,041	83,500	Administration	3,219	4,364
Interest income	550	1,783	Communications, brand, marketing expenses	2,865	3,141
Project management	5,045	12,798	Meeting and event expenses	482	1,035
Supporter sponsorship	-	435	Personnel	59,820	63,541
Total core funding	101,636	98,516	Travel - national	946	1,895
Project income			Total general operating expenses	67,332	73,976
Electronic monitoring trial	11,758	8,243	Project expenses		
Mitigation mentor	3,719	1,737	Mitigation mentor	6,988	2,212
Net Mitigation workshop	-	475	Recreational fishing	49,634	56,731
Recreational fishing	48,960	53,172	Seabird Safe awards	3,150	18,492
Seabird Smart awards	3,150	16,297	Seabird Smart NZ Seafood	25,116	41,664
Seabird Smart Seafood	12,143	41,664	Seabird Smart training programme	13,091	22,224
Seabird Smart training programme	13,091	25,355	Total project expenses	97,978	141,323
Total project income	92,819	138,700	Total operating expenses	165,310	215,299
Total income	194,457	237,216			
			Net surplus for year	29,144	21,916

* This information is an extract from the Southern Seabird Solutions Trust financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016.

Southern Seabird Solutions Trust: Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2016

Assets	2016 (\$)	2015 (\$)	Equity	2016 (\$)	2015 (\$)
Current assets			Core funding reserves		
Accounts receivable	40,250	48,725	Core funding reserve 2016	-	7,500
ANZ cheque account	61,359	56,193	Core funding reserve 2017	17,875	-
ANZ online call account	55,038	54,642	Total core funding reserves	17,875	7,500
Total current assets	156,647	159,559	Trust funds		
Total assets	156,647	159,559	Accumulated surplus	74,244	45,100
			Settlers funds	10,750	10,750
			Total trust funds	84,994	55,850
Liabilities			Total equity	102,869	63,350
Current liabilities					
Accounts payable	719	2,361			
GST payable	595	1,486			
Income in advance					
Coromandel black petrel project	4,346	14,000			
Mitigation mentor	18,345	13,135			
Net Mitigation workshops	-	3,928			
Recreational fishing	1,433	23,482			
Seabird Smart awards	1,053	4,203			
Seabird Smart Seafood	15,305	8,705			
Seabird Smart training programme	11,982	21,642			
Trust booklet	-	1,166			
Total income in advance	52,465	92,362			
Total other current liabilities	-	92,210			
Total liabilities	53,779	96,210			
Net assets	102,869	63,350			

* This information is an extract from the Southern Seabird Solutions Trust financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016.

Our sponsors

Thank you to the following companies and organisations for your support in 2016.

The Southern Seabird Solutions Trust

is an alliance between Seafood New Zealand, the Ministry for Primary Industries, the Department of Conservation, WWF-New Zealand and Te Ohu Kaimoana. The alliance takes a cooperative approach to seabird conservation.

Partners:



Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Principal sponsors:



Leigh Commercial Fishermen's Association

