

 <p data-bbox="231 533 470 571">Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p data-bbox="512 241 1401 280"><b>Ninth Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group</b></p> <p data-bbox="847 297 1401 336"><i>Florianópolis, Brazil, 6 - 8 May 2019</i></p> <p data-bbox="603 412 1305 506"><b>Seabird Bycatch Identification Guide – an update</b></p> <p data-bbox="528 582 1380 620"><b><i>Cristián G. Suazo, Wiesława Misiak &amp; Marco Favero</i></b></p>
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## SUMMARY

One of the pending tasks in the SBWG agenda is the updating of the Seabird Bycatch Identification Guide (ID guide). During 2018 ACAP supported this task with core funding to update the ID guide with collaboration with BirdLife's International Albatross Task Force (Chile), Te Papa Museum and Forest & Bird (New Zealand). This included the systematic review of the 38 albatross, petrel, and shearwater species in the 2015 version of the ID guide. So far, this update included at-sea photos, scientific nomenclature for some species, and changes in their conservation status. Finally, supporting material for diagnostic features between species and for ACAP listed species not yet included in this guide (Balearic shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*) is also provided for the local adaptation of this ID guide in response to local contexts for ACAP Parties and other jurisdictional or international waters. The updated ID guide will be available in September 2019.

## 1. BACKGROUND

One of the challenges for the effective management of seabird bycatch in fisheries is the collection of at-sea data. Thus, complementary graphical material is a valuable material for the at-sea performance of observers.

During SBWG8, the need for updating ACAP's Seabird Bycatch ID guide (herein ID guide) was noted as a high priority task for SBWG members (Misiak *et al.* 2017). The 2015 version of this guide was well recognised as direct reference material for international (RFMOs) but also for domestic fisheries (e.g. Ortiz Soazo & Suazo 2019).

The early proposal of this ID guide was related to the 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Tuna RFMO Technical Working Group in 2011 (Misiak *et al.* 2017). However, the current agenda of the SBWG has also extended its coverage to other industrial and small-scale fisheries which called the attention for an update process for this key reference material.

This document summarises activities carried out during the update process supported by ACAP’s core funding in collaboration with BirdLife’s International Albatross Task Force - Chile, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, and Forest & Bird, New Zealand. In addition, this process included the feedback of several volunteers who provided comments, reference material and pictures for the improvement of this ID guide.

## 2. SEABIRD BYCATCH IDENTIFICATION GUIDE – AN UPDATE

During the early update process of the ID guide all guidelines, references, and suggested steps were provided by the material previously compiled by the ACAP Secretariat. In addition, recommendations for the diagnostic differences related to key features for overlapping species during fishing operations were considered following advice by Te Papa’s Natural History Section experts.

The scientific names of the six shearwater species included in this ID guide were updated (e.g. genus *Puffinus* to *Ardenna*, *P. griseus* to *A. grisea*). In addition, the conservation status for albatross (4), petrel (1), and shearwater (1) species were updated following the IUCN redlist (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Change in global conservation status by IUCN for some seabird species included in the ID guide.

Species	status (2015)	status (2018 update)*
Short-tailed Albatross <i>Phoebastria albatrus</i>	EN	VU
Antipodean Albatross <i>Diomedea antipodensis</i>	VU	EN
Black-browed Albatross <i>Thalasarche melanophirs</i>	NT	LC
Campbell Albatross <i>T. impavida</i>	EN	VU
Westland Petrel <i>Procellaria westlandica</i>	VU	EN
Flesh-footed Shearwater <i>Ardenna carneipes</i>	LC	NT

\* www.redlist.org. LC: least concern; NT: near threatened; VU: vulnerable; EN: endangered

The process also involved the revision of diagnostic features for all albatross (23), petrel (9), and shearwater (6) species (in English and Spanish). Species with no photos available in version 2015 were updated with both at-sea and onboard records of bycaught individuals (e.g. waved albatross *Phoebastria irrorata* and pink-footed shearwater *Ardenna creatopus*).

Species still lacking images of bycaught individuals, were: Short-tailed Albatross *P. albatrus*, Amsterdam Albatross *Diomedea amsterdamensis*, Chatham Albatross *Thalassarche eremita*, Spectacled Petrel *Procellaria conspicillata*, Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera*, and Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna pacifica*.

However, the revision of Te Papa’s collection permitted a photographic inventory of 60 study skins of ACAP listed and other seabird species. This also included comparative records of features (e.g. plumage patterns) for confounding species (examples in Annex 1).

In addition to the updating process related to ACAP listed species and other seabirds included in the Guide, recommendations for onboard procedures were also reviewed. This included providing addresses for seabird banding schemes (e.g. Brazil, Chile, Spain), as well as other recommendations on hook removal from seabirds.

Other potential updates proposed include a new section for the Critically Endangered Balearic shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* drafted in English and Spanish (including photos of at-sea and bycaught individuals).

This updating process also included local/regional names for some seabird species in order to contribute to tailored adaptations of this ID guide into local contexts of ACAP parties and other countries.

The updated ID guide will be available in September 2019.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## **REFERENCES**

Misiak, W., A. Wolfaardt & M. Favero (2017) Seabird Bycatch Identification Guide – next steps (SBWG8 Doc 09). 8th Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group, Wellington, New Zealand.

Ortiz Soazo, P. & C.G. Suazo (2019) Protocolo de manipulación y rescate de aves marinas: Pesquerías de cerco. Albatross Task Force - Chile, BirdLife International - Codeff, Chile. 35 pp.

**ANNEX 1.** Examples of supporting material for ACAP ID bycatch guide from the Natural History collection, Te Papa museum, New Zealand.

Code	Scientific Name	Common name	Details (Te Papa Museum code)	Notes
ACAP_ID_4	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i> (DSA)	northern royal albatross	From top-down DSA, adult male (029035)	Upper wing detail for both royal albatrosses
	<i>D. epomophora</i> (DEP)	southern royal albatross	DEP, adult male (24626/1)	
ACAP_ID_16	<i>Ardenna creatopus</i> (ACR)	pink-footed shearwater	From top-down ACR, male (18505)	Comparison of both species to reduce confounding ID by back feathers
	<i>Procellaria cinerea</i> (PCI)	grey petrel	PCI, male (24613)	



ACAP\_ID\_16

