

2.75 Southern Hemisphere albatross and petrel conservation

RECALLING Resolutions 1.15 *Incidental mortality of seabirds in longline fisheries* and 1.16 *Fisheries by-catch* that were adopted by the 1st Session of the World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996);

REFLECTING that, owing to the impact of less than fifty years of human activities, the albatrosses (Diomedidae) of the Southern Ocean are one of the most threatened families of migratory animals across their migratory range;

NOTING that Southern Hemisphere albatrosses and petrels (Procellariidae) are highly migratory species and frequently move within and between State jurisdictions and interact with fishing vessels on the high seas;

FURTHER NOTING that a major threat to the populations of Southern Hemisphere albatrosses and petrels arises from longline fishing activities;

AWARE that, for a number of albatross and petrel species, population sizes and trends are insufficiently known to determine their current status;

ALSO AWARE that albatrosses and petrels face continuing threats from human disturbance, pollution, introduced predators, disease, and the effects of climate change;

RECALLING that the 1st Session of the World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996) actively encouraged motions to support the listing of all albatross species on the Annexes to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS or Bonn Convention), and to urgently develop regional conservation agreements;

ALSO RECALLING that the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) has adopted conservation measures to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds, particularly albatrosses;

NOTING that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) *International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries* was adopted in 1999;

ACKNOWLEDGING that most Range States of breeding populations are taking action to conserve albatrosses and petrels within their national jurisdictions but that, owing to the highly migratory nature of albatrosses and petrels, additional international cooperative action is required;

CONCERNED that without action to reduce or mitigate threats to albatrosses and petrels, many populations and potentially some species, are at risk of extinction;

NOTING that one species of Southern Hemisphere albatross was listed in Annex I, and ten species of Southern Hemisphere albatrosses were listed in Annex II, of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals in 1997;

RECOGNIZING that the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals added seven species of Southern Hemisphere petrels to Annex II in 1999;

FURTHER NOTING that a successful meeting was held in Hobart, Australia, in July 2000, to facilitate the development of an international Agreement for the conservation of Southern Hemisphere albatrosses and petrels;

ACKNOWLEDGING that this meeting produced significant positive outcomes with all attending countries and international organizations agreeing to the fundamental principles associated with an Agreement focusing on the conservation of albatrosses and petrels, and there was unanimous support to move towards a formal negotiating session as soon as possible; and

UNDERSTANDING that the positive outcomes of the meeting demonstrate the level of international concern and commitment to establishing an international agreement to help restore the conservation status of Southern Hemisphere albatrosses and petrels;

The World Conservation Congress at its 2nd Session in Amman, Jordan, 4–11 October 2000:

1. URGES all members to initiate relevant activities within and between countries to assist in the conservation of Southern Hemisphere albatrosses and petrels;
2. CALLS ON all countries to take action to identify the status of albatross and petrel populations and determine the nature and scope of threats to those populations within their national jurisdictions;
3. REQUESTS that all members classified as Range States for Southern Hemisphere albatrosses and petrels under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals participate actively in the next formal negotiating session for the successful conclusion of an Agreement for the conservation of Southern Hemisphere albatrosses and petrels;
4. REQUESTS all members whose vessels are undertaking fishing activities within the waters covered by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources to implement the Commission's conservation measures;
5. ENCOURAGES all relevant members to implement the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries.

This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. State and Agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this Motion and took no national government position on the Recommendation as adopted, for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolutions Process (see p. 76).