



Southern Seabird Solutions

Conservation Through Co-operation

December 2005

Newsletter Seven

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Our Goal: Southern Seabird Solutions promotes the adoption of fishing practices that avoid the mortality of southern hemisphere seabirds.

A word from Janice

Hello Everyone

This year has whisked by and here we are again at Christmas. Perhaps the saying "Slow down and the things you are chasing will come around and catch you" is relevant here! Despite the perception of shortness of time, it's been a great year and a lot has been achieved by Southern Seabird Solutions. I hope you and your families are planning to take time to relax over Christmas and I look forward to being in touch in 2006.

A Right Royal Visit

An interactive Southern Seabird Solutions display that tells the story of seabirds, the threats they face and the actions being taken to conserve them now greets the 1,700,000 annual visitors to Taiaroa Head's Royal Albatross Centre, Dunedin. It had a right royal launch in February this year, completed in time for the visit by HRH Prince Charles, whose passion for seabirds is well known.

Sanford Ltd was the principal sponsor, and Southern Seabird Solutions is also grateful for support from OceanWings, WWF – New Zealand, the Department of Conservation and Wild Press.

Seabird Smart and Snap Happy

The Trust launched two new competitions this year: a seabird photography competition for fishers, and a *Seabird Smart Award*, to recognise fishers who demonstrate commitment to avoiding seabird captures.

Southern Seabird Solutions received 84 entries to the photo competition which was designed to encourage fishers to look at seabirds in a new light. The judges were impressed with the standard of photography, and John Barry, of Stewart Island, won first prize - a trip for two to the pacific island paradise of Rarotonga. Second and third went to Ree Whitiri (Bluff) and Jacqueline Paulin (Invercargill). The Trust would like to thank the sponsors: Te Ohu Kaimoana,



The Seabird Smart Award

Aotearoa Fisheries Ltd, the Hamish Saunders Memorial Fund, Gourock and Wild Press. This competition will become an annual event, so get your cameras clicking.

The winner of the *Seabird Smart Award* was Solander Fisheries of Nelson. Charles Hufflet, founder and managing director, accepted the award on behalf of the company. This award is designed to recognize excellence in bycatch mitigation in the fishing industry and to encourage others to follow suit.

Solander Fisheries is an outstanding role-model for seabird bycatch mitigation in the fishing industry. They were one of the first companies in New Zealand to begin systematically collecting and reporting seabird by-catch, and towing tori lines was standard for the company, long before it became mandatory. Charles continues to be the driving force behind the company's commitment to seabird bycatch mitigation. Thanks to Wild Press for donating the trophy.

Supporters Galore



George Clement, Chris Carey and Paul Hufflet at the Annual Meeting

The Annual Supporter's meeting held in October in Nelson attracted 60 people and included a variety of local and international speakers. The two themes of the meeting were Seabirds and Trawling, and Working With Our Neighbours.

At the moment, the spotlight is shining very brightly on trawling and its impact on seabirds. There was a lot of useful discussion on progress being made by industry and government and planned activities for the next year. We heard about solutions that were being tested in Alaska by Ed Melvin which may be of relevance to NZ and discussed the role Southern Seabird Solutions could play to help bring a speedy end to the problem.



Caren Shroder, Ed Melvin and Dr Graham Robertson at the Annual Meeting

The second day was focused on activities underway in other countries. Dave Kreutz of Oceanwatch talked about progress being made in the Australian tuna fleet, Godofredo Cañote of the Peruvian Fisheries Research Institute (IMARPE) described the Peruvian fishing fleets and their plans for addressing seabird bycatch and Graham Robertson of Australian Antarctic Division, outlined his existing and planned projects in Chile and Argentina. A panel discussion ended the day which gave a chance to share ideas and to discuss possible future projects.

During the meeting, there were opportunities for participants to showcase their emerging mitigation ideas. Several contraptions emerged from bags and there were further updates on the use of fish oil as a deterrent.

The Seabird Smart award and photography competition winners were



Malcom McNeill



Joanna Alfaro in Peru

both presented their awards at the meeting. During the formal business, new Trustees and Committee Members were appointed.

If you would like a copy of the notes from the meeting, contact Janice at janice.molloy@paradise.net.nz

Reunion Island Update

In our last newsletter we reported that, Malcolm McNeill, long line manager for Sealord, was invited to Réunion Island to meet boat owners and pass on information about the equipment and methods New Zealand autoliners have developed to avoid catching seabirds. In particular Malcolm talked about his first-hand experience with the revolutionary integrated weighted line (IWL).

We've since heard that the Réunion fleet is increasingly using IWL and the government will be requiring the use of IWL on all toothfish vessels from January 2006. This is great news for the birds and the fishers and a success to be proud of!

The People behind the Programmes

Its time to celebrate some of the individuals who are doing great work to spread good fishing practice around the globe. Southern Seabird Solutions has produced a colour booklet that profiles selected fishers, environmental workers and government officials and the fantastic work they are doing. If you would like to receive a copy, contact Janice at janice.molloy@paradise.net.nz

Planned Projects

We've got big plans for 2006. Our annual business plan lists twenty projects, and these include trawler portside workshops, appointment of an advisory officer to work with NZ trawl fisheries, further development and testing of Dave Kellian's underwater setting capsule, a skipper exchange with Peru and an International Seabird Smart Award. Watch this space for progress.

New SSS Trustee and Committee Members

One new Trustee and three new Mangement Committee members were appointed at the annual meeting. John Ombler, General Manager, Department of Conservation was appointed as a Trustee, and Chris Carey, trawl skipper, Caren Schroder, WWF-NZ, and Indra Prasad, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade were appointed to the Management Committee. A warm welcome to you all. To the retiring

Trustee and Management Committee members, thanks very much for all of your contributions.

Spanish Language Resources

Three Southern Seabird Solutions products have recently been translated into Spanish to help raise South American fishers' awareness about seabirds, the risks they face from fishing, and the solutions. They are: the video, *Fishing the Seabird Smart Way*; a laminated identification poster of seabird species; and the "People Behind the Programmes" colour booklet.

Signing Agreement Ceremony with Peru

The Embassy of Peru in Wellington hosted a signing ceremony in October for a new co-operation agreement between Southern Seabird Solutions and the Instituto del Mar del Perú, IMARPE.

IMARPE manages scientific research into living marine and inland water resources, and lays the scientific groundwork for fishery resource management.

Under this agreement, SSS and IMARPE will work together to develop and promote seabird safe fishing practices for fishing fleets in Peru. The Executive Director of IMARPE, Godofredo Cañote, signed the agreement on behalf of IMARPE.

We've just heard..... - Funding for Fisher Exchange with Peru

We've just heard we've received all of the funding we need to go ahead with our fisher exchange with Peru. It's great to be able to put the newly signed agreement into action so quickly!

This project aims to introduce some practical actions that Peruvian fishermen can start taking to avoid catching seabirds, by importing technical knowledge and experience in the form of New Zealand fisherman, Dave Kellian.

Dave has fished in New Zealand, Australia and South Africa, using a wide range of fishing techniques. Dave is dedicated to reducing seabird captures and has committed a significant amount of personal time and money to developing new solutions, including his underwater setting bait capsule. He has also developed bird streamer lines (tori lines) that are able to be used by smaller vessels setting at lower setting speeds.



Godofredo Cañote and Janice Molloy signing the co-operation agreement on behalf of IMARPE and SSS



Dave Kellian

Next Issue

- Peru skipper exchange – how it went
- International Seabird Smart Award – make your nominations
- Seabird smart trawl techniques – what's the latest
- South American Fishers Forum – what where and when

Contacts

For further information on any items discussed in this newsletter please email

Janice.molloy@paradise.net.nz

For feedback on this newsletter please email

gartyj@seafood.co.nz

Dave will spend three weeks in February in Peru and will work alongside IMARPE staff and Joanna Alfaro and Jeff Mangel of Pro Dephinos to scope out what support and advice is needed to address seabird bycatch in Peru. During this time he will visit a number of fishing ports, undertake several fishing trips, partake in workshops, and meet with relevant fishing industry representatives, government officials and NGOs.

Funding has been received from the NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the International Association of Antarctic Tourism Operators, IMARPE and Department of Conservation for this project and we thank them for their support.

News in Brief

International Fisher Forum

The International Fishers Forum aims to reduce seabird and turtle bycatch in the world's longline fisheries. The most recent forum was held this year in Japan in July. The very first forum was organised by the New Zealand fishing industry and government and they have been a great success. This was a great opportunity for a fishing industry swap-meet where ideas, experiences and details about who is doing what and how were exchanged. Five New Zealanders attended this conference this year.

ACAP update

Peru and France have recently joined the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP). This takes the total number of countries to eight. Other countries that have joined are: Australia, New Zealand, Ecuador, Spain, the Republic of South Africa and the United Kingdom.

Thank you for your support