



ALBERT TIMES

March 2008 Issue 24

“Don't be warped - trawl for fish, not birds”

From the desk of Admiral Albert Ross, MBE (Mighty Big Eater)

Seabirds have become a very hot topic this month! What, I have Bruce-Tross flat out checking the new seabird mitigation gazette notices to ensure I can still get those “free feeds”. I am told fresh fish trawlers will have to hold all offal and discharge once each tow, while factory vessels can discharge 30mins after their previous discharge is completed. Longliners got a triple dose of seabird measures with tori lines, line weighting and some offal control measures, What! The inshore boys have plenty to think about too. Some of them have never seen an albatross and are still in shock over having to run offal control measures and vessel stability could be a real issue for the smaller vessels.

The squid season is well underway, my long-range scouts have mostly been away in SQU1T, that's where the majority of the “free feeds” have been to date. My scouts report that feeding around most of the vessels have been pretty safe, though for some reason there seems to be a few more of those pesky little “sooty” cousins of mine around this year. There have been instances of sootys taken in nets. Skippers have been very helpful doing all they can to mitigate the risks of further captures. One bright note this squid season, the fleet has not yet recorded a single warp capture thus far, so that's got to be good! As most warp captures are generally the larger albatrosses, numbers of captures of these species have come well down over the last 3 squid seasons!

Chow, Albert

Seabird Mitigation Measures

Trawl >28m (inshore)

The Notice comes into effect on 1 June 2008. No vessel shall discharge offal or fish on more than one occasion per tow, nor during shooting and hauling or within 20 mins of shooting, unless the vessel has moved at least 1 nm from the location of the last discharge. Does not apply to fish legally undersize or fish listed on the 6th schedule of the Fisheries Act. Exemptions may be granted from discharge restrictions on evidence to show the requirements would make vessel unsafe.

Trawl <28 m (deep-sea)

The Notice comes into effect on 1 September 2008. Factory vessels may not discharge offal or fish during shooting and hauling or within 20 mins of shooting, unless the vessel has moved at least 1 nm from the last offal discharge. Factory vessels discharge periods: no longer than 10 mins at a time and no discharging for a minimum of 30 mins after the completion of the previous discharge. Fresh fish vessels can discharge once per tow and not

within 20 mins of shooting.

Bottom Longliners

The Notice comes into force 28 days after the date of its notification in the NZ Gazette. An approved type of streamer line is required when using bottom longlines. No setting bottom longlines ½ hour before dawn to ½ hour after dusk unless line weighting is employed (IWL with min of 50 g/m or 4 kg weight for every 60 m of line). Regardless of the line weighting method used, the line attaching the weight must not be longer than 10 m, no more than 3 floats (up to 120 mm dia) may be attached for every 60 m of line (unless additional 1kg weight is added per additional float). Floats greater than 20 mm dia are not permitted on the hook line. No offal discharge while setting. During hauling offal must be discharged only from the opposite side of the hauling station.

Note: This is a general guide only. To ensure compliance, you must refer to the Gazette Notices 2008 - F430, 431 & 432 at the time of their release!

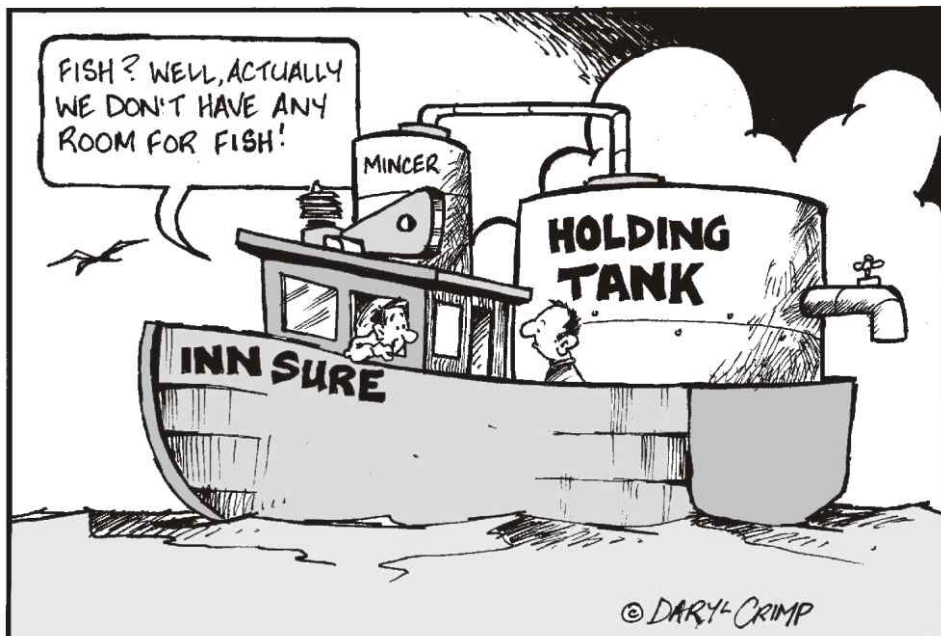


SSS, 2005 photo competition winner, John Barry

Challenges for Mincers

Murray Williamson
South East Resources Ltd

The Gazette Notice specifying the new ofal management requirements for seabird mitigation by trawl vessels creates major problems for our vessels that maybe considered unnecessary. South East Resources Ltd (SERL) and our charter partner, Dong Nam, have been proactive in efforts to mitigate seabird interactions with the knowledge that retention of large volumes of ofal and non-quota bycatch is not an option for our smaller vessels. Testing and design modifications over the last two years have produced a mincer that reduces waste to less than 1 cm. This product then flows with seawater to the



WHICH COUSIN OF MINE IS THIS?



These cousins are the only albatross that have a colony on New Zealand's main islands.

If you know the name of this bird then email your answer, name, postal address and date of publication to albertross@fishinfo.co.nz

BE IN TO WIN: Albert Ross' cap and the "Field Guide to New Zealand Seabirds"



The cousin of last month:
Salvins albatross

cutter/bilge pump exiting the waste as coloured slurry to the sea. Our company was awarded Southern Seabird Solutions Inc "Seabird Safe Award" for our contribution to seabird mitigation. The initial cost of \$35,000 (one unit per three vessels) has increased to \$80,000, as two units per vessel are required to control the volumes of ofal, waste and water. With the placement of an independent observer and a MoF Observer we have hours of video showing this method of ofal disposal is very effective and greatly reduces the risks of seabird interactions. Our remaining seabird captures are mostly sooty shearwaters (mutton birds) diving and feeding when the cod end surfaces. Reducing ofal to slurry, plus deployment of tori lines (aft), bird bafflers (port / starboard), and adherence to our approved Vessel Management Plan, in our opinion, has proved successful in mitigating the bycatch of seabirds. "Mincing" presents no vessel stability problems and is safe for the crews working in a confined space below the water line, keeping all exits clear of ofal storage and associated congestion.

Seabird in focus

Next time you see seabirds in action don't just stand there, take a photo and enter it into Southern Seabird Solutions Trust's Seabird Photograph Competition. The competition is just one way the Trust works to raise seabird awareness amongst fishermen.

The overall winner receives a \$3000 prize with the winners of each category receiving \$1000 prizes.

Entries must be received by 5 June 2008. For more information visit www.southernseabirds.org/photocomp. Sponsors for the competition are Aotearoa Fisheries Ltd, New Zealand Geographic, Te Ohu Kaimoana, and WWF-New Zealand.

DID YOU KNOW?

The sooty shearwater is one of the worlds most widely distributed seabirds, with a few birds travelling from New Zealand to the Artic Ocean.

Short tailed shearwaters are thought to have a total population of about 23 million birds, their numbers are stable and could possibly be increasing.

To learn more go to www.albertross.co.nz and pick up this month's issue



Fishmarket Holdings Ltd
Southern Storm Fishing Ltd
Maruha NZ Corporation Ltd



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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