



ALBERT TIMES

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

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

It's a boy no it's a girl, well for now it's an egg! Mabel is still recovering, bugger me I could not do it, laying an egg that size every year, it just cannot be good for your rear end, what! I dropped into the Southern Seabird Solutions (SSS) workshop last month, SSS were going over what they had done in the past, their accomplishments to date and looking to "chart a course" for the future seeing where SSS could best help NZ and overseas fishing groups educate and reduce the seabird by-catch. You know the thing - "pat yourself on the back for a job well done" and they have done a lot of good over the past few years, Janice covered the early days, Spencer (MFish) told us where NZ is at with seabird captures and showed stats showing reductions in capture rates in most NZ fisheries, (he was one of the chattering classes trying to ruffle my feathers and put an end to those free feeds and starve us all. I got your number mate!)

John Croxall, (Bird Life international) gave a world overview of what's happening with seabird mitigation and worldwide capture rates. Sad to hear my cousins are getting hammered out in the international waters, the Spanish were at the top of his hit list! Carlos from Chile, has done a lot of work with a small fleet of large trawlers. Many of our cousins spend the winter there, we know the real truth, aye Carlos! Hey don't knock him! He's greatly reduced seabird by-catch on 20 odd boats - it's all the other 1,000 boats that's killing all the cousins! Still, one boat at a time is better than nothing. Marco from Argentina heads the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP). This group brings together many nations to work on seabird by-catch mitigation measures. Thanks to Shelley for this month's article, a far more accurate

account of the SSS workshop than mine. My Mate Captain Carefree won last month's "which cousin of mine" competition. Typical fisherman, he has plenty of alternative names for these birds, "Stinker", "Nellie", "Shite Hawk"(my favourite). Luckily he also knew the real name as well to take out the prize pack - "Southern Giant Petrel White Morph". He tells me there's even a pub in Kaikoura named the "White Morph" after this bird. Perhaps it's a good place to visit for some Xmas cheer these holidays.

*This month's cartoon is a re-run of our favourite cartoon from this year. The front picture below was taken at the SSS workshop. John and Malcolm are both auto longline skippers who have been at the forefront of seabird reduction measures over many years. Thanks to Anna, Penny and Daryl for all the work during the year. No time for publishing a January Issue. I may be at the "White Morph" instead. What! Merry Xmas!
Albert*

SSS Workshop: On Course

When seabird expert Carlos Moreno of Chile spoke about his country's progress in reducing seabird bycatch at the recent Southern Seabird Solutions Trust review workshop, a fact that can be verified through high observer coverage, he had the attention of everyone in the room. After all, it was only five years ago that a Chilean skipper came to visit New Zealand to learn firsthand what Kiwis were doing to address the issue.

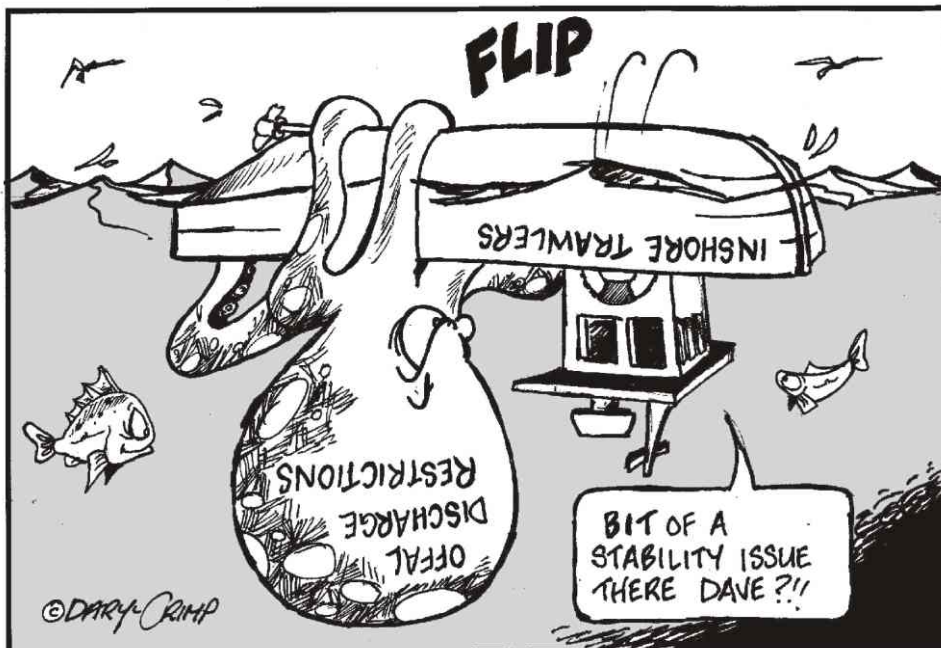
"It's great to see Chile's effort to reduce seabird bycatch, particularly since we share many birds. As Carlos said during his presentation, "you breed them, but we feed them", says Deepwater Group Chief Executive Officer George Clement. "The seabird bycatch issue is truly a 'think global, but act local' issue we've got to be responsive to the issue in our



John Bennett and Malcolm McNeil at the SSS workshop. Credit Shelley Biswell

own fisheries, but also aware that international cooperation is necessary if we're going to solve this problem."

Andrew Bond, Industry Liaison Manager, Sanford Ltd says, "Here in New Zealand we've made a lot of good strides in terms of seabird bycatch through codes of practices, raising the profile of the issue, trialling and implementing successful mitigation measures, stakeholders working more collaboratively, and, yes, through regulation. But there still appears to be a problem in some fisheries and there are still too many fisheries that we don't know



WHICH COUSIN OF MINE IS THIS?



This month's cousin is an enthusiastic scavenger.

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: Southern Giant Petrel white morph

enough about. From where I stand it feels like we still need to continue to clean up our own backyard. The job is not yet finished."

Workshop participants agreed that the clean up needs to happen as soon as possible. After all, seabirds are the most threatened family of birds in the world, with albatrosses and petrels faring particularly poorly overall. From a more pragmatic angle, there is also a growing commercial imperative to use seabird-safe fishing practices.

There was also a technical side to the workshop. Carlos discussed the *Cachaloteras* which he developed with fishermen to stop whales from taking the catch off of longlines in the Chilean toothfish fishery as an added bonus the device also stops seabird bycatch. Hans Jusseit of Australia, an ex-tuna longline fisherman turned inventor, showcased his Smart Hook System which should be on the market in mid-2009. John Bennett, skipper of New

Zealand's *Antarctic Chieftain*, discussed the Kiwi Longline Setting Tunnel. The tunnel was part of an overall retrofit on the vessel that allows baited hooks to be released closer to the water's surface.

The next step for the Trust's management committee is to harness the ideas from the workshop and turn them into workable solutions.

The Southern Seabird Solutions Trust is supported financially by the Department of Conservation, and the fishing industry through the New Zealand Seafood Industry Council and the Deepwater Group Ltd. The Trust is also supported by WWF-New Zealand. Funding for the Trust's projects comes from a variety of sources, both within and outside New Zealand, and includes financial contributions from supporters, grants, sponsorship and services in kind.

Once completed, the review workshop report will be available at www.southernseabirds.org (Shelley Biswell, SSS)

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



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