

Presentation of the Report of the 10th Meeting of
the Ecologically Related Species Working Group
from the ERSWG Chair

Commission for the Conservation of
Southern Bluefin Tuna



みなみまぐろ保存委員会

Ecologically Related Species Working Group

Report of Meeting 10
28-31 August 2013
Canberra, Australia

Terms of Reference - ERSWG

- The Ecologically Related Species Working Group will report to the Commission through the Scientific Committee.
- The Scientific Committee may provide comments to the Commission on the reports (including advice and recommendations) of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group.

New information provided

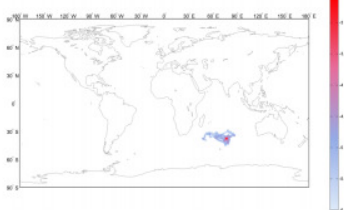
7 National reports; 22 Papers; 13 Info papers

Selection of papers on seabirds

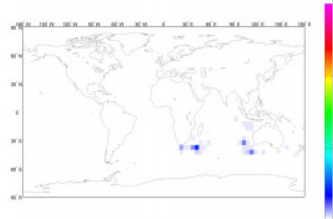
- Updated Ecological Risk Assessment of seabirds (New Zealand)
- Analysis of some factors affecting seabird bycatch (Japan)
- Improved branch line weighting regimes (Australia)
- Update on status of seabirds (ACAP)

Ecological Risk Analyses for Seabirds

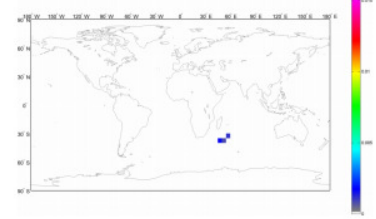
Seasonal bird distribution
Q1 – austral summer



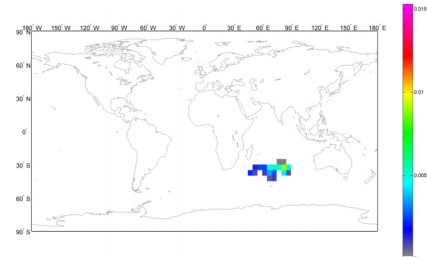
Seasonal fishing effort distribution



Seasonal species risk

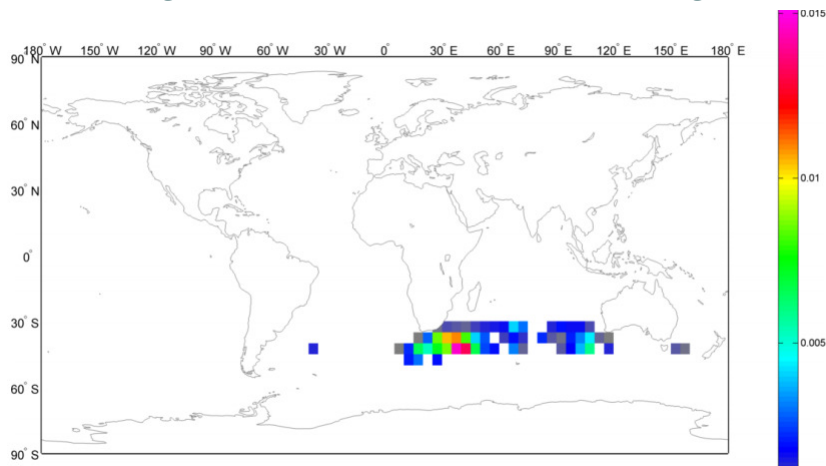


The ERA is semi-quantitative and produces estimates of relative risk. It combines information on overlap of fishing and seabird distribution, the biological characteristics of each species, and observed rates of interactions in the fishery. Estimates of vulnerability are based on the NZ fleet.



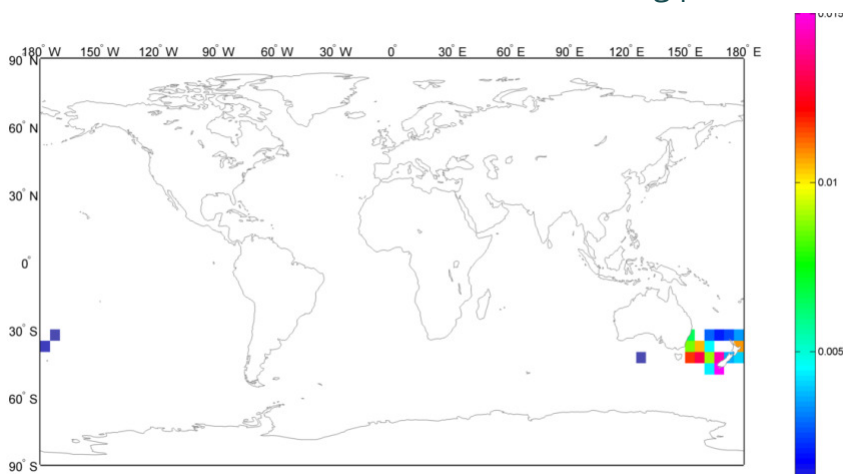
Ecological Risk Analyses for Seabirds

- Wandering Albatross (Vulnerable – 8k breeding pairs)



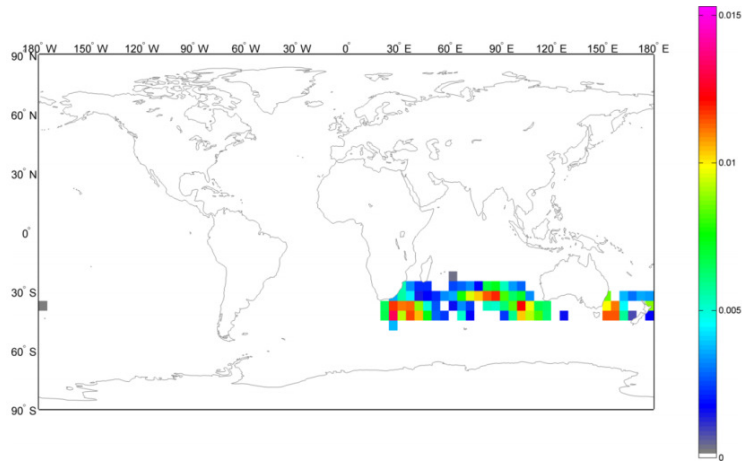
Ecological Risk Analyses for Seabirds

- Gibson's Albatross (Vulnerable - 5k Breeding pairs)



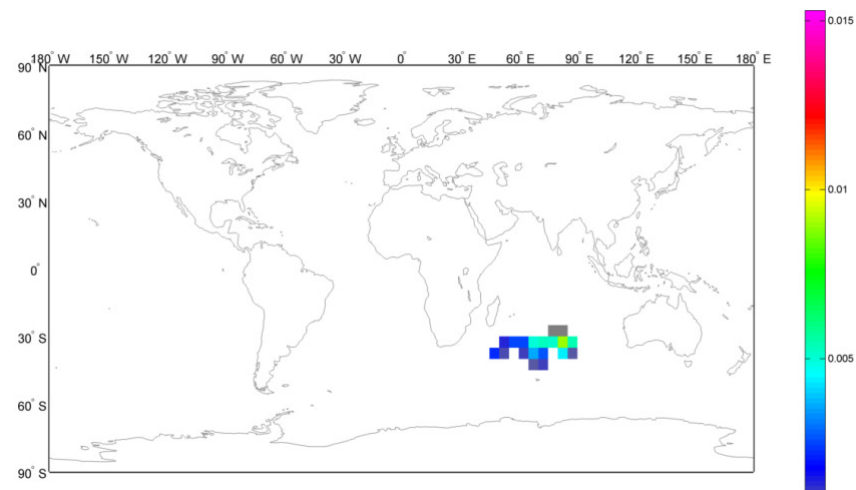
Ecological Risk Analyses for Seabirds

- Indian yellow-nosed Albatross (Endangered – 39k breeding pairs)



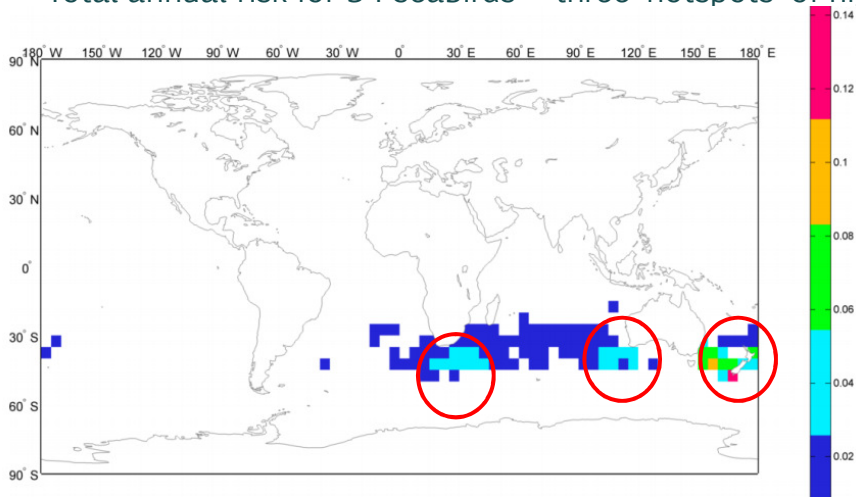
Ecological Risk Analyses for Seabirds

- Amsterdam Albatross (Critically endangered – 30 breeding pairs)



Ecological Risk Analyses for Seabirds

- Total annual risk for 34 seabirds – three ‘hotspots’ of higher risk



New information provided

Selection of papers on sharks

- Distribution and trend in abundance of the porbeagle in the southern hemisphere (Japan)
- Proposal for joint stock assessment of porbeagle (New Zealand)
- Summary of the status of key shark species in tuna RFMOs (Australia)
- Implementing CITES Measures for Commercially - Valuable Sharks and Manta Rays (Traffic)

Recommendations and advice to the Extended Commission

Reinforcement of previous concerns about the effect of SBT fishing on seabirds, and reiteration of advice from previous report with respect to seabirds:

- (in part) “... that implementation of more effective mitigation measures based on best practice* is urgently required”

*best practice mitigation measures is to use all three of
line weighting,
night setting and
bird streamer lines

Recommendations and advice to the Extended Commission

The ERSWG advises that:

- The current ERA identified higher risk areas south west of Australia, east of South Africa and in the Tasman Sea;
- Further improvement of risk assessments should be explored;
- Implementation of effective seabird bycatch mitigation measures should not be delayed while ERAs are progressed;
- Species identification could be improved using DNA technology;
and
- The effectiveness of current mitigation measures needs to be measured and monitored (technical working group formed to progress this).

Recommendations and advice to the Extended Commission

The ERSWG advises that:

- a small intersessional working group be formed to progress the assessment of porbeagle sharks;
- the Extended Commission consider actions to reinvigorate the Joint Technical Bycatch Working Group as its work may assist in the ERSWG's work on sharks and other ERS.

Other ERS activities

- First Agreed Data exchange undertaken & attempt at synthesis of ERS data.
- Review of sections of observer standards concerning ERS.
- ERS pamphlets finalised (in all Member languages)
- Seabird Identification guide (for all tuna RFMOs - ACAP leading)
- Future workplan updated
- Next meeting was proposed for March 2015