



BirdLife International

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**Global Seabird  
Programme**

S A V I N G   S E A S   F O R   S E A B I R D S

# The Global Seabird Programme...



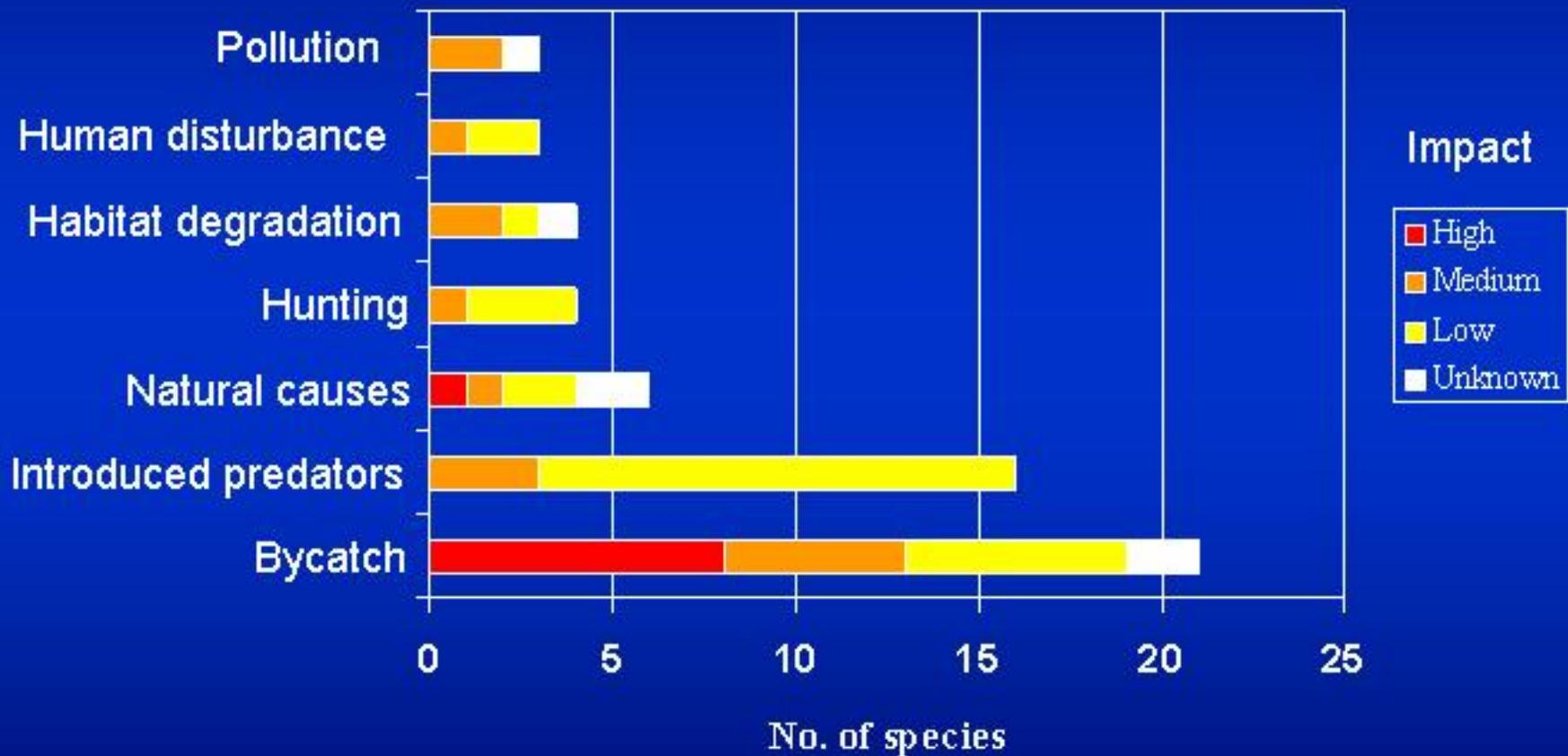
- Many species are highly migratory including the high seas
- Face common threats, most pervasive threat mortality at-sea
  - so, limited effectiveness of national efforts in isolation
  - site based threats addressed more effectively by national efforts
- 1997 - BL identified a need for an internationally coordinated programme

## LONG-LIVED or LONG-LINED???

- 19 of 21 species of albatross are threatened with extinction (IUCN Red List) and all five members of *Procellaria* genus
- Primary threat to most species is mortality in longline (and trawl) fisheries

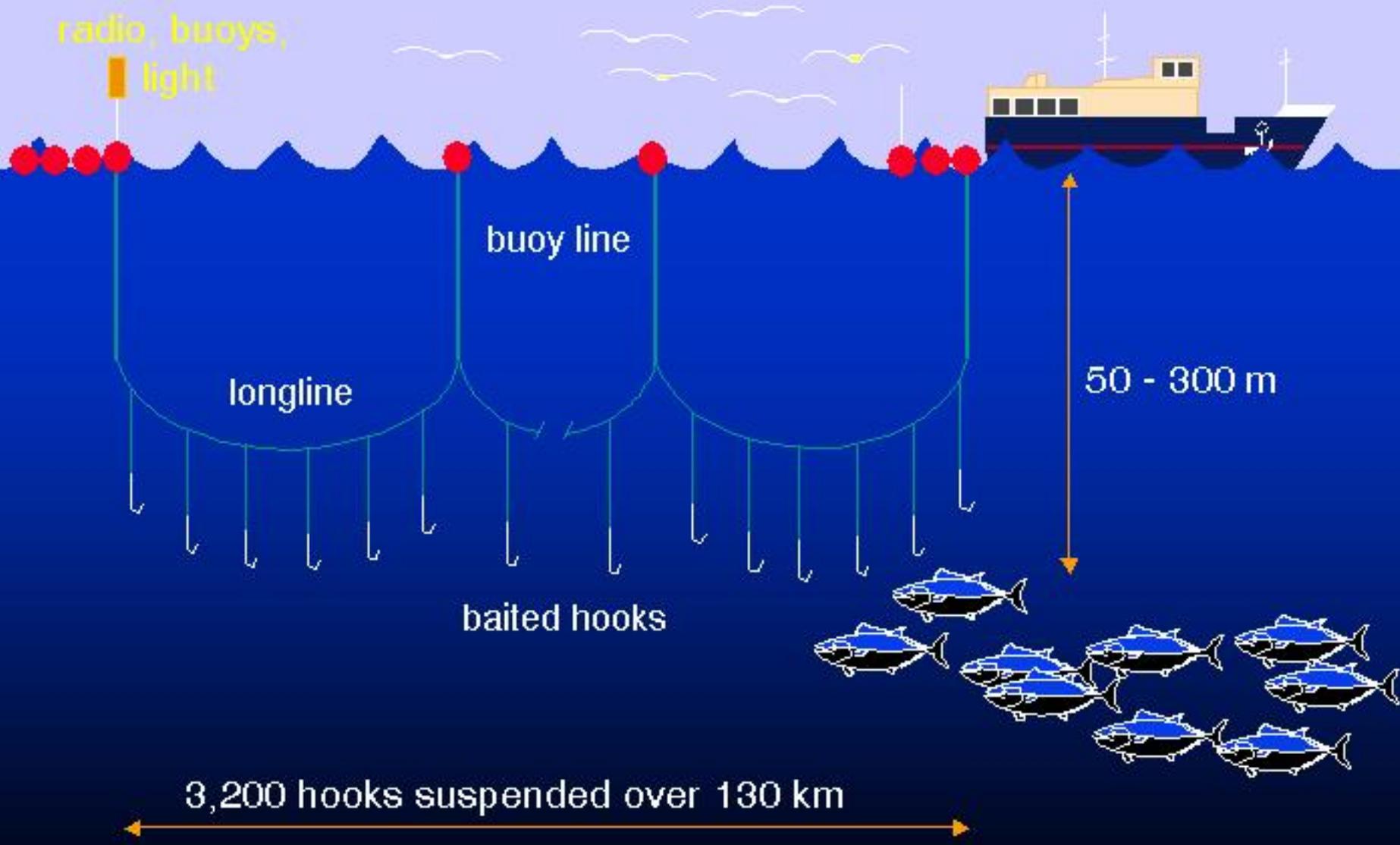


# Threats to albatrosses and petrels



# Surface longlining for tunas and swordfish

radio, buoys,  
light



buoy line

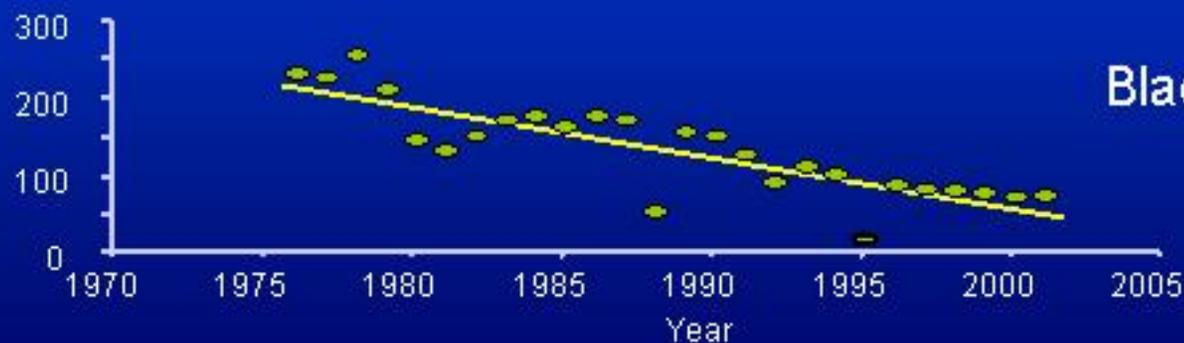
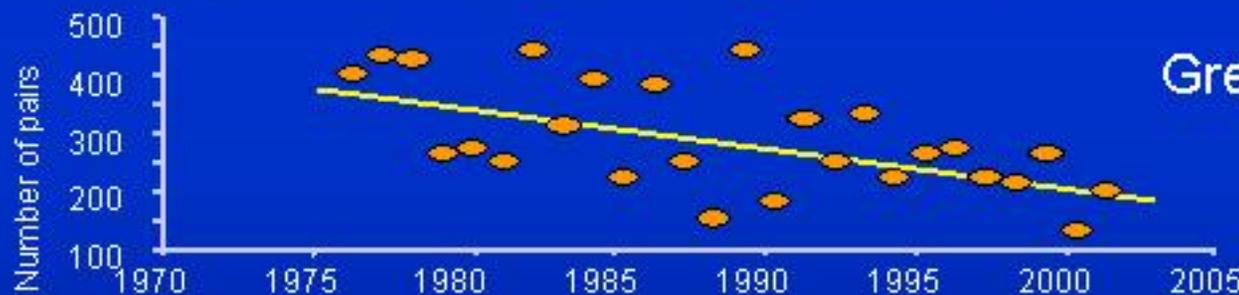
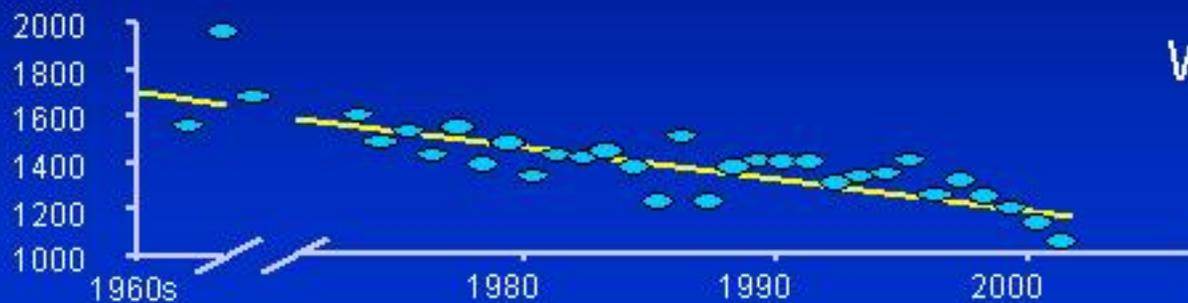
longline

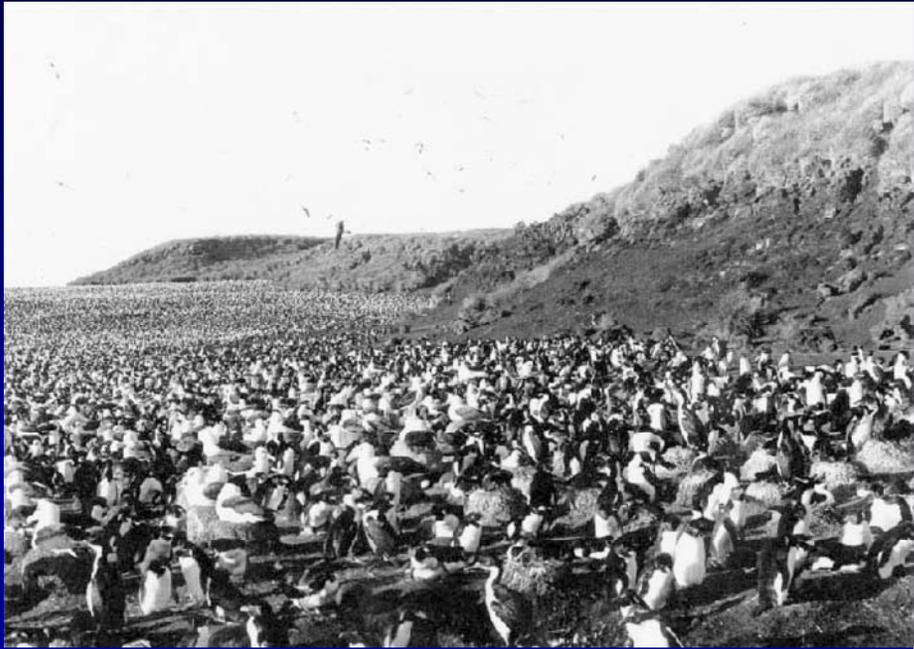
50 - 300 m

baited hooks

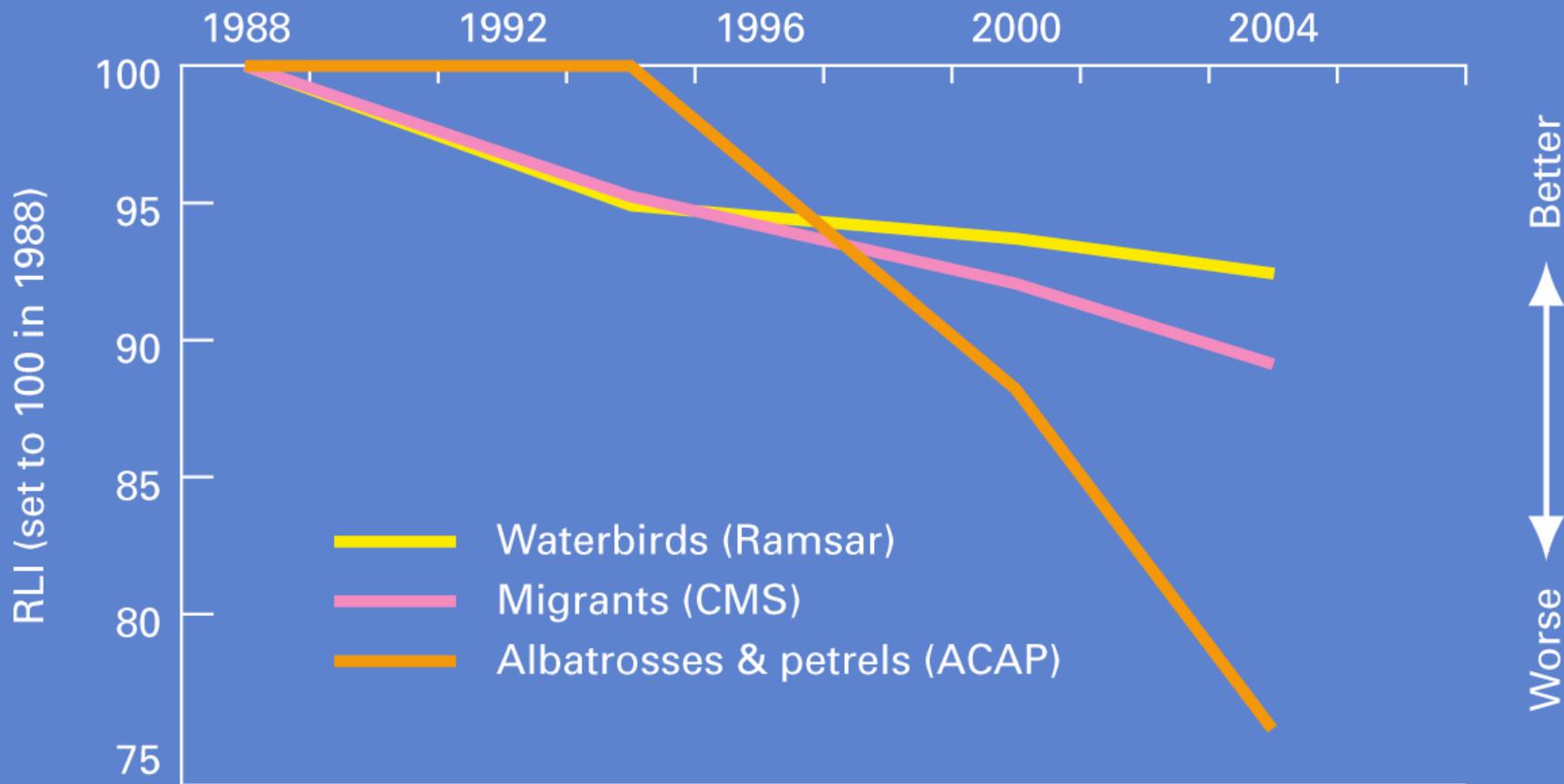
3,200 hooks suspended over 130 km

# Albatross at South Georgia are decreasing at an alarming rate





# Relative decline of seabirds/waterbirds



# BirdLife International Global Seabird Programme



Regional coordinator

Main BL partners

Esteban Frere



# How do we apply potential solutions?

(1) Where are the critical areas

- Bycatch data
- *Tracking Ocean Wanderers*

} Delivering Science

(2) Who is responsible for management action?

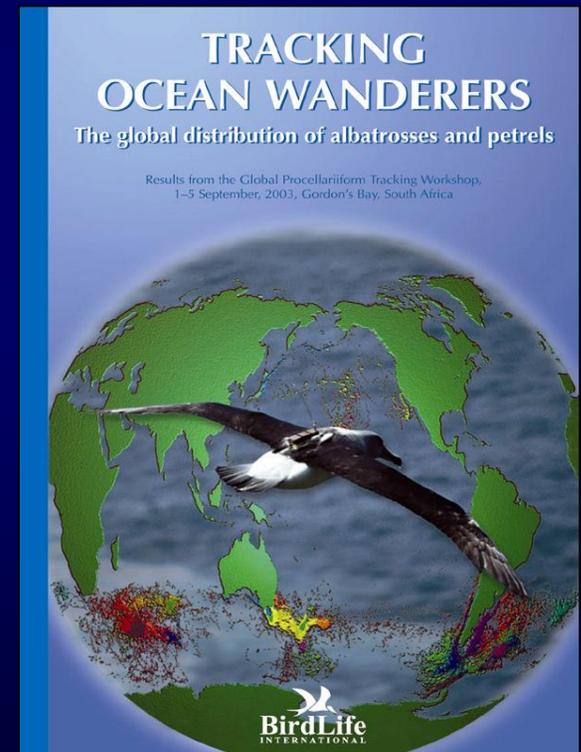
- Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ)
- ‘high seas’ → RFMOs

(3) How do we most effectively target these countries/organisations?

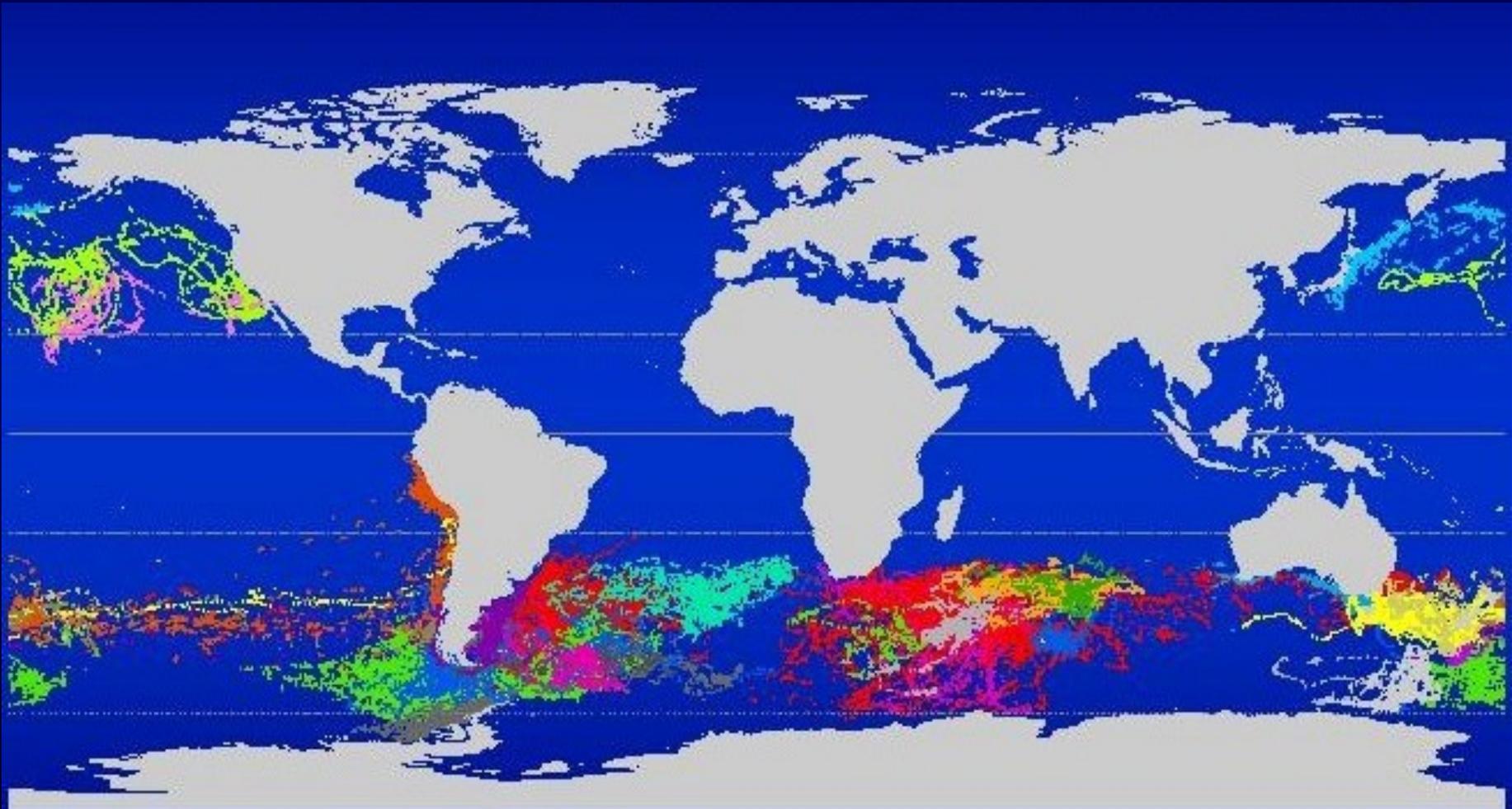
- Advocacy – improve ocean governance and management
- Action – collaborative action to work with fishermen and management bodies to reduce seabird mortality

# *Tracking Ocean Wanderers*

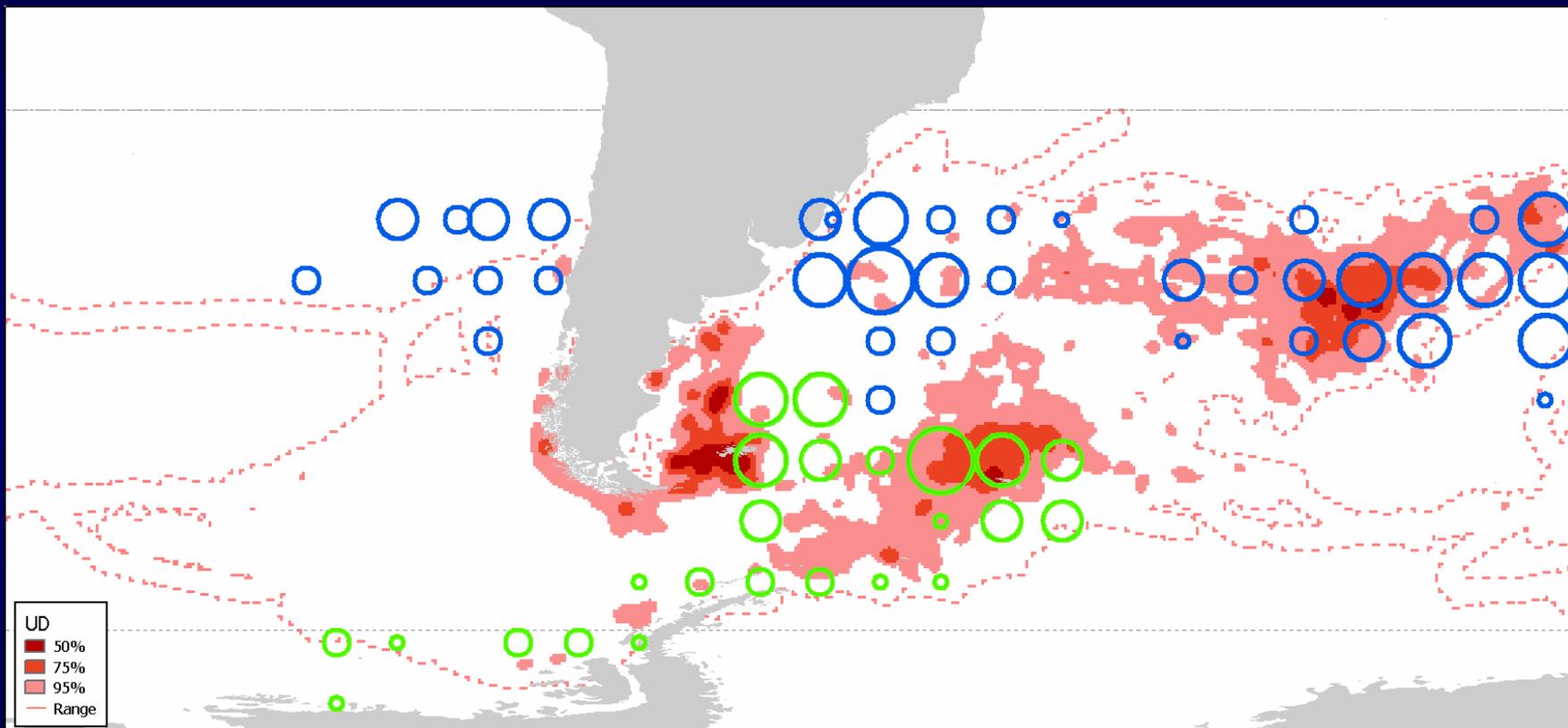
- Remote tracking database - powerful international scientific resource, managed by the GSP
- Summarises 90% of remote tracking data for albatrosses and petrels
- New level of understanding of seabird distribution in space and time and overlap with fishing effort (bycatch 'hotspots') in EEZ and 'high seas'



# Data points in remote tracking database



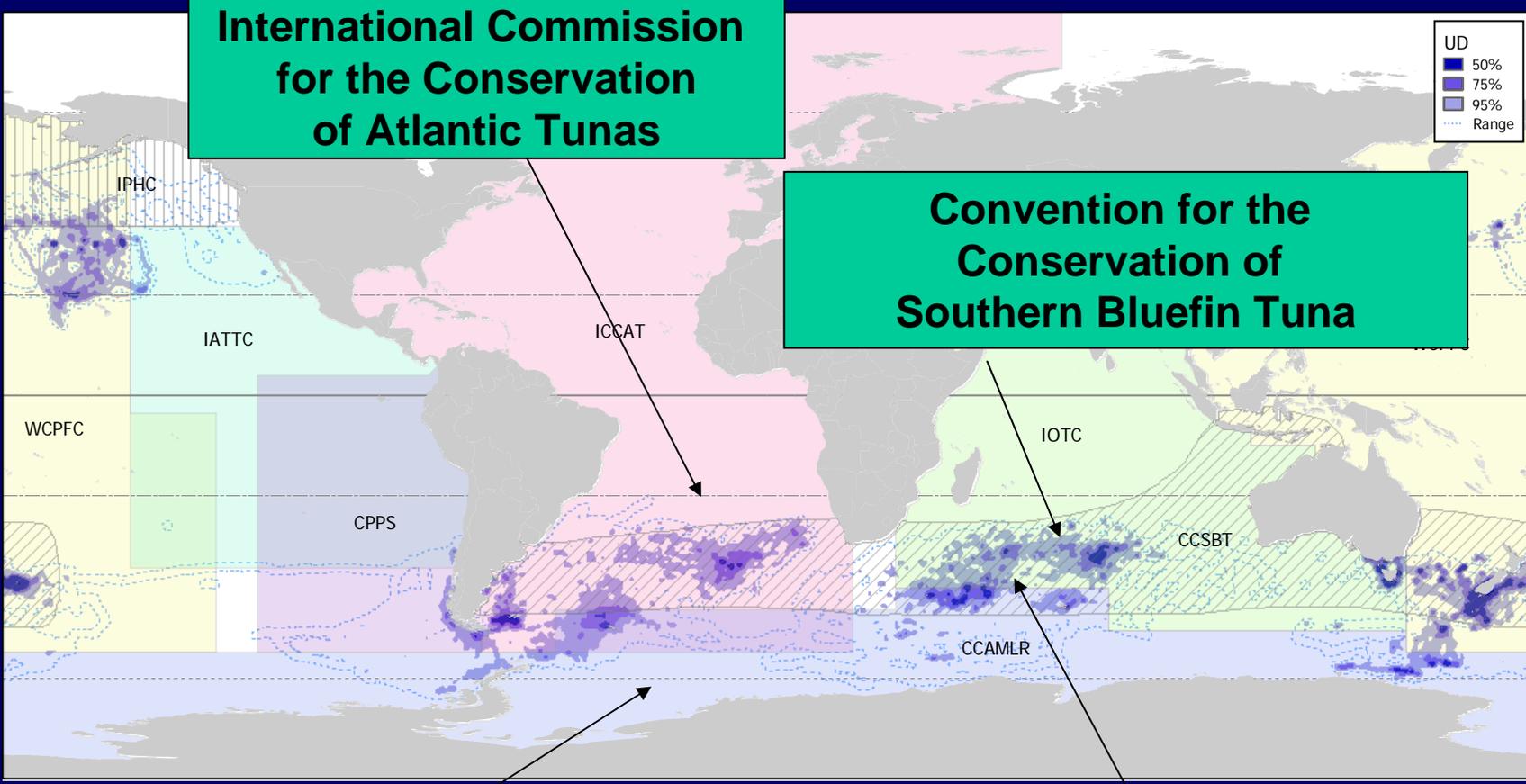
# Overlap with longline fishing effort



Overlap of the combined density grid of breeding albatrosses and petrels with total pelagic effort (blue) and demersal effort (green) for 1998.

Fisheries data from Tuck *et al.* (2003)

# RFMOs: central to sustainable oceans



Overlap of the combined density grid of breeding albatrosses

**Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources**

**Indian Ocean Tuna Commission**

Management

# Variation and progress in RFMO performance

## Albatross distribution

	CCSBT	WCPFC	IOTC	ICCAT	CCAMLR
1. Mandate includes non-target species	■	■	□	□	■
2. Commitment to minimising bycatch	◼	■	□	□	■
3. Bycatch sub-group	◼	■	■	◼	■
4. On-Board Observer programme	□	◼	.	.	■
5. Albatross bycatch mitigation	□	□	□	.	■

(Red indicates progress made since Small 2005)

# CCAMLR

## Reduction of seabird bycatch in longline fisheries

**1997: 6589 seabirds**



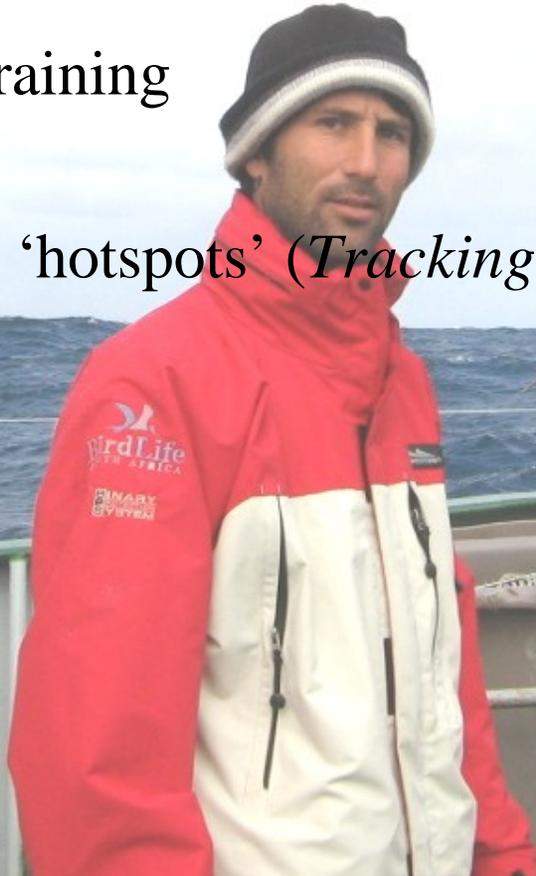
**2003: 15 seabirds**



***A 99% reduction***

# Albatross Task Force

- First team of international instructors to demonstrate to fishermen the adoption of mitigation measures
- At-sea and on-shore training
- Target global bycatch 'hotspots' (*Tracking Ocean Wanderers*)



# Albatross Task Force

- Create links with government to generate incentives for the adoption of mitigation measures
- Provide capacity in developing countries to meet commitments under international law and policy framework
- Phase I - Argentina, Brazil, Chile, South Africa (2006)
- Phase II - Namibia, Peru, Uruguay, Ecuador.

# EL EQUIPO DEL ALBATROSS TASK FORCE



**BRASIL**



**FABIANO PEPPE**

**ANTONIO MIGUEL MIGUÉIS**



**SUDAFRICA**



**MARIA HONIG**

**MEIDAD GOREN**

# ATF in Brazil

Coordination: Projeto Albatroz

2 Instructors working from September 2006:

- Santos Harbor (Fabiano)
- Itajai Harbor (Antonio Miguel)



# PROJETO ALBATROZ

## Base de Itajaí – SC - Brasil

- ACCIONES ATF EN ITAJAI**



Montaje de Toriline  
en los barcos  
AKIRA V y AKIRA 0



PROJETO ALBATROZ  
Base de Itajaí - SC



# PROJETO ALBATROZ

## Base de Itajaí – SC - Brasil

### • ACCIONES DE DIVULGACION

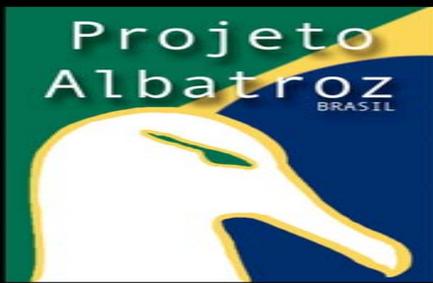


AMPLA DIVULGACION  
EM LOS MEDIA  
(TV, Radio y Periódicos)

GRANDE DIVULGACION EN  
COMPANIAS DE PESCA



Y PARA PESCADORES



PROJETO ALBATROZ  
Base de Itajaí - SC



# PROJETO ALBATROZ

## Base de Itajaí – SC - Brasil

### • ACCIONES DE PROMOCION



EN LA EXPONAUUS 2006  
DE NAUTICA DE ITAJAI





PROJETO ALBATROZ  
Base de Itajaí - SC



# PROJETO ALBATROZ

## Base de Itajaí – SC - Brasil

- ACCIONES PARA EDUCACION

I FORUM PARA UMA PESCA MAIS PRODUTIVA E RESPONSÁVEL



PROJETO ALBATROZ  
Base de Itajaí - SC



Data : 27 e 28 de Dezembro 2006  
Local : CEPsul/IBAMA (Itajaí-SC)

# ATF in Chile

Start 2007:

Dr. Carlos Moreno (UACH) – CBA (Centro Ballena Azul)

Pelagic longline fleet (Artisanal and Industrial) fishing  
Swordfish.

Center and Norte Chile (Valparaíso hasta Caldera).

## OBJECTIVES

- Achieve a full coverage of the fleet with observers on board.
- To train instructors on mitigation measurements and form leaders of the fishing fleet.

# ATF in Argentina

Start 2007

Lic. Fabián Rabuffetti – Aves Argentinas

Industrial trawlers (freezers and fresh fish)

Mar del Plata and north Patagonia)

## Objectives

- Instructors for the use and test of MM on board.
- Improve the coverage of the National Observer Programme (in terms of seabird by-catch).

# Marine IBAs

## Using species data to find the most important sites

- Seaward extension of breeding colonies
- Important foraging areas for pelagic species
- Coastal concentrations of non-breeding birds
- Migration hotspots



# Marine IBAs Recent Progress

## Briefing paper for Partnership

- Review of relevant data on foraging radii
- Inventory of existing IBAs for seabirds
- Inventory of seabirds-at-sea data and assessment of utility for marine biome designation



# Advocacy

- National
  - Marine IBAs / Marine Protected Areas
  - National Plans of Action to reduce seabird bycatch
- International
  - Convention on Biological Diversity
  - ACAP: Agreement on Conservation of Albatrosses & Petrels
  - UN Fish Stocks Agreement
  - Regional Fisheries Management Organisations



# Future opportunities and challenges



- Non-native eradications
- Fisheries certification
- Habitat/site protection
- Pollution/shipping