

Photo of Short-tailed Albatross

Seabirds

Short-tailed Albatross

Phoebastria albatrus

SPECIES STATUS:

Federally listed as Endangered

State listed as Endangered

IUCN Red List Ranking-Vulnerable

SPECIES INFORMATION: Egg laying occurs from late October-November with chicks fledging in June and maturation reached at 5-6 years on average. They are monogamous. Like other Albatross, they are surface feeders and scavengers and can be found trailing fishing vessels. They feed mainly inshore.

DISTRIBUTION: Historical accounts of successful breeding in the Hawaiian Islands is unconfirmed. However, individuals are known to regularly visit the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands with birds having laid eggs at Midway.

Map of Short-tailed distribution

ABUNDANCE: The worldwide estimated population is 1,700 individuals. Estimated populations for Hawai'i are ?

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: Oceanic islands and atolls are the habitat preferred for breeding sites. Short-tailed Albatross are often found amongst nesting sites of both the Laysan and Black-footed Albatross in the NWHI. Marine habitat is pelagic.

THREATS: Historically threatened with extinction by the millinery trade. Current threats include bycatch in commercial fisheries, marine pollution, plastics, and oil spills.

CONSERVATION ACTIONS: The goals of conservation actions are to not only protect current populations, but to also establish further populations to reduce the risk of extinction. Past actions have included efforts to mitigate the impact of longline fisheries and predator

control. In addition to common state-wide and island conservation actions, specific actions include:

- Establish breeding pairs at Midway;
- Develop a recovery plan that supports actions to increase populations;

MONITORING:

- Continue surveys of population and distribution in known and likely habitats with attention on creating a rigorous demographic population monitoring program to track population trends including age-specific survival rates;

RESEARCH PRIORITIES:

- Examine mortality from fisheries and its affect on overall populations;
- Continue research and development concerning bycatch mitigation measures for fisheries.

References:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2005. Regional Seabird Conservation Plan, Pacific Region. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Birds and Habitat Programs, Pacific Region. Portland, Oregon.

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. <http://www.redlist.org/search/details.php?species=40282>