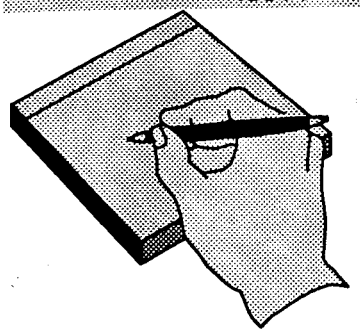
Southern Oceans Seabird Study Association Inc.

" Wildlife Research "

ISSUE No. 17

" ALBATROSS "
NEWSLETTER ——— MARCH 1998
Issue No. 17



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EDITORIAL

The sudden loss of Peter Prince of the British Antarctic Survey has saddened us all very deeply. The loss of such a brilliant seabird biologist and friend has come as a great blow to seabird research the world over. We extend our heart felt sympathy to Peter's family and his many friends.

On a lighter note it is great to see a few more interesting articles being contributed to the newsletter from fellow members of SOSSA. It shows the diverse nature of our membership, their interest in our oceanic environments and their inhabitants. Tony Ashby of the Brisbane Seabird Study group, gives us an interesting insight into various marine habitats and their importance to the distribution of birds at sea.

Bronwyn Jarman presents an insight into the trials and tribulations of rehabilitation of Little Penguins, especially when one of her charges mysteriously escapes.

Allan Keast sheds some light on the history of the Five Islands Nature Reserve and the biological survey of Consett Davis and others, into these amazing Islands. Allan first visited the Five Islands in 1942 and after an absence of almost 56 years, returned in 1997. Allan has written a rather in-depth article on the changes that have occurred there in over a half a century. We hope to present further extracts of his notes in future issues of the Albatross.

In the past I have been criticised, that the Albatross Newsletter is rather "chatty" and informal. I am happy to accept this criticism as it represents exactly what we are trying to achieve.
The Albatross is an attempt to bridge the void between the scientists and the lay people who are interested in what is happening in our marine environments. Much of the information currently available on the distribution of marine creatures be they birds, mammals, fishes or other has been collected by interested amateurs, people who find the scientific literature is too stodgy and generally beyond the scope of their interest.

For the academics amongst us there are many excellent scientific journals available in which to publish their works or to refer to. There is however a dearth of magazines, newsletters etc, in which the lay person can share their interest and their findings without fear of persecution by their peers, be they academic or just interested parties. Hopefully the Albatross presents them with a forum in which they are encouraged to have their say and enjoy the experiences of others. **Ed.**

PETER A. PRINCE
1948-1998
The Legend Lives On

I once met an Englishman, one who wrote of albatrosses great and small. He spoke of distant lands of ice and snow, of mammals and birds galore. A land of history, of whaling stations since past, and of "Seal and Penguin Pots" that boiled no

more. He spoke of colleagues near and far, of Gibson, Sefton, Tickell and Croxall and others too many to mention on this page. I am sure that had you have met this remarkable man. He would have left his indelible mark. His enthusiasm and passion for seabirds, was infectious, as was his cheeky smile.

A scientist of the highest order, studying albatross at Bird Island, South Georgia in the South Atlantic Ocean. Where fierce gales blow almost constantly and huge seas pound the shores. Here, he found the link to our meeting, the majestic "Snowy "albatross, *Diomedea chionoptera* the bird of myth and legend.

Here too, at Wollongong (aka Wolly'gong) on the south east coast of NSW Australia. The NSW Albatross Study Group was studying the very same birds. This, we had learned from our colleagues, Gibson and Tickell. The first to record the fact that these birds migrated or commuted between the two sites. As did birds from the South Indian Ocean, from Crozets Arch and Prince Edward Island. They came also from the sub Antarctic islands of New Zealand, from the Auckland Is, and the Antipodes. These latter birds were new to Pete. Harry, Janice and I were very happy to point out the subtle differences between them!!.

1 Snowy (*Diomedea exulans*) *chionoptera* Big White Buggers.
2. Gibson's (*D.e gibsoni*)
3. Little Brown Job. (*D.e antipodensis*)

In return Pete taught us how to assess the state of moult in Great Albatrosses and Mollies alike. This we use to determine age and status of the birds visiting our region. Pete was instrumental in the proposing the worlds first Albatross Conference in Tasmania in 1995, where in one place at one time were the worlds foremost seabird people, scientists and naturalists alike. Peter was an ambassador for the British Antarctic Survey and for seabirds, of which BAS can be truly proud.
"Pete" was many things, to many people.

For Peter Prince, to us. It was our "Friendship" as People, Naturalists and Scientists alike.

Our first encounter with Peter in the flesh, so to speak, was hauling him out of Sydney Airport at 05:00 hrs, jet lagged by the long flight. The luxury of which I left my bed at 03:00hrs!!, believe me when I say, we do not get mean, we just get even!. Within hours we had him on the water catching and introducing him to, Big White Bugger's, Gibson's albatross and Little Brown Jobs.

Trial by Water, no doubt!. Somehow Peter survived and returned to England. On his return to us, he brought with him his family , Fran, Oliver and Guy. It was with great excitement and awe! that we introduced the boys to albatrosses, great and small. Birds of myth and legend, one and all!. At least in the stories told by their dad!. After all, he did work with them down Bird Island way!.

Sadly, Peter Prince died suddenly of a heart attack at his home in Caxton U.K. on February 25th 1998 at the age of 49. In the world of seabird research and conservation, Peter is simply irreplaceable. His enthusiasm and expertise will be sadly missed by all who knew him, the world over.

SHORE LINES.

SOSSA has agreed to assist the Little Penguin Recovery Team, with the Recovery Plan for the endangered Little Penguin (*Eudyptula minor*) population at Manly. SOSSA has agreed to assist in banding and monitoring birds from this site and it's importance as "critical habitat" to the colony.

Fairy Terns nesting at Wallagot Lake
on the Far South coast NSW.
Geoff Duggan.

Monday December 7 1997, I observed 8 Little Terns displaying and nesting on a small island in Wallagot Lake near Merimbula on the NSW far south coast. They were engaging in courtship behaviour ie. presenting fish, flying together & sitting as if on eggs. I was unable to see any eggs as the island was approximately 50 metres away with dunes and undulations obscuring my view. However a couple of birds settled and appeared to be brooding eggs drawing them under them with their bills and gently settling on them. On my next visit Monday January 5th 1998 the Little Terns were feeding at least 6 fledglings. I also observed 6 Fairy Terns in very close proximity, some along side the Little Terns, two Fairy Terns went through the motions of settling on eggs. No Fairy Terns were observed to feed chicks. This is the second time in three years that the Little Terns and Fairy Terns have been observed nesting together here on Wallagot Lake. Barbara Jones of the far South Coast Birdwatchers Club first observed the birds nesting together previously. (No date given). Ed.

CONSETT DAVIS & THE FIVE ISLANDS BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Allan Keast

The distinguished ecologist Consett Davis (who, incidentally, has been the only person to gain First Class Honours Year IV in both Botany and Zoology from the University of Sydney), M. F. Day and D. F. Waterhouse in the late 1930's initiated a comprehensive ecological study of the Five Islands. Objectives were as follow

(Davis et al 1938, page 357): "The absence of any synecological study of the plant and animal complex (biome) of the terrestrial community in Australia has made impossible the practical principles of animal ecology. In particular, this lack has handicapped the teaching of animal ecology and has prevented the subject receiving the attention which it merits. With this in mind, the present survey was undertaken rather with a view to illustrate general principles with local examples than to develop special theory". In choosing the Five Islands Davis et al were obviously attracted by the special features outlined above; known date of isolation; relatively simple ecosystems with minimal diversity; a level of isolation that would permit the quantification of colonisations processes. Consett Davis was the major moving force. The initial report published in 1938 defined all the major historical physical and biological features of the islands and is a major document of importance in itself. It summarises all the then known geological information; defines and quantifies all the plant communities at this time; and provides an initial list of all the plant species, insect species and vertebrates. When I met Consett in 1939 he had been abandoned by his co-authors (Day was on the way to becoming one of the CSIRO Division of Entomology) and was continuing the survey on his own. In the course of several subsequent trips he continued to build up a faunal inventory, document seasonal shifts in the biota, year to year changes were carefully documented. On every trip he tried to visit all islands, though seas commonly made this impossible. On more than one occasion we in the boat stood offshore and Davis dived into the surf to struggle up on to the shore of Island 5 to reappear half an hour later with a bag of specimens but with his stomach torn and bloody from being scraped on the cunjevoi on the rocks on landing. His indefatigable nature was illustrated when we were both on No. 5; a massive black and orange wasp came into view, he had no means of securing and keeping it so it was grabbed by hand and help despite an extremely painful sting. (Interesting in this November 1997 trip I saw such a wasp on Island 4; hence, it is probably a resident on the islands. I, to, had no means of securing it, had catching it been possible: I certainly would not have had the Davis dedication!). Consett joined the Army shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War; so anxious was he that he entered as a private, though his training would have demanded a higher rank. He was subsequently killed in an air crash near Lae, New Guinea. Hence, the Five Islands Survey was stopped dead in its tracks.

FIVE ISLANDS REPORT

It's March and the breeding season for many of the birds breeding on the islands is coming to an end. The Silver Gulls were all gone by late February, we almost miss that raucous cacophony as they scream at you in defiance of your intrusion. Though we are constantly aware that we share the shelter of the Consett Davis Hut with three very noisy Little Penguins moulting under the floor. Along with the usual data collection of the breeding success of the birds breeding there, we have also had to juggle our time to allow us to continue working on getting the "Consett Davis" Research Hut set up. Many people have assisted in various ways to ensure that we have a research station that will serve us for many years to come. This will allow us to gain far greater understanding of the complex nature of the bio-diversity of these amazing islands and their importance to sea and shorebirds. Sir David Attenborough during a recent visit remarked that the Five Islands was the "Jewel in the Crown " of the Illawarra. Michael Jarman and Damien Stanioch have, with the assistance of others, Ed. included, have been able to collect a great deal of data on the breeding biology of the Wedge-tailed Shearwater and Sooty Oystercatcher this season, with some further data on Little Penguin and Australian Pelican. This has been made possible with the continuing support of our sponsors.

MARINE HABITAT REPORT
THE LOCATION OF BIRDS AT SEA

Tony Ashby

This year is "The Year Of The Oceans", so, I suppose it is appropriate to review recent findings regarding the interaction between oceanographic features and the position of birds at sea in our region. The study of seabirds at sea has over the past ten years or so has undergone a considerable widening in scope due to the advent of more readily available satellite sourced data. The whole of the Australian coastline is now comprehensively covered by satellite, giving oceanographic and climatic information at a level not previously possible. The CSIRO Marine Research division can now produce satellite imagery covering sea surface temperature (SST), ocean currents and more recently oceanographic chlorophyll concentration, for the seas around Australia. This report basically covers the Coral/Tasman sea complex, but could equally be prepared for other parts of Australia with the information now available. From satellite imagery provided by the CSIRO Marine Research and weekly SST and sea current maps available from the hydrographic section of the Royal Australian Navy, coupled with observations at sea a number of marine habitats have been pin pointed.

String Currents in the main east coast current. These currents are normally quite narrow (20-200m) but flow southward continuously for many kilometres often carrying large quantities of biological matter, probably from the Great Barrier Reef to the north. These string currents have often been observed to support numbers of foraging seabirds and could well explain the ability of warm water preferring birds, such as the Streaked Shearwater (*Calonectris leucoptera*)to penetrate at least as far south as Wollongong NSW.

The Tasman Front, a sinuous west to east extension of the East Coast Current that flows across the Tasman Sea towards the North Island of New Zealand. The Front basically divides the warm waters of the Coral Sea from the cooler waters of the Tasman Sea. It also appears to act as a division between warm water preferring birds and those preferring cooler waters. The appearance of albatrosses some distance north of the Tasman Front is quite an unusual event. Conversely the sighting of a

Tahiti Petrel (*Pseudobulweria rostrata*) south of the Tasman Front is an uncommon occurrence.

Warm Core Eddies are large eddies of warm water produced by the action of the East Coast Current. These eddies are biological Islands that contain biota transported from the north Coral Sea. These eddies move slowly southwards in the cooler waters of the Tasman Sea and at the edges, where the warm and cool waters interact there are areas of high bio-productivity. These areas are targeted by Tuna Boats and it has been reported by personnel aboard these vessels that large numbers of seabirds can be present with the schools of Tuna.

Upwellings of the scale of those of Peru are not present in the Tasman Sea, so more subtle types of upwelling must be searched for. As the East Coast Current snakes it's way south it does in fact move on and off the continental shelf and because of this action gets deflected offshore by such promontories as Cape Byron and Smokey Cape. The shearing action between the deflected stream and the inshore wedge of water causes local upwellings in these areas. The Queensland Sea Mount which is located approximately 160 kilometres east of Southport sits within the East Coast Current and theoretically protrudes far enough above the sea floor to impinge on the current and cause upwelling. The Brisbane Seabird Study Group is proposing to visit the seamount and test this theory hopefully in the first half of 1998.

Oceanographic winds are the other significant influence on seabird location. Wind patterns can influence the movement of birds at sea in two basic ways. Firstly fierce storms such as those associated with cyclones can push both foraging and migrating birds considerable distances out of their way and often in extreme conditions into estuaries and bays for shelter. Secondly large scale relatively low velocity winds such as Trades can manoeuvre migrating birds to the edges of their migratory path envelopes mainly because of the persistence of such winds over long distances. The South East Trades are closely related to ENSO (El Nino Southern Oscillation) and when the SOI (Southern Oscillation Index) becomes negative then the Trades tend to die and on some occasions westerly winds can occur. So it could be suggested that for southerly migrating trans-equatorial birds the SOI has a significant effect on the pathway flown.

High and low atmospheric cells in the Tasman Sea which can be many hundreds of kilometres in diameter cause anti-clockwise and clockwise winds respectively but often with only moderate velocities. These large scale features particularly high pressure cells located in the Tasman Sea can have major percussions for the Brisbane area in certain years. New Zealand migrants such as Australasian Gannet (*Sula serrata*) and White-fronted Tern (*Sterna striata*) use the east west flow of air around the northern edge of a high pressure cell to fly from N.Z. to SE Queensland. Also a high pressure cell in this same position will manoeuvre passage migrant birds flying south into the coastal waters of East Australia. Conversely if the cell is a low then the expected passage would be closer to N.Z. Migrating birds such as the Mottled Petrels (*Pterodroma inexpectata*) seen in October 1996 flying down the east coast of Australia would be accumulating westerly deviations from the plumb longitude to the breeding islands, which could be conveniently reduced once they were south of a high when they would encounter NW winds still north of the breeding island latitude.

In conclusion it can be suggested that non breeding seabirds present in offshore waters can be divided into three main groups.

1. Foraging birds probably associated with areas of elevated bio-productivity or particular prey locations.
2. Migrating birds usually passing through an area often without feeding.
3. Birds concentrated by climatic conditions.

Each of these three main groups of birds is undoubtedly constantly effected by a subtle combination of oceanographic and climatic parameters such as those discussed above and these factors decide to a large degree why they are where they are.

CAPTAIN CARL'S BIT

Unfortunately, due to engine problems the Sandra K has been out of service. She is currently under repair. Captain Carl apologises for any inconvenience and assures us that the trips will be up and running again soon.

We are all looking forward to your patronage in the near future, thank you for your support.

VISITORS TO THE SOSSA HILTON

It has been an exciting and hectic time over the past few weeks. Visitors have been many and varied. Richard Swanson South Australian Representative of SOSSA has returned after an extended trip abroad. On his arrival he was expecting to go to a BBQ. in at the slips in Wollongong to see the Tall Ship "Eye of the Wind". Only to be rushed away out to the Consett Davis Research Hut on the Five Islands, to assist in the gathering of data from the breeding burrows of Wedge- tailed Shearwaters.

The Tall Ship EYE OF THE WIND was on the slips at Wollongong and gave us plenty of time to catch up with Tiger Timbs and Debbie along with Rossco and South Seas Suzy. Janice produced a SOSSA Barbecue. To Go ! for the crew. Firstly she had to drop the boat Lindsay and Damien off at the boat ramp. Then return home to prepare a Wedding and the BBQ. before returning to Fisherman's Beach with Richard Swanson so he could be picked up of the beach for an over night stay working on the island. No wonder that call her the White Tornado!!!!.

COLUMBUS'S BIG ADVENTURE!
Bronwyn Jarman

Columbus a Little Penguin (*Eudyptula minor*) was washed ashore at about 620 grams. His eyes were sunken and he showed little interest in anything. A couple of days intensive care and an ever increasing amount of food, he was transformed into a happy active Penguin, though still a considerably thin one. He was housed along with three others that were also in care. The four birds were housed in a specially constructed pen that has been used to successfully rehabilitate the many Little Penguins that have come into my care over the past years. On this particular night I had moved the pen further away from the house than usual, so I decided to cover the top of pen with a heavy tarpaulin in case any of the neighbourhood may be on the prowl. The tarpaulin was secured by tying it down at regular intervals around the perimeter, so it formed a good taut cover, or so I thought!. Tuesday morning running late for work, as usual, the Penguins were the last of my charges to be fed. Washington the Wombat had sensed that I was in a hurry and somewhat "hot under the collar" had deliberately fussed and fumed over taking his bottle, an exercise that took twice as long as usual. Finally at 8.10am I headed down to the Penguin pen happy to see that the tarpaulin was still neatly in place. As I began to feed them, I was suddenly aware that there were only three mouths clamouring to be fed not four!. I was somewhat taken back, unable to comprehend at first what had happened, but realised that the unthinkable had happened; one of the Penguins had escaped!.

I searched our very large and very bushy garden without a sign of the escapee. A worried call for assistance, bought out the troops. We searched high and low without success. It was now 8.30 and I should have been at work! I rang work feigning ill health (though they all know that I only stay away when there is a crisis with one of my animals) and went back to the garden to continue the search. We found a small white fishy deposit near a small gap under the back fence. So off I go down the street. The neighbours, who thought I was "NUTS" were now totally sure of it! I knocked on every door and asked if I could search their gardens, for a penguin that had escaped from the "Zoo" at the end of their street. Most were incredulous, not realising that penguins could be found in this area, let alone breeding on the islands clearly visible from their back doors. The one good thing was that I met people that I had not met before. I met the postman, I asked him to keep a eye out for a wandering penguin whilst he was doing his rounds. Yeah, right lady! don't penguins live where there's ice and snow?. I met the men on the D.M.R.(Dept. Main Roads) team that was resurfacing one of the roads below my house. When I approached one of the men, he just looked at me with his mouth agape and turned to the others, "Hey she's looking for a penguin"!. After that, I drove the streets until about 2.00 pm and gave up the search. I worried all afternoon and night unable to sleep, thinking of my poor penguin and what may have become of him, "cats, dogs, motor cars". Out there somewhere lost in the bush searching for a fish. Thursday morning WIRES (Wildlife Information Rescue Emergency Service) received a call from Cannon & Ball veterinary surgery to say that a penguin had been handed into them from the RSPCA which had received it from a lady, who had found it marching down Towradgi Road, heading for the sea. It was, needless to say, "Columbus". He had covered about one and half kilometres, crossed many busy roads, including a major four lane highway. He had been out for two nights, survived a day of 32°C+ managed to evade cars, cats, dogs and was off to the sea. He was thin, and hungry but none the worse for wear. Since then he has been fattened up to 980g. and returned to his island home. My penguin pen, is now sporting a heavy timber and wire top. Columbus had somehow managed to climb the wire sides of the pen and gotten under the tarpaulin. I do find that once penguins start to feel better they long for the sea, even though they are not up to a good release weight. I was very lucky, it was a happy ending to what could have been a horrible fate for Columbus, and yet again I have learned something from the experience. penguins can climb!.

ANTARCTICA
The experience of a lifetime
James Watson

Having just graduated from the Australian Defence Force Academy (December, 1997) I now have a little time to set down a brief summary of my birding experiences in Antarctica earlier this year (Jan 28-March 30). I was invited to be part of the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition (ANARE) through my Geography studies at ADFA. The campus at ADFA is part of the University of New South Wales, and the academic staff in Geography have continuing research projects in the Antarctic . Being part of the team was a singular honour; I may be the youngest expeditioner to go there. My job was to be a field assistant, helping the senior scientists with their projects. This involved the sort of tasks that all research the Larsemann Hills. Larsemann is supposed to be the most remote base on earth. Our nearest contact was Chinese scientists. Because I was the most experienced (actually, the only committed) bird watcher on Aurora Australis, I was given the official tag of "bird observer" whilst we were at sea. My official responsibility was to fill in bird data sheets every fifteen minutes, but I did much more birding than this, conscious as I was of the unique opportunity. This zeal paid dividends when I was the only one allowed to remain on the bridge with the captain in big weather, for instance in the Kerguelen Sea. Aurora Australis left Hobart on January 28th taking until February 3rd to hit the ice shelf. Birds seen on this leg of the trip included Gould's Petrel, Westland Black Petrel, Royal Albatross, South Polar Skua and, curiously enough, White-bellied Storm-Petrel. As the ship went further south Light-mantled Sooty Albatross, Grey-headed Albatross, Black-bellied Storm Petrel, White-headed Petrel and Mottled Petrels became increasingly common. The bird scene changed dramatically when the ship crashed through the first of the thick ice shelf surrounding the continent. Snow Petrels, Antarctic Petrels, Southern Fulmars, Cape Petrels, South Polar Skua, Wilson's Storm Petrels, and Adelie Penguins were abundant. Seals were everywhere, with Crab-eater Seals clearly outnumbering the Leopard Seals. Aurora Australis became trapped in the ice for over two days, but once it

broke through we were able to make it to Casey station only a day late. Once supplies and personnel were dropped off at Casey, Aurora Australis pressed on through the ice to Davis Station, taking eight days. During this time Emperor penguins and Blue Petrels appeared on the scene for the first time. There were also a number of whales species seen- Minke, Sei and Killer being identified. Once on the continent I accompanied Ruth to the field research station in the Larsemann hills. At the time of the year there were nesting South Polar Skuas, Wilson Storm-Petrels and Snow Petrels, moulting Adelie penguins and dozens of Crab-eater seals scattered along the coast. I spent a memorable month at this field station, encountering all the elements of Antarctica. I went back aboard Aurora Australis on March 14th. We headed for Heard Island for three days of research. On the way to Heard Island the abundance and type of seabird changed, with Blue Petrels, Kerguelen Petrel, White-chinned Petrels, Soft-plumaged Petrels, Grey Petrels, Black-browed Albatross and Sooty Albatross commonly encountered. As the boat approached Heard Island, penguins (King and Macaroni) appeared, together with thousands of prions. I was fortunate to spend two days on the island assisting botanists collect different species of plant. The bird and animal life on Heard Island was prolific. Thousands of King, Gentoo, Rockhopper and Macaroni Penguins were scattered along the coast in huge rookeries, with Subantarctic Skua, Heard Island Sheathbill, Northern and Southern Giant Petrels scavenging amongst them, while Heard Island Cormorants, and Antarctic Tern fed in other areas. They shared the coast with huge numbers of Subantarctic Fur Seals and Elephant Seals. The trip to Hobart from Heard island took ten days, with rough seas being encountered on the way. Large numbers of Grey Petrel, Soft-plumaged Petrels, White-chinned Petrel and Kerguelen petrels were encountered on this leg, as were seven species of Albatross. I thank the Geography department at ADFA for allowing me to take part in such a wonderful venture. I am also grateful to Eric Woeller of the Antarctic Division for giving me such an opportunity to combine business with pleasure. I trust that my data sheets prove of value.

FROM THE INTERNET

South African Seabird Email
Subject: Toothfish Entrepot
Sender: antarctica@pop.igc.org
To: fish1ifr@aol.com, birdbycatch@pond.net
FYI--article on illegal toothfish fisheries

By Don Woolford.

HOBART, April 2 AAP - An undercover investigation by Hobart fish trader Jeff Williamson has identified Mauritius as the "pirate capital" of the huge illegal trade in Patagonian toothfish, much of which comes from Australian waters. About 2,500 tonnes of illegal fish a month, worth around $US250 million ($A378 million), crosses the wharves of the capital Port Louis, Mr Williamson estimated in a report released today. He was highly critical of the Australian government and others with a stake in the sub-Antarctic waters. "Australia is letting foreigners have a field day, while placing tight restrictions on Australian ships that want legal licences," he said. "The Australian navy has made two arrests, but 50 to 70 illegals are working its waters." Mr Williamson was sent to Mauritius by the Hobart-based ISOLFICH - the International Southern Oceans Longline Fisheries Information Clearing House. ISOLFICH is joint venture between old enemies, conservation NGOs and legal Southern Ocean fishing companies. It was formed late last year, largely because they felt that governments and particularly the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) were doing too little about the piracy that is threatening the toothfish and killing thousands of albatrosses and other sea birds that are caught on the long lines. Mr Williamson spent about three weeks at Port Louis, using his familiarity with the trade to largely ignore security and roam the port area, go on board boats and yarn with crewmen in pubs. Crewmen talked openly of illegal fishing around Australia's Heard Island. He said a lot of new port infrastructure had been built to cater for the illegal trade and there were clearly many connections between the boat owning companies and Mauritius business interests. The illegal boats were divided into two main groups. The "Vikings" were dominated by Faeroe Islander (Denmark) and Norwegian interests and had a near-monpoly on sashimi grade toothfish for the Japanese market. He said the operation was highly sophisticated. The Viking boats had blast freezers and used the automated Mustad longline system, which at least had the virtue of being less damaging to birds. Almost all the 10,000 tonnes of sashimi grade toothfish caught each year went through Mauritius. The other group was the "Spanish Armada", boats mainly from Chile and Argentina which used the Spanish longline system and bulk froze their fish which was generally sold in Europe and the United States. Mauritius handles about 25,000 tonnes, or 40 per cent of this trade, a year. Most of the rest is now transhipped at sea to mother ships. A total of 30 ships were named in the report as illegals using Mauritius. It also identified three Mauritius companies, one with South African and another with Japanese connections, involved in the trade. The Mauritius government "turns a blind eye". ISOLFICH coordinator Alistair Graham said that while it was impossible to tell whose waters individual fish came from, the biology of the species meant it must have come from the Exclusive Economic Zone of Australia, France or South Africa. He was critical of CCAMLR, of which Australia is a member. "Lots of hands on hearts have been put, but very little has been done," he said. Mr Graham said international pressure should be put on Mauritius to crack down on the pirates. But the pressure had to be accompanied by an aid package. France is at least cracking down harder on the trade. In a separate report today, ISOLFICH said that two French fishing companies had appealed against the leniency of a one million franc (about $A250,000) fine imposed in La Reunion on South African based company Eurex Ltd after its longliner Explorer was arrested by the French navy near the Kerguelen islands. As a result, a higher court increased the fine to 12 million francs (about $A3 million). New French regulations covering illegal fishing provide for a fine of one million francs (SA250,000) plus 500,000 francs ($A125,000) for each tonne of catch.

BOAT TRIP DATA SHEET - DSOSSA-BTDS-V1.7-04021997

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E-mail address: sossa@ozemail.com.au

Seabird Records 1997 **WOLLONGONG BRISBANE PORTLAND SYDNEY BUSSELTON PERTH TASMANIA**

	Brisbane				Wollongong		Portland		Sydney			Busselton				Tasmania
Species month	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Dec	Jan	Nov	Feb	Dec	Jan	Feb	Dec	Jan			Jan
Little Penguin, *Eudyptula minor*						1	2	4								3
Common Diving Petrel, *Pelecanoides urinatrix*																10
Southern Giant-Petrel, *Macronectes giganteus*							1	1sp?								
Northern Giant-Petrel, *Macronectes halli*							2									1
Cape Petrel, *Daption capense*							3									
Great-winged Petrel, *Pterodroma macroptera*						50+	12	6	150+	100+	30-50	4				5
White-headed Petrel, *Pterodroma lessonii*							5					1				2
Providence Petrel, *Pterodroma solandri*									1	2						
Tahiti Petrel, *Pseudobulweria rostrata*	2	5	7	17												
Mottled Petrel, *Pterodroma inexpectata*																5
White-necked Petrel, *Pterodroma cervicalis*											1					
Gould's Petrel, *Pterodroma leucoptera*									5	2						5
White-chinned Petrel, *Procellaria aequinoctialis*								4								25
Black Petrel, *Procellaria parkinsoni*									3							
Wedge-tailed Shearwater, *Puffinus pacificus*	280+	32	370	339		200+			200+	100+	150+					1
Buller's Shearwater, *Puffinus bullerii*										2						2
Flesh-footed Shearwater, *Puffinus carneipes*	50			2		25+	2	80	2	150+	30-60	7	111			1
Sooty Shearwater, *Puffinus griseus*						10	2	1	10+	1						10
Short-tailed Shearwater, *Puffinus tenuirostris*	75	30+		2		80+	100,000	170	10+	10	30+					1000s
Fluttering Shearwater, *Puffinus gavia*		1		1			23	2								
Hutton's Shearwater, *Puffinus huttoni*			9	3		50+	1	2	3	5	5-10					2
Fluttering/Hutton's				14				6								
Fairy Prion, *Pachyptila turtur*							15									1
Wandering Albatross, *Diomedea exulans*							2	5	1							5
Royal Albatross, *Diomedea epomophora*							50									
Black-browed Albatross, *Diomedea melanophrys*								70				1				3
Shy Albatross, *Diomedea cauta*							40	16								40
Yellow-nosed Albatross, *Diomedea chlororhyncus*							30	80				1				1
Buller's Albatross, *Diomedea bulleri*								1								5
Sooty Albatross, *Phoebetria fusca*								2								

1997	Brisbane				Wollongong			Portland		Sydney			Busselton				Tasmania
Species month	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Dec	Jan	Feb	Nov	Feb	Dec	Jan	Feb	Dec	Jan			Jan
Wilson's Storm-Petrel, *Oceanites oceanicus*								6	1	10	5+						
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel, *Nereis garrodia*								1									2
White-faced Storm-Petrel, *Pelagodroma marina*								20	60	1	1						100
Australasian Gannet, *Morus serrator*						20		8000	5000	4	1		2	1			15
White-tailed Tropicbird, *Phaethon lepturus*												1					
Great Skua, *Catharacta skua*						1											
Arctic Jaeger, *Stercorarius parasiticus*	1	1				5-10		5	7	2	3	3	2	5			
Pomarine Jaeger, *Stercorarius pomarinus*	6		2	3		15+		1	2	2	5-6	10+					
Long-tailed Jaeger, *Stercorarius longicauda*						5			2	8							2
Silver Gull, *Larus novaehollandiae*	20		1	70		100+		3	50	30+	30+	50+	✓	✓			2
Kelp Gull, *Larus dominicanus*						4											3
Pacific Gull, *Larus pacificus*								3	1								1
White Tern, *Gygis alba*	1		1	1													
Common Tern, *Sterna hirundo*		1								3	10-12						
Sooty Tern, *Sterna fuscata*			70	2													
Bridled Tern, *Sterna anaethetus*		1															
Crested Tern, *Sterna bergii*	18	12	36	5		20+		10	22	8	10+	10+	✓	✓			5
Fairy Tern, *Sterna nereis*													1				
Common Noddy, *Anous stolidus*				2													
Black Noddy, *Anous minutus*	1			2													
Little Pied Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*			2								2	2					
Black-faced Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax fuscesens*								100	90								
Pied Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax varius*		1	3										✓	✓			
Little black Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*			5														
Great Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo*			9							2	4	4	1				
Australian Pelican, *Pelecanus conspicillatus*						3				3	3	3					

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