



# Distribution of highly at-risk New Zealand seabirds in the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission area

WCPFC-SC12-2016/EB-WP-09

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*Te Papa Atawhai*

# NZ seabirds

- New Zealand has the highest global diversity of albatross and petrel species in the world.
- We have several species of seabird that are at high or very high risk from commercial fisheries bycatch.
- Reducing fisheries bycatch is therefore a very high priority for us.



# WCPFC requirements around use of seabird bycatch mitigation:

- CMM 2012-07: all longline vessels South of  $30^{\circ}$  S and vessels 24m + North of  $23^{\circ}$  N
- CMM 2015-03 (*in effect from 1 January 2017*): all longline vessels South of  $30^{\circ}$  S and North of  $23^{\circ}$  N




# Our concern

Our most at-risk seabirds are still at risk of bycatch in WCPFC waters north of 30° S



# Proposal presented at 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the SC





Western and  
Central Pacific  
Fisheries  
Commission

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia  
5-13 August 2015

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The overlap of threatened seabirds with reported bycatch areas between 25° and 30° South  
in the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Area.

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WCPFC-SC11-2015/ EB-WP-09

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<sup>8</sup> Massey University (New Zealand)

# Black Petrel

*Procellaria parkinsoni*

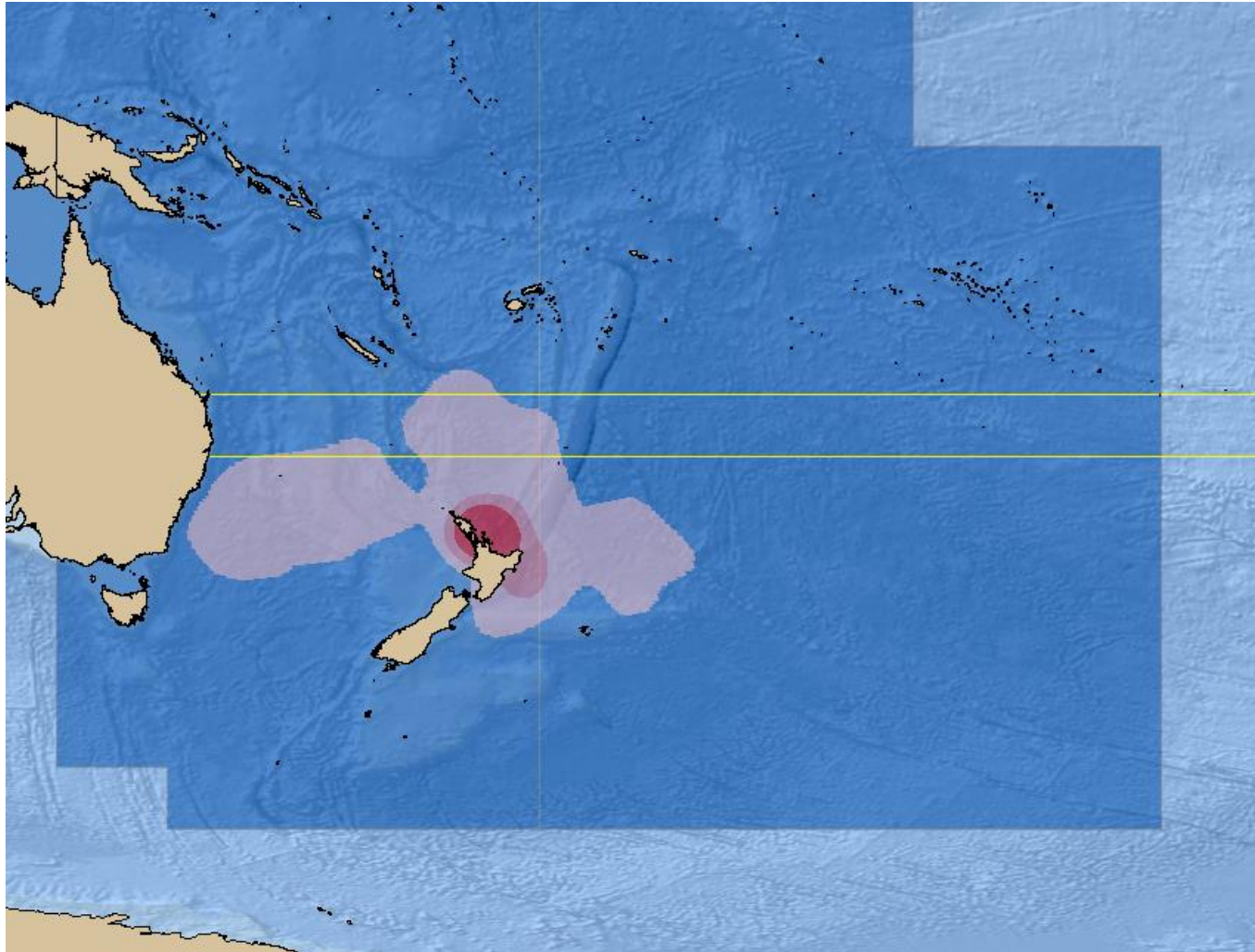


- Breed on 2 islands in NZ
- Breeding pop.n: < 2000 pairs
- NZ's species most at-risk from commercial fisheries bycatch.
- Breeding season (Oct – Jun) – NZ and SW Pacific.
- Non-breeding season - migrate to waters off tropical S. America.



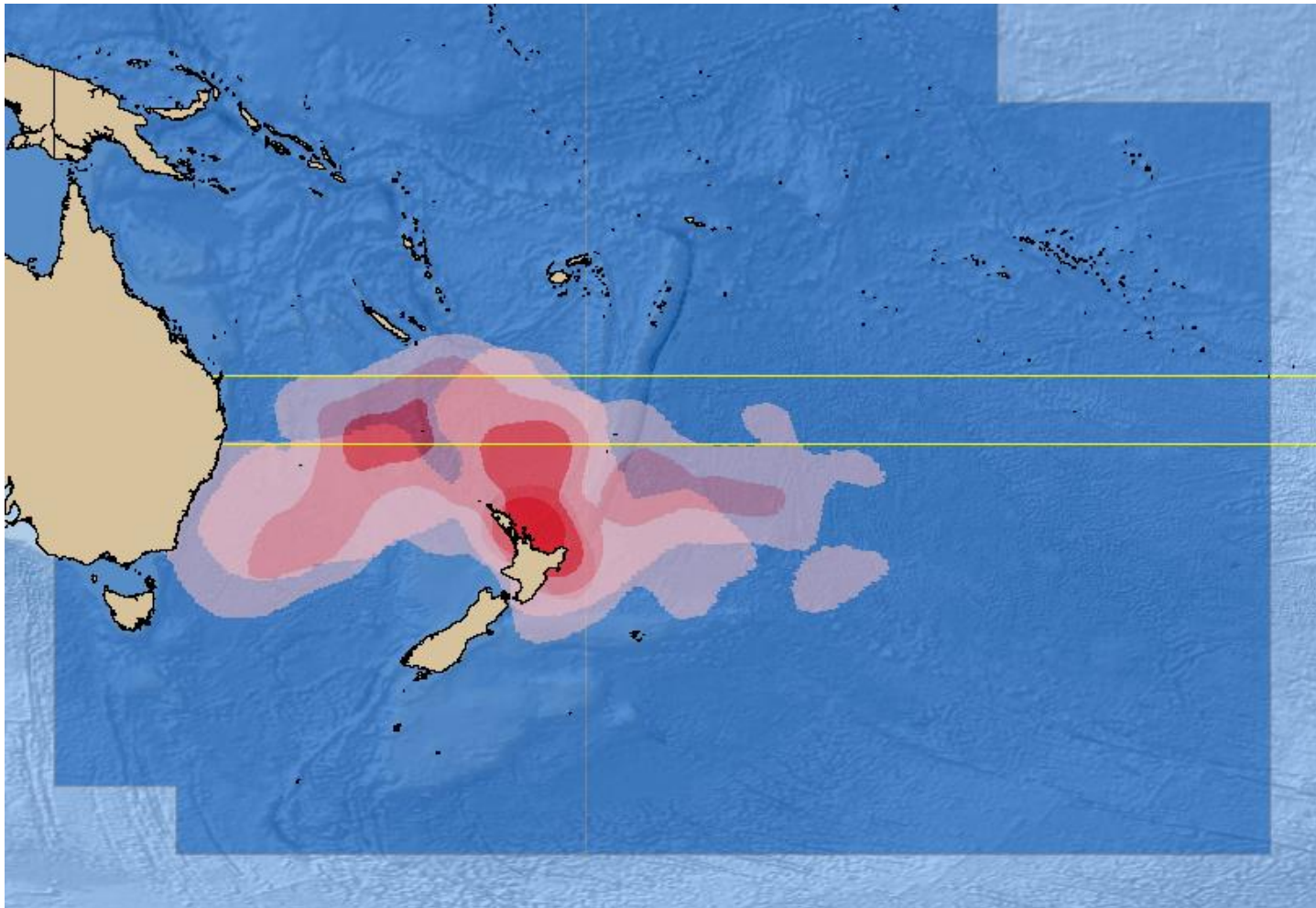
# Black Petrel

## Incubation 2005-06



# Black Petrel

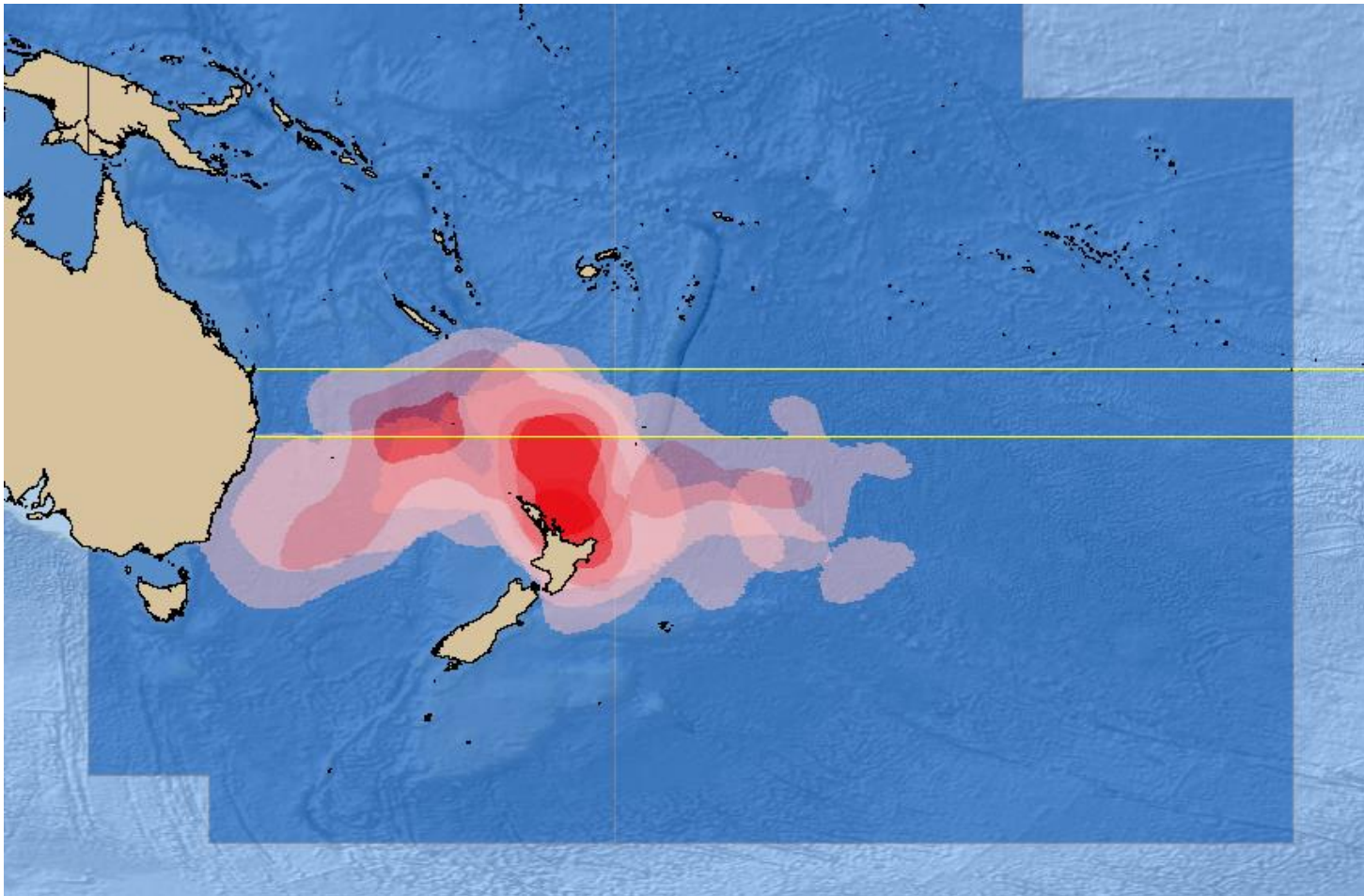
## Incubation 05-06 and 07-08





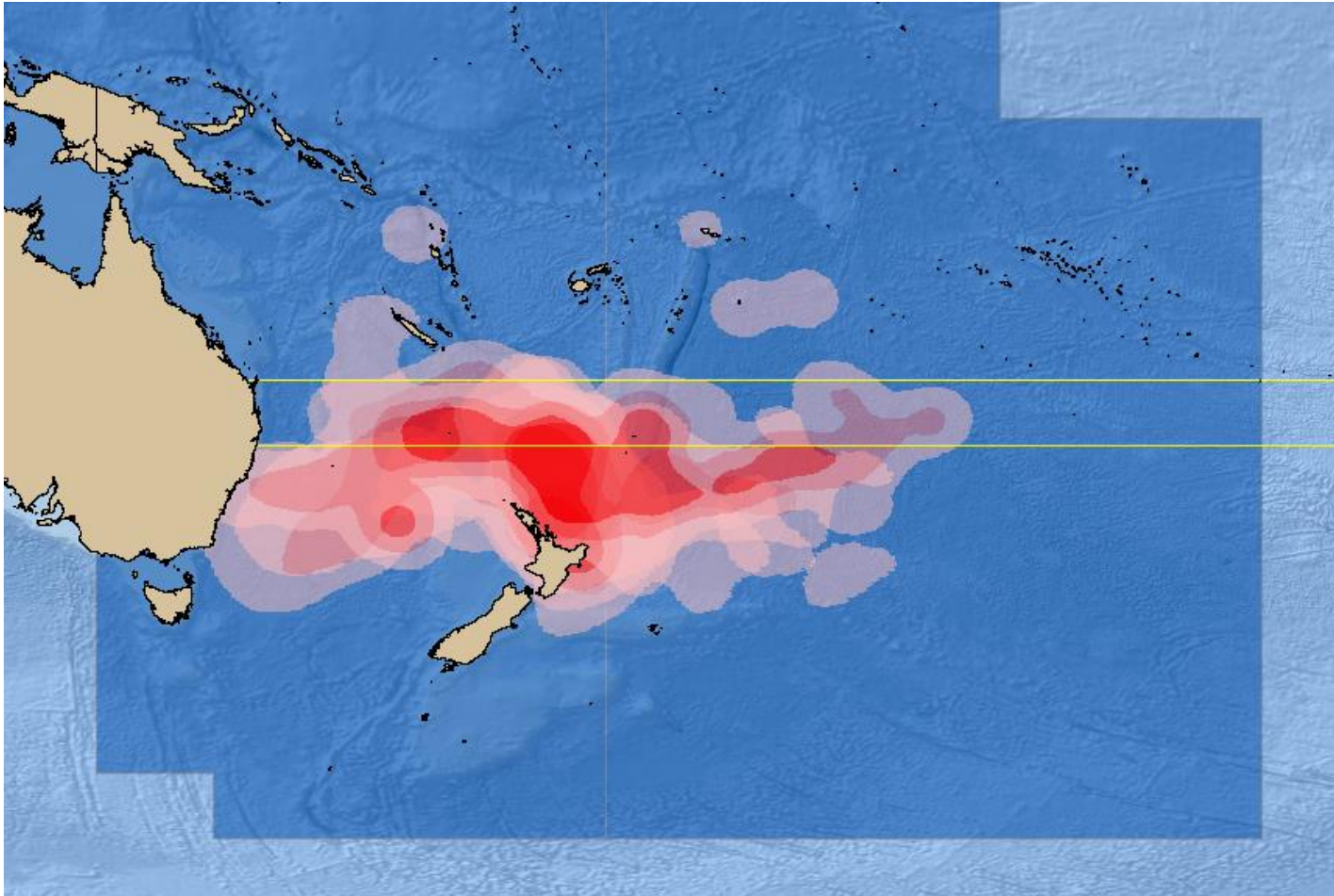
# Black Petrel

Incubation 05-06 & 07-08 and  
Chick Rearing 07-08



# Black Petrel

Incubation 05-06 & 07-08 & 08-09 and  
Chick Rearing 07-08



# Flesh-footed shearwater

*Puffinus carneipes*

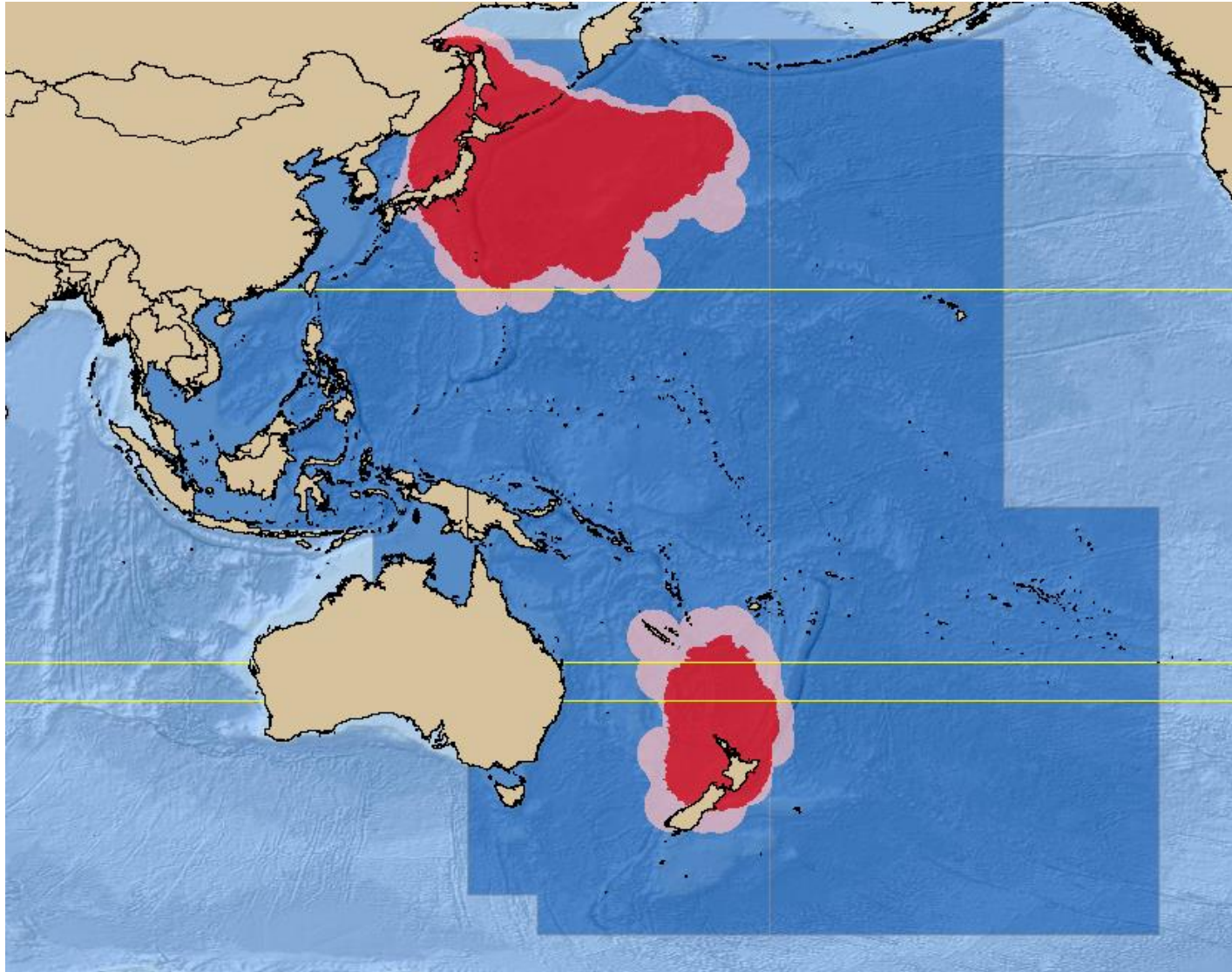


- Very high risk of bycatch.
- Population estimate 10-15,000 pairs
- Considered in decline.
- Breeding season – around NZ.
- Non-breeding season – NW Pacific



# Flesh-footed shearwater

2010-11



# Antipodean albatross

*Diomedea antipodensis antipodensis*

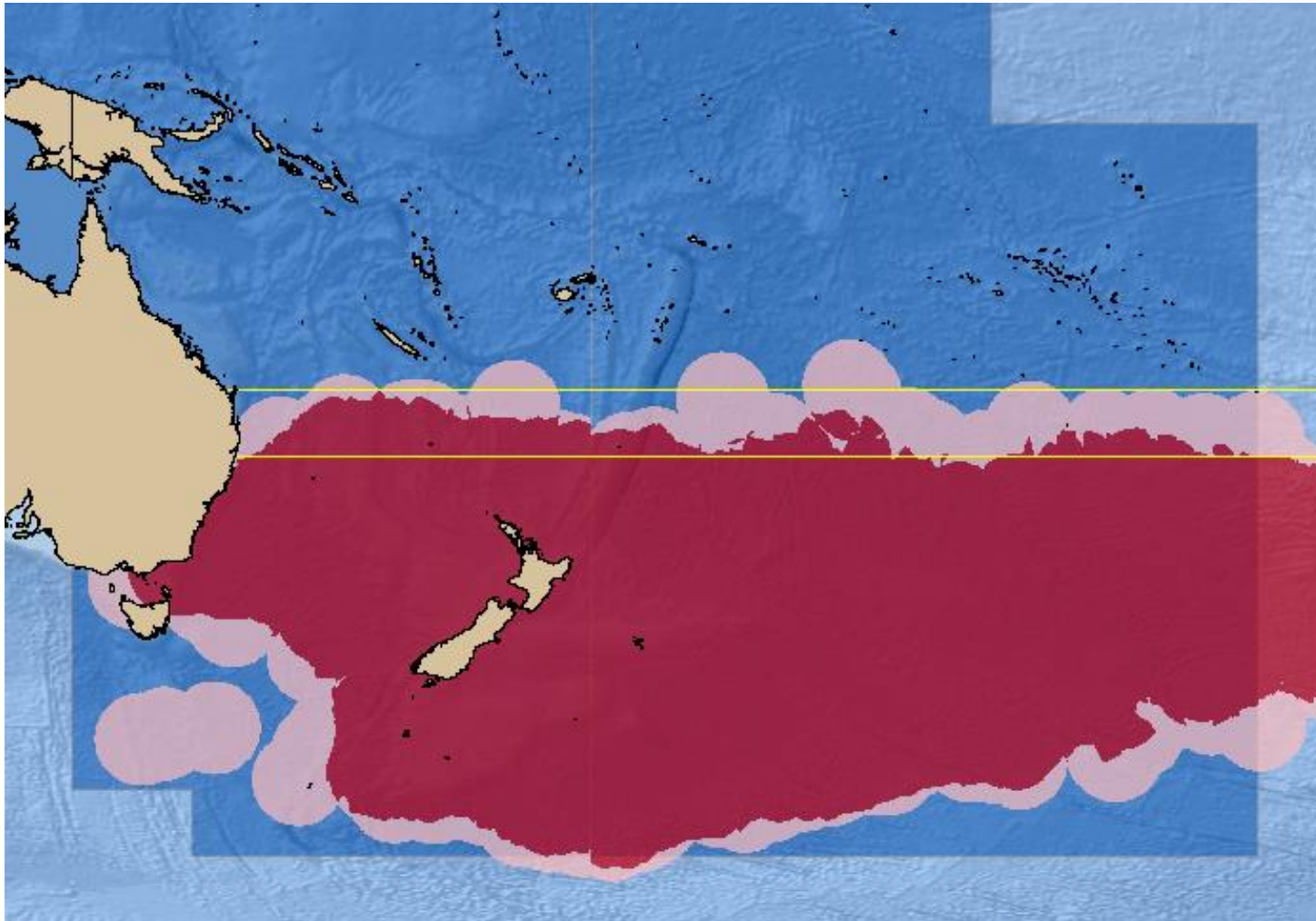


- High risk of bycatch.
- Nationally critical.
- Population in steady decline since 2004.
- Population sex imbalance.
- Recent years birds travelling further into more northern waters



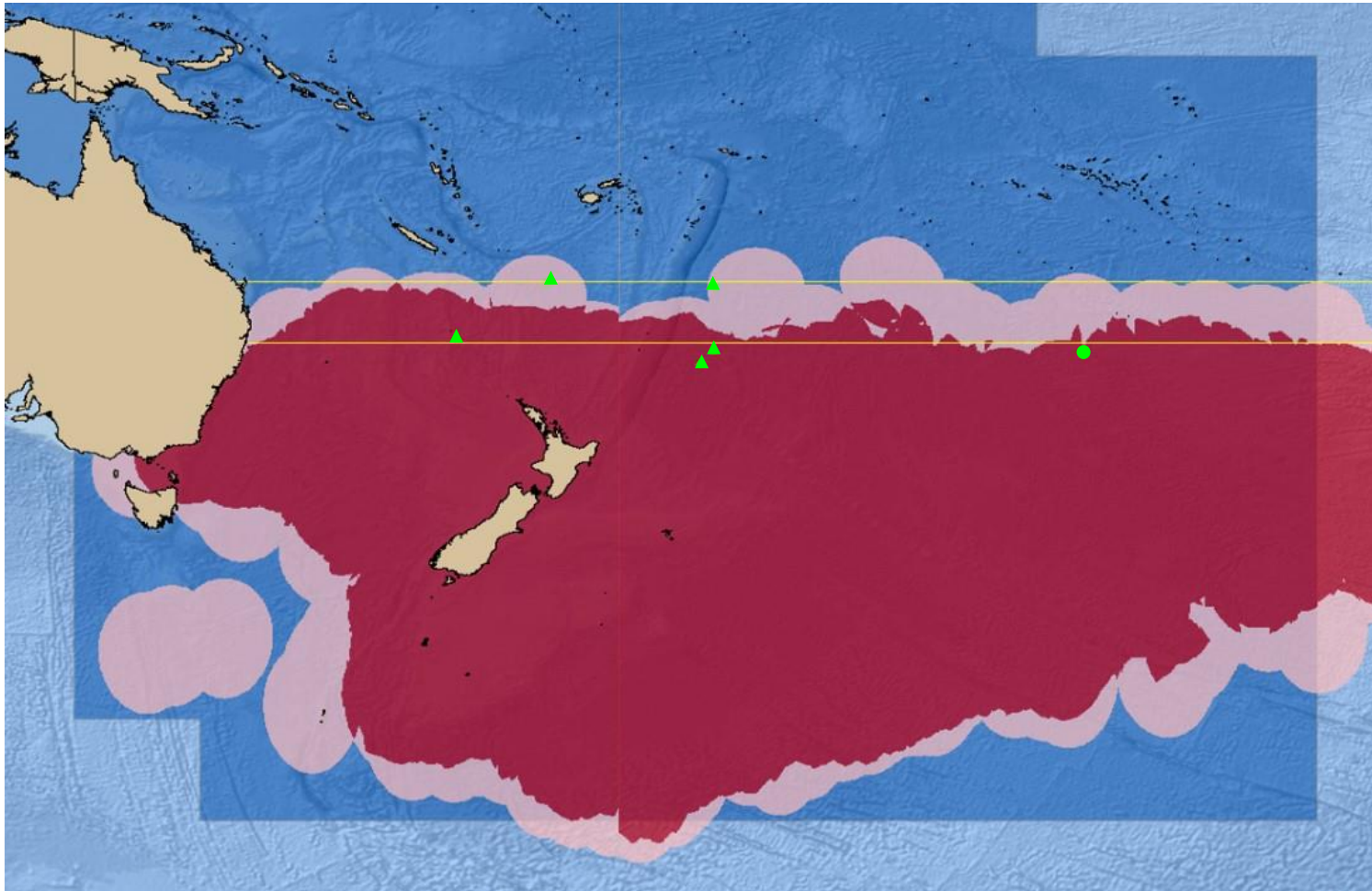
# Antipodean albatross

Non-breeding female birds 2011-2015



# Antipodean albatross

Tracking distribution of no-breeding females 2011-2015 and band recoveries



# Campbell Island albatross

*Thalassarche impavida*

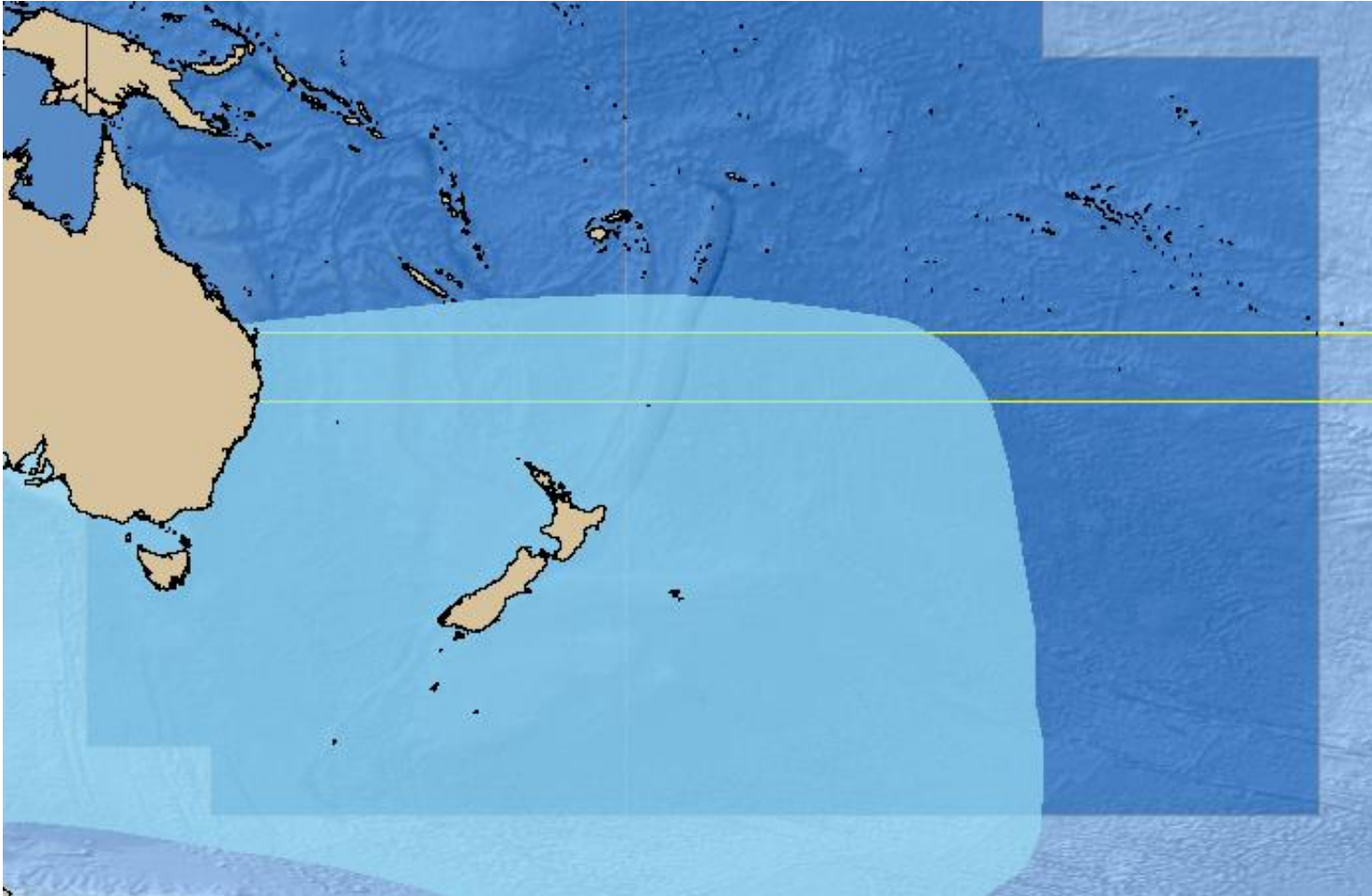


- High risk of bycatch.
- Breeds only on Campbell Island in the NZ subantarctic.
- Population trends uncertain.



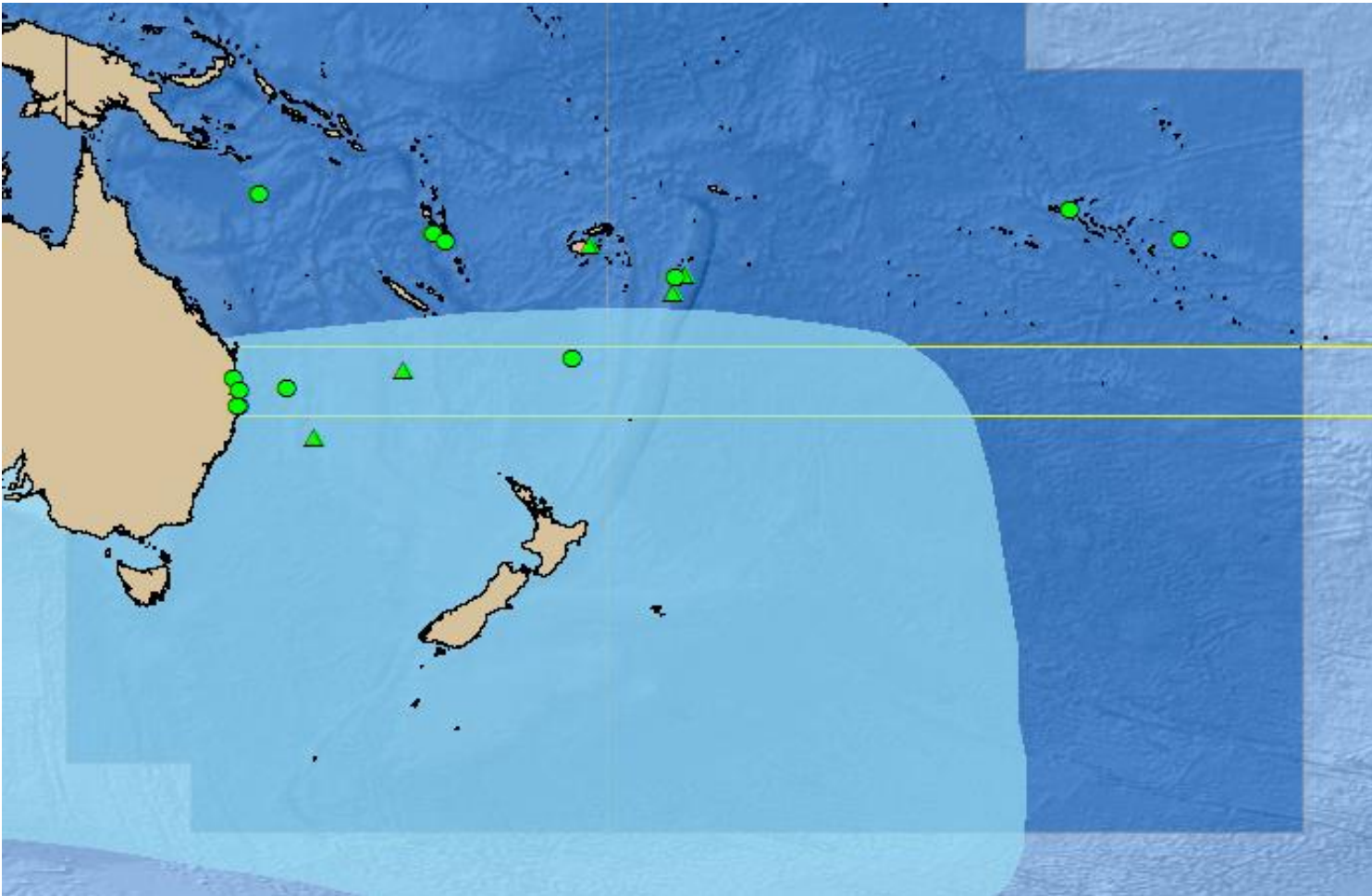


# Campbell Island albatross Annual distribution (BirdLife & NatureServe 2015)



# Campbell Island albatross

## Annual distribution (BirdLife & NatureServe 2015), and band recoveries



# Summary

- The seabird species presented are all at high or very high risk of bycatch.
- Evidence that they all utilize waters north of 30<sup>0</sup> S within the WCPFC area
- Some even further north than 25<sup>0</sup> S (mainly juveniles).





# Recommendations

- Note the spatial distribution data presented extends north of 30<sup>0</sup> S.
- Note that the range of most of our southern breeding, vulnerable seabirds lies south of 25<sup>0</sup> S.
- Note that use of effective bycatch mitigation measures across the full range of at-risk seabirds will enhance conservation of those seabirds.
- Request that the TCC consider moving the 30<sup>0</sup>S boundary of the seabird CMM further north and to make a recommendation to amend the boundary to WCPFC13.

# Acknowledgements

- WMIL (Biz Bell and Claudia Mischler)
- Tim Guilford
- Robin Freeman
- Todd Landers & Toss Denis
- Graeme Taylor
- Matt Rayner
- David Thompson
- Paul Sagar & Richard Phillips
- Kath Walker & Graeme Elliot
- Birdlife International
- NatureServe



# Questions

