



each year. Up to 14 mollymawks have been reported killed during a single net retrieval. Royal albatrosses have also been killed.

Forest and Bird's proposal for a marine mammal sanctuary around the Auckland Islands for the Hooker's sea lion excludes trawlers from within 60 nautical miles of the island's shoreline. Banning trawlers from this area should considerably reduce seabird mortality, but the trawlers still pose a problem to birds in other areas that they fish. The Bounty and Campbell Island albatross populations may also be threatened by the Soviet trawlers which fish for southern blue whiting close to those islands. Japanese boats do not have the offending cable used on Soviet boats and have much lower seabird kill rates. The Soviet trawlers' obsolete equipment should be replaced with the more modern equipment used by the Japanese boats.

The squid trawler bird mortality is but one example from New Zealand waters. We have no detailed information on seabird mortality

in other trawl fisheries around New Zealand or elsewhere in the southern oceans. Casual observers report that seabirds are killed frequently by other trawlers, both foreign and domestic, but few people have any idea how to identify the different species being killed. There is no legal requirement for skippers or observers to record seabird deaths in our economic zone.

Drift netting and set netting

The indiscriminate slaughter of thousands of marine mammals, turtles, birds and non-target fish in drift nets has received huge media attention during the last two years. In July this year, Japanese and Korean fishers agreed to temporarily cease drift netting in the South Pacific and Tasman Sea but the Taiwanese are preparing for one more season in this region. Drift netting continues in the North Pacific and most other oceans. South Pacific drift nets were known to catch some seabird species but there are no details. Species worst

affected were likely to have been those taken on longlines in New Zealand as well as smaller diving species such as shearwaters.

Few realise that half the 875,000 seabirds dying in the North Pacific Japanese and Taiwanese squid drift nets each year are species that breed on New Zealand islands. Every winter, the entire New Zealand population of sooty shearwaters, which breed mainly around our southern islands, migrate to the North Pacific where drift nets drown 427,000 of them annually. Flesh-footed and Buller's shearwaters from New Zealand have similar winter migrations and also drown in the nets. Thousands of sooty shearwaters are also drowned in other North Pacific gillnet fisheries, such as the Japanese salmon fishery and the Californian halibut fishery. For many other gillnet fisheries, there is no information on seabird by-catch.

Set nets in our coastal waters are well known as a killers of inshore seabird species, including little blue and yellow-eyed penguins,