

## The importance of fisheries in shaping the ecology of black-browed albatrosses in the Falkland Islands

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First published 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Over the past few weeks, I have been focusing on completing a study that investigates the effects of discard management on reducing seabird interactions. As of January 2021, discard management as a form of seabird bycatch mitigation will become a licence condition for all trawlers operating in Falkland waters. This policy rests on various research, including two studies conducted in the Falklands fleet by the Falkland Islands Fisheries Department in [2015](#) and [2017](#). The aim now is to analyse the data more rigorously, fit for peer-reviewed publication.

Similar studies have been conducted in New Zealand. However, the southwest Atlantic Ocean differs in its assemblage of fishing fleet and seabirds, and availability of natural prey. This may influence the relative importance of discards, and consequently seabird response to discard management. The current study confirms the suitability of batch discard practices as an effective bycatch mitigation measure in the Falkland Islands.

This research is supported by Fortuna Ltd and through the FIG Environmental Studies Budget.



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