

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p>Eleventh Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group</p> <p><i>Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 15 - 17 May 2023</i></p> <p>Offal discards are probably one of the causes of albatrosses congregations in offshore waters of southern Peru</p> <p>Javier Quiñones¹, Carlos Zavalaga²</p> <p>¹ Instituto del Mar del Perú, Callao, Perú ² Universidad Científica del Sur, Lima, Perú</p>
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SUMMARY

We perform two fishing trips in oceanic areas in southern Peru, between May and July 2021. During the fishing activities, when the fishermen discarded the sharks offal, a particular behavior of the pelagic birds was noticed, there were a lot of fighting and interactions for the offal, the first arriving were the White-chinned Petrels and the South Polar Skuas, then the Black-browed albatross approached but in a shy manner. However, when the shark liver was discarded, the approach of the birds was much more intense and fights were generated, later arrived the Buller albatrosses, generating strong. The shark liver discards also generated the presence of Chatham albatrosses and Northern Giant Petrels who generally beat their other opponents to get the food. This type of offal discards can contribute strongly to the presence of these albatrosses species in oceanic waters of southern Perú.

In the context of the ACAP small funds project titled “Integrating an onboard observer program and remote tracking data to evaluate the interactions between the small-scale longline fisheries and adult Chatham albatrosses in their wintering grounds off Peru.” We perform two fishing trips in oceanic areas in southern Peru, between May and July 2021, specifically in the Hague triangle, between 17°30’S and 19°S and from 130 to 160 nautical miles offshore, The trips were made in artisanal longline vessels from the Ilo Harbour (17°45’S) in southern Peru, this fishery targets blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) and shortfin Mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), operating mainly from mid-autumn to mid-spring, during the fishing activities we realized that when the fishermen discarded the sharks offal (intestines and liver) a particular behavior of the pelagic birds was noticed, first when discarding the intestines, the White-chinned Petrels (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*), they made loud screams, since they were competing among them for the offal to feed, and at the same time fighting with the south polar skuas (*Catharacta maccormickii*). After that, the Black-

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browed albatross (*Thalassarche melanophris*) approached but in a shy manner. However, when the shark liver was discarded, the approach of the birds was much more intense and fights were generated between and among the two mentioned species, later arrived the Buller albatrosses (*Thalassarche bulleri*), mainly northern Buller's (*T. b. platei*) and very few southern Buller's (*T. b. bulleri*). The congruence of all the mentioned species generates strong fights with the Black-browed albatrosses. The shark liver discards also generated the presence of Chatham albatrosses (*Thalassarche eremita*) who generally beat their other opponents to get the food. Finally, when in some occasions the Northern Giant Petrels (*Macronectes halli*), when they entered the scene, they usually outcompete all the other birds. This type of offal discards can contribute strongly to the presence of these albatrosses' species in oceanic waters of southern Perú.

Photo archive



