

	<p>Fifth Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group <i>La Rochelle, France, 1-3 May 2013</i></p> <p>Molecular analysis reveals the occurrence of Shy albatross in the southwest Atlantic and its bycatch in longline vessels</p> <p><i>Sebastián Jiménez, Alejandro Márquez, Martin Abreu, Rodrigo Forselledo, Alfredo Pereira and Andrés Domingo</i></p>
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SUMMARY

In this note we increase the sample size previously used to analyse the longline bycatch composition (but also to infer about species distribution) of shy-type albatrosses in the southwest Atlantic. Using a molecular method, 28 of 29 sampled specimens were identified as White-capped albatrosses (*Thalassarche steadi*). The remaining bird resulted to be an immature male of Shy albatross (*Thalassarche cauta*). This constitutes the first record of Shy albatross for the southwest Atlantic. We conclude that Shy albatross should be considered as vagrant in the southwest Atlantic until further information is available. White-capped albatross, a regular visitor, is the predominant species and the most affected by the pelagic longline fishery of the two in terms of numbers.

Análisis molecular revela la presencia de albatros de corona blanca en el sudoeste del Océano Atlántico y su captura secundaria en buques palangreros

En esta nota, aumentamos el tamaño de la muestra previamente utilizada para analizar la composición de la captura secundaria en la pesca con palangre (pero también para inferir sobre la distribución de la especie) de albatros de la clase de albatros con corona blanca en el sudoeste del Océano Atlántico. Mediante un método molecular, 28 de los 29 ejemplares muestreados fueron identificados como albatros de frente blanca (*Thalassarche steadi*). El ave restante resultó ser un ejemplar macho inmaduro de albatros de corona blanca (*Thalassarche cauta*). Este constituye el primer registro de albatros de corona blanca para el sudoeste del Océano Atlántico. Nuestra conclusión es que el albatros de corona blanca debe considerarse como errante en el sudoeste del Océano Atlántico hasta tanto se disponga de más información. El albatros de frente blanca, un visitante periódico, es la especie predominante y, en términos de números, la más afectada de las dos por la pesca con palangre pelágico.

Une analyse moléculaire révèle la présence de l'albatros timide en Atlantique du Sud-ouest et sa capture accessoire dans des palangriers

Dans cette note nous avons augmenté nos échantillons de nos analyses précédentes qui visaient à cerner la composition des captures accessoires dues à la palangre (ainsi que la distribution des espèces) de l'albatros timide en Atlantique du Sud-ouest. A l'aide de notre méthode moléculaire nous avons pu identifier 28 des 29 spécimens de notre échantillon comme étant des albatros à cape blanche (*Thalassarche steadi*), l'oiseau restant étant un albatros timide mâle jeune adulte (*Thalassarche cauta*). Il s'agit là du premier enregistrement d'un albatros timide en Atlantique du Sud-ouest. Nous concluons que l'albatros timide serait un visiteur éphémère en Atlantique du Sud-ouest, en attendant de plus amples informations. L'albatros à cape blanche, pour sa part, est un visiteur régulier en Atlantique du Sud-ouest et reste l'espèce dominante qui est la plus touchée par la pêche à la palangre dans des eaux pélagiques de la région.

1. INTRODUCTION

Albatrosses are affected by the bycatch in longline fisheries and by collisions with warp cables in trawl fisheries and these interactions have led to the reduction of many populations. Detection of areas where these species interact with fisheries is extremely useful for the implementation of conservation measures. Some species are difficult to study from vessels as they are phenotypically similar. Shy albatross (*Thalassarche cauta*) and White-capped albatross (*T. steadi*) are morphologically similar. However, these species are easily identified by molecular analysis. This technique, applied to individuals incidentally captured in fisheries, has largely contributed to the understanding of their distribution at sea. Because Shy albatross has a smaller population, when sample size is small the bycatch composition of these species could be biased toward White-capped albatross.

We increase the sample size previously used to analyse the longline bycatch composition (but also to infer about species distribution) of these albatrosses in the southwest Atlantic.

2. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Using a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) in Domain I of the mitochondrial control region, 28 of 29 sampled specimens were identified as White-capped albatrosses. The remaining bird resulted to be an immature male of Shy albatross. This constitutes the first record of Shy albatross for the southwest Atlantic. We conclude that Shy albatross should be considered as vagrant in the southwest Atlantic until further information is available. White-capped albatross, a regular visitor, is the predominant species and the most affected by the pelagic longline fishery of the two in terms of numbers.

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