

 <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p><b>Joint Eleventh Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group and Seventh Meeting of the Population and Conservation Status Working Group</b> <i>Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 18 May 2023</i></p> <p><b>Tracking juveniles confirms fisheries-bycatch hotspot for an endangered albatross</b></p> <p><b><i>Caitlin K. Frankish, Cleo Cunningham, Andrea Manica, Thomas A. Clay, Stephanie Prince and Richard A. Phillips</i></b></p>
---	--

A password is required to view the full text document

Frankish C K, Cunningham C, Manica A, Clay T A, Prince S and Phillips R A. 2021. Tracking juveniles confirms fisheries-bycatch hotspot for an endangered albatross. *Biological Conservation* **261**: 109288. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2021.109288>

### SUMMARY

“Fisheries bycatch is a major threat to marine megafauna such as seabirds. Population monitoring has revealed low survival of juvenile seabirds over recent decades, potentially because naïve individuals are more susceptible to bycatch than adults. However, major gaps remain in our knowledge of behavior and interaction of juveniles with fisheries. Here, we tracked juvenile grey-headed albatrosses (*Thalassarche chrysostoma*) from South Georgia - the largest global population of this endangered species, and in rapid decline - to investigate their at-sea distribution and assess bycatch risk. Fledged juveniles dispersed to the northeast, overlapping with a bycatch hotspot for grey-headed albatrosses reported by the Japanese pelagic longline fleet in the southeast Atlantic Ocean. Given adult grey-headed albatrosses use regions less exposed to fishing activity (< 40°S), the majority of birds bycaught in this area are probably juveniles, and possibly immatures, from South Georgia, likely representing a key factor explaining the sustained population decline. Our study highlights the urgent need to uncover the ‘lost-years’ for marine megafauna to enable focused conservation efforts.”

*Noting Article XIII(1)(c) of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, the references included in the present document are made exclusively for academic/scientific purposes and have no implications whatsoever for recognition of territorial sovereignty or the legal status of a state, territory, area, or their authorities, where relevant.*