

Chapter 12C

Air-breathing visitors to seamounts: Importance of seamounts to seabirds

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Abstract

A wide range of seabird species appear to make use of resources associated with seamounts. Knowledge of the relationships between seabirds and seamounts is based either on ship-based observational studies, or studies that employ seabirds as data-gatherers. The majority of studies fall into the 'observational' category, and many of these report 'one-off' counts of seabirds at a particular feature. A small number of studies extend this approach to incorporate a temporal component to seabird observations. To date, relatively little research has made use of electronic data-gathering devices, attached to seabirds, as a means to elucidate their seamount resource-use. Continued refinement of these technologies, particularly the use of miniaturized global positioning system (GPS) technology; holds much promise for better understanding of how seabirds exploit marine resources associated with seamounts.

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