

Press Release



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Fragile food-web dependency of a critically endangered seabird GEOMAR-scientist researches the feeding ecology of the New Zealand fairy tern

26 February 2014/Kiel. The New Zealand fairy tern is one of the world's rarest seabirds. To enable its survival, not only its breeding sites, but also its feeding habitat and food sources need to be protected. These were now investigated for the first time by an international team of experts. The scientists uncovered where primary foraging grounds of *Sternula ne-*

Prof. Stefanie Ismar summarizes: „We have gained valuable new insight into the food sources of *Sternula nereis davisae*. We hope this may help to aid the bird’s protection. Additionally, our collaborative study has yielded indication of further food-web dependencies and interactions in a vulnerable ecosystem which may also benefit the protection of other species“.

Original work:

Ismar, S. M. H., T. Trnski, T. Beauchamp, S. J. Bury, D. Wilson, R. Kannemeyer, M. Bellingham, K. Baird (2014): Foraging ecology and choice of feeding habitat in the New Zealand Fairy Tern *Sternula nereis davisae*, *Bird Conservation International*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0959270913000312>

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