

ALBATROSS BOLUS PROTOCOL

(Courtesy: Charles Moore Algalita Marine Research Foundation & Bill Henry, UCSC)

1. The Albatross boluses are kept in the freezer. Remove one.
2. Each bolus has two worksheets, one for plastic type and one for plastic color. Fill in the top of each worksheet for that bolus.
3. Take pictures of bolus before it is sorted.
4. Sort into separate dishes: plastics, squid beaks, pumice, and other items that may have been part of the diet of the bird. All this will be weighed later. Check any rocks or larger items by floating them in seawater to see if they float. If they float they are pumice. Some non-floating rocks may also be found in the bolus, which the chicks may have picked up from the ground surrounding the nest. They will be covered with other condensed stomach contents. All stomach contents should be picked apart to find out what is in the condensed matter. Sort the plastic by type. The categories to be used are; identifiable objects, fragment, line, foam, pellets, and film.
5. Sieve each type of plastic for size class. The size classes are > 4.75 mm, $4.75 - 2.80$ mm, $2.79 - 1.00$ mm, and < 1.00 mm. Wash?
6. Any debris that may have come from the nest or surrounding area, that is not part of the bolus, is to be kept separate. This debris will be stored separately and not weighed, but needs to be identified and verified by the Quality Assurance Officer.
7. Have Quality Assurance Officer check the sorted bolus.
8. Take pictures of sorted bolus.
9. Record the count for each plastic type by size class and each non-plastic item type on the Worksheet: "Plastic by Type." One of the non-plastic item types will be squid beaks. Only record the number of squid beak tips, the squid beak debris weight will be added to the weight of the squid tips on the data sheet.
10. Weigh each plastic type by size class and each non-plastic item then record each weight on the Worksheet: "Plastic by Type."
11. Sort the plastic for each size class by color and record the count on the Worksheet: "Plastic by Color."

12. Each group of the sorted non-plastic items will be stored in whirlpak bags. Plastics will be kept in glass vials. Label each whirlpak bag with a fine tipped black felt maker with the following information.

Albatross Bolus
Island and Sample Number
Date collected
Item description (ex. Squid beaks)
Count (number of items)
Total weight of items

Make sure there is a whirlpak bag for each non-plastic category on the data sheet. Place all whirlpak bags of each bolus into a larger bag labeled with the Island and Sample Number and number of bags it contains. **Place bolus back in freezer.**

13. Store each size class for each plastic type in a separate vial. Label each vial with the following information:

Albatross Bolus
Island and sample number
Date collected
Plastic – “type”
Size class
Count
Weight

Verify that there is vial for each size class for each plastic type.

14. Notify Quality Assurance Officer you are finished and would like to have your work verified.