

About Oikonos

Mission

Oikonos studies and protects imperiled ecosystems by engaging diverse communities through innovative scientific and artistic collaborations.

501 (c) (3) non-profit organization in U.S. & NGO in Chile

Oikonos at Año Nuevo Island

Oikonos researches forage fish, seabird breeding and restoration solutions on Año Nuevo Island.



Visit oikonos.org/ano-nuevo-island for more information and gear donations.

Acknowledgments

Thank you to Oikonos staff and volunteers, California State Parks, UCSC Reserves, and the UCSC Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program

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What can I do?

Follow Marine Protected Area Regulations

- When kayaking, boating, surfing, or hiking give seabirds their space to raise chicks
- When flying aircraft including drones, respect seabirds and learn the no overflight areas
- If you see harassments, be an advocate for ocean wildlife
- Sudden disturbances can flush animals off rookeries and nesting colonies, causing direct injury and mortality to eggs and young animals as adults scramble in panic.

montereybay.noaa.gov/resourcepro/prohibitions.html

Be proactive about your impact

- Support strong ocean policies that protect ocean wildlife and sustainable fisheries
- Choose sustainable seafood: ask for sustainable seafood and use the Seafood Watch guide
- Reduce single-use plastic consumption
- Reduce your carbon footprint
- Share what you've learned

montereybayaquarium.org/act-for-the-ocean

Support Oikonos' work!

- Financially support our work
 - Donate equipment and gear
 - Volunteer
- oikonos.org/donate or call us at +1 (415) 218-8562

Why should I care?

90%

Fish populations globally are currently fished at, or beyond, their sustainable limit¹

17%

Global animal protein consumed by humans comes from seafood¹

\$24.9 billion

Contributed to California's economy by commercial and recreational fisheries in 2016⁴

142,000

California jobs supported by commercial and recreational fisheries in 2016⁴

31%

Seabird species are threatened or endangered. Globally, seabirds are the most threatened group of birds⁵

¹ montereybayaquarium.org

⁴ fisheries.noaa.gov

⁵ ca.audubon.org

How can a seabird help us understand ocean health?



Rhinoceros Auklets at Año Nuevo Island



Key Species in this Story

Rhinoceros Auklet (*Cerorhinca monocerata*)



This seabird is closely related to puffins and is found along the northern Pacific coast from Alaska to Baja California.

Northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*)¹

This small schooling fish is an important food for Rhinoceros Auklets and many other marine animals. Their populations can go through boom-and-bust cycles. .



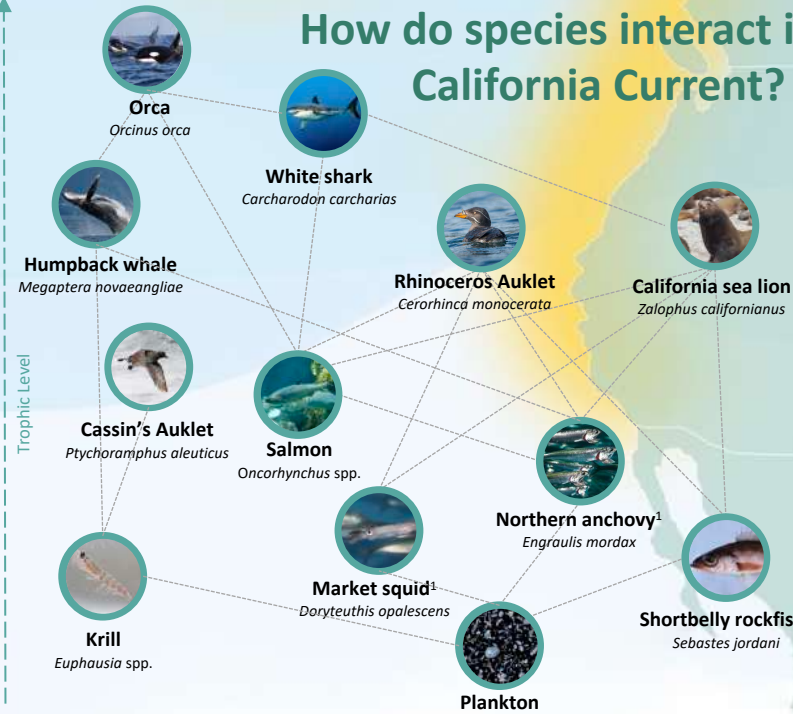
Año Nuevo Island

Oikonos works to restore degraded habitat and monitor nesting seabirds on Año Nuevo Island, located between San Francisco and Santa Cruz, California. In 2022 Oikonos is leading the 30th consecutive year of seabird ecology studies.

600 Rhinoceros Auklets nested on the island in 2020, the highest number on record!



How do species interact in the California Current?



Anchovy and squid fisheries compete directly with secondary consumers such as Rhinoceros Auklets



Kelp forest provide essential habitat for adult rockfish and are threatened by a warming ocean

Now protected, whale numbers are increasing in the Monterey Bay, adding competition for fish



¹montereybayaquarium.org

²mexican-fish.com

³californiawetfish.org

How are we part of the ecosystem?

Fishing Industry

The wetfish industry such as anchovy fisheries employs 420 people including seasonal workers in the Monterey Bay³



Climate Change

Human activity contributes to climate change, which impacts ocean currents, food availability and species distributions



Plastic Pollution

Plastic waste ends up in the ocean and threatens animals that ingest it or become entangled

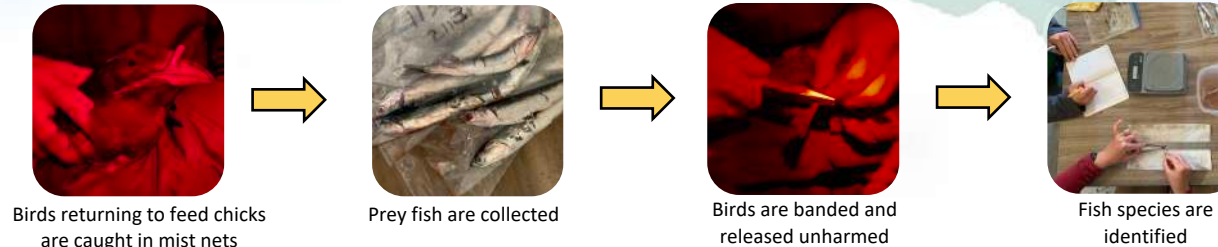


Scientific Research

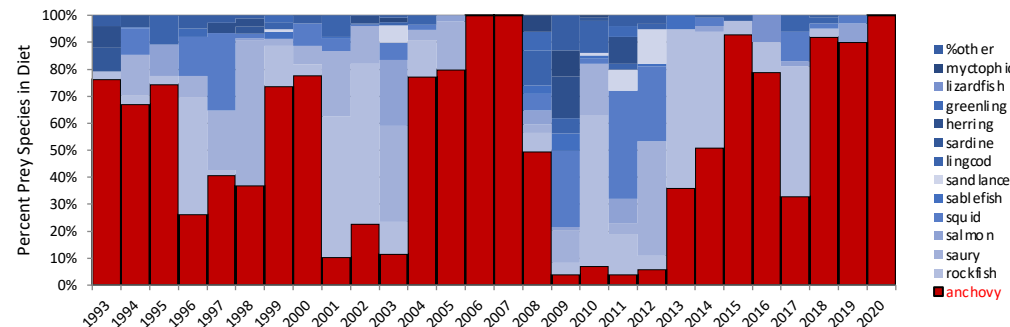
Protecting and researching ecosystems helps inform decisions to secure a sustainable future



Research in Action: Detangling the Food Web at Año Nuevo Island



Rhinoceros Auklet chick diet 1993-2020

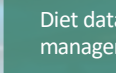


Oikonos and Point Blue unpublished data, subject to revision

What do seabirds tell us about ocean changes over time?



Seabird diet studies are widely used to assess and predict ocean health



Diet data inform ecosystem-based management of California Current fisheries



Northern anchovy (red in graph) are crucially important to breeding Rhinoceros Auklets