



Threats to Pacific Seabirds

Seabirds

- Low reproductive output
- Slow growth to maturity
- Extended periods of parental care
- Intermittent breeding
- High monogamy
- Long lived (60+years!)





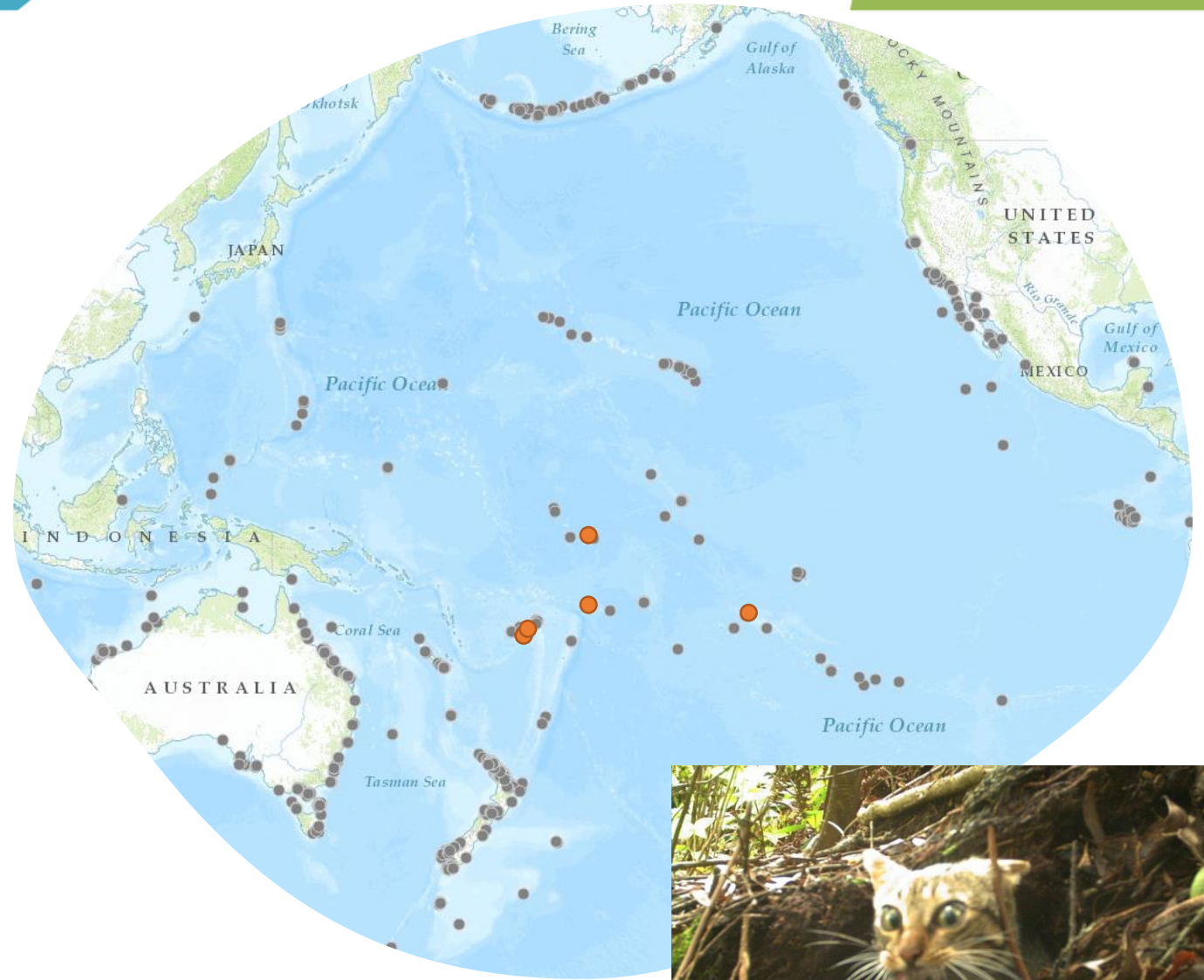
Land-based threats


- Invasive predator species
- Habitat modification
- Unsustainable harvesting
- Light pollution (causing disorientation and collisions)
- Climate change
- Disease

Invasive species + eradications

Invasive species are the key threat to all seabirds breeding in the Pacific

BirdLife Pacific has successfully cleared 33 sites of invasive predators



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- **Habitat modification** e.g., conversion of habitat for agriculture, logging, urban development
 - **Climate change** e.g., extreme weather events, coast run-off impacting on foraging, sea level rise, prey changes

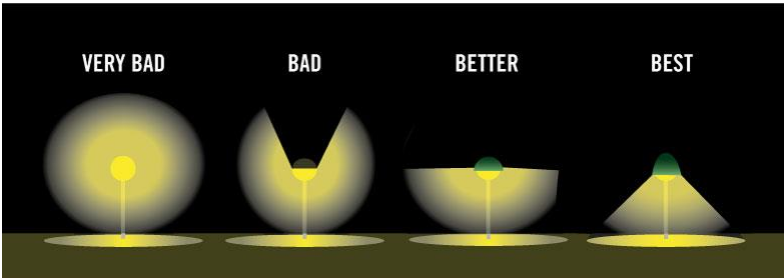
Seabird Harvests



Light Pollution



Disease





Seabirds
spend most of
their lives
at sea

Marine threats

- Incidental bycatch in fisheries
- Disruption to foraging opportunities
- Plastic pollution
- Marine activities – oil spills, deep sea mining, light
- Climate change



Fisheries bycatch



Bycatch = the accidental capture of non-target species

Pelagic vessels deploy lines up to **80 miles (130 km) long**, each with thousands of baited hooks

>1 billion hooks each year are set by the world's longline fleets






Solutions



- Tori-lines
- Hookpods
- Night setting
- Weighted branch lines



A photograph of a dark-colored seabird, possibly a booby, lying on a wooden surface. The bird is positioned on the right side of the frame, with its head turned towards the left. The wooden surface is covered with a large number of small, irregularly shaped plastic fragments in various colors, including white, yellow, blue, and green. These fragments are scattered across the entire visible area, representing the plastic pollution that seabirds ingest.

The ingestion of plastic by seabirds has been recorded for decades.

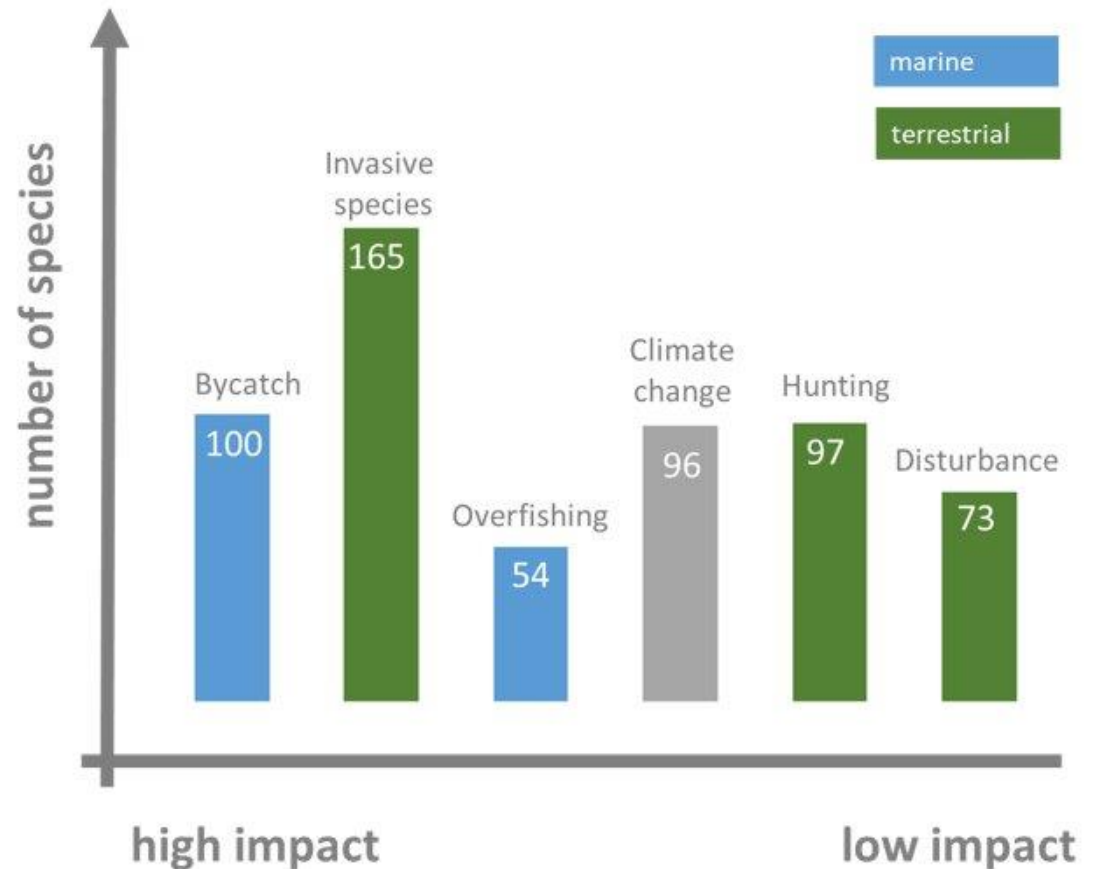
It causes **starvation, dehydration, death,** and **toxic chemicals** that are added to plastics and adsorbed from the environment can **cause severe biological impacts.**

New research is investigating how the transfer of toxic chemicals may affect people that consume seabirds or their eggs.

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- Light pollution
 - Oil spills
 - Climate change impacts e.g., prey availability

Globally each seabird species is impacted by **3 threats** on average

50% of species are impacted by **1 marine threat**



A flock of seabirds, possibly frigatebirds, is shown in flight against a sunset sky. The birds are silhouetted against the warm, orange and yellow light of the setting sun, with some showing a bright red patch on their throats. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange near the horizon. Two decorative white arcs are visible: one in the top-left corner and another in the bottom-right corner.

Thank you!

More details on threats
from the following
presentations.