

# DIET OF CAPE PETREL (*DAPTION CAPENSE*) AND SNOW PETREL (*PAGODROMA NIVEA*) AT SIGNY, SOUTH ORKNEY ISLANDS, ANTARCTICA

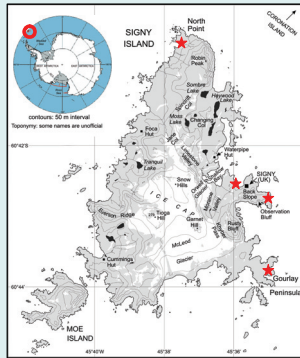
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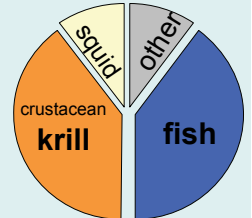
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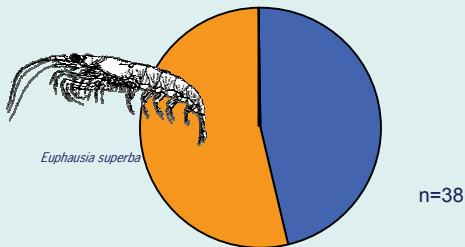
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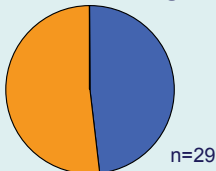
Food web knowledge is a prerequisite for adequate resource management in the Antarctic ecosystem. Diet composition of Cape and Snow Petrels was studied on Signy during the breeding season 2005-2006. Food samples were obtained by stomach flushing of both chick-feeding birds and non-breeding self-provisioning birds. Original prey mass was reconstructed from identifiable remains in the stomach samples.



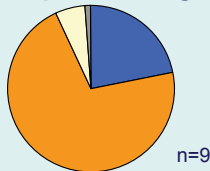
## Cape Petrel



### Chick-feeding

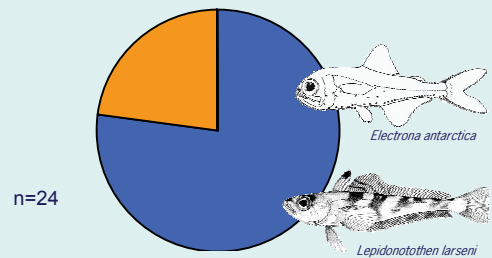


### Self-provisioning

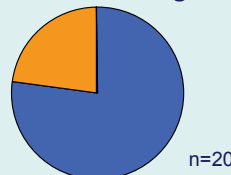


- Clear difference between self-provisioning and chick-feeding birds
- Self-provisioning birds have a significant higher fraction of squid in their diet

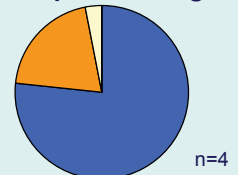
## Snow Petrel



### Chick-feeding



### Self-provisioning



- High fraction of krill in Signy Snow Petrel diet compared to studies at other locations.
- Self-provisioning birds have a significant higher fraction of squid in their diet

### Overall Conclusions:

1. Fish is an abundant prey item in both species which shows that even in a strongly krill dominated region, fish is an important part of the diet of Antarctic petrel species.
2. The differences in diet between chick-feeding and self-provisioning birds show the importance of studying **both** groups in overall dietary research.