

Device may save seabirds from the dangers of fishing gear

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The Brazil hand cast Gianuca Projeto Albatroz. Credit: Brazil hand cast Gianuca Projeto Albatroz

A new *Animal Conservation* article summarizing 4 years of study found that a device called the Hookpod can help prevent birds from being

inadvertently caught by fishermen.

Investigators note that 15 of 22 albatross species are threatened with extinction, and a major threat to these birds is death through interactions with pelagic longline fishing.

At-sea trials conducted in three continents demonstrated that hookpods reduced seabird bycatch effectively, with bycatch rates of 0.8 seabirds per 1000 hooks on control lines and only 0.04 birds per 1000 [hooks](#) on Hookpod lines.

"Hookpods had no [negative effects](#) on fishing success," said lead author Dr. Benedict Sullivan, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, in the UK.

More information: B. J. Sullivan et al, At-sea trialling of the Hookpod: a 'one-stop' mitigation solution for seabird bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries, *Animal Conservation* (2017). [DOI: 10.1111/acv.12388](https://doi.org/10.1111/acv.12388)

Provided by Wiley

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