



Fulmars and plastics

Orkney Marine Services are active participants in a project which monitors the health of the oceans by examining dead fulmars found on the beaches.

These beautiful seabirds accumulate plastics through their feeding and by analysing the stomach contents of dead birds we can show the scale of the problem.

What to do if you find a dead fulmar around mainland Orkney

BtB is keen to help OIC with a plastics survey project this year so if you do find dead fulmars, wearing gloves you should double bag them and take them to the Orkney Marine Services building at Scapa with a note on where you found the birds. Alternatively, you can report their locations to the Marine Environmental Unit (MEU) at OIC by email – meu@orkney.gov.uk.

What to do if you are on an outer island

The MEU will not be able to go out to the outer isles to collect bodies, so it would be useful if you could recover them. Wearing gloves, put them in a plastic bag (several birds can go in the same bag) and then put that bag into another one. If you can put a note of where and when found on a piece of paper between the bags then that is useful. Throw away the gloves and wash your hands at the earliest convenience.

If you know of anybody who can drop the double bagged birds off to Marine Services at Scapa then that would be really helpful.

What to do if you find a sick or injured fulmar

Report the location to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) on 03000 999 999.

Is this just about fulmars?

Yes. Please don't collect or send in details of other birds.

Here is a photo to help you identify fulmars, but the most striking feature is the tubular nostril on the top of the beak.

