

# SEABIRD WRECK FAQ

## *What is happening?*

Following a series of storms and ongoing bad weather in the Atlantic, thousands of dead seabirds have been washing up on the shores of France and Spain.

As wind directions have changed, these birds are also now being found on the coastlines of the Channel Islands.

## *Why is this happening?*

Puffins are particularly affected as they rely on their eyesight to hunt and need clear water to find food. Rough seas caused by storms batter them, making it difficult for them to feed.

While avian influenza (bird flu) isn't thought to be the primary cause for these recent wrecks, the disease is still very prevalent in wild bird populations.

## *What can I do about it?*



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***Please keep an eye out for dead or injured birds whilst out visiting beaches.***

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**IF YOU FIND A DEAD SEABIRD, PLEASE SEND IN A RECORD USING THE CONTACT DETAILS BELOW.**

**WHATSAPP: 07781 107202**

**IF UNAVAILABLE: 07781 415469**

**EMAIL: [Ramsar-ecologist@alderneywildlife.org](mailto:Ramsar-ecologist@alderneywildlife.org)**

- If you are able to and it is safe to do so, please include in your record:
  - The location of the bird (ideally a What3Words or a Google pin)
  - a photograph of the whole bird,
  - a photograph of the bird's beak,
- Under current avian influenza advice: Please do not collect or remove the bird.
  - However, if you feel able to, please check if the bird has a ring on one of its legs. Do not touch the bird with your bare hands – use disposable gloves, a dog poo bag, or another object to check. If there is a ring, please also include the number listed on the ring. If unable to do so, this will be carried out using suitable PPE by a member of the trust.

**IF YOU FIND AN INJURED LIVE BIRD, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY FOR ADVICE ON WHAT TO DO (PLEASE SEE CONTACT DETAILS BELOW).**

**ALDERNEY ANIMAL WELFARE: 01481 822616**

**ALDERNEY ANIMAL WELFARE EMERGENCY OUT OF HOURS NUMBER: 07781 102365**

## *What is the trust doing about it?*

AWT is working in collaboration with the States of Alderney, Alderney Bird Observatory and the Alderney Animal Welfare Society to monitor and record dead or injured seabirds that are washed up on our beaches and entering them into an international database. Birds are being tested for avian influenza when suitable to do so. Monitoring efforts will help understand the scale of the event and how it may impact the population and breeding success of our seabirds. There is a current effort to coordinate with the other Channel Islands, the UK and France, as these are the areas that are experiencing seabird wrecks.