

Subantarctic skua Hākoakoa

Catharacta antarctica lonnbergi



Conservation status

Regional | Migrant
National | Threatened: Vulnerable



Main threats

Fisheries competition
and bycatch, climate
change, disease

A bit about me...



Length:
52–64 cm



Weight:
1.5–2.2 kg



Otago Distribution



Migratory range

Range:

Close to colonies when breeding in spring and summer. Breeds on islets off Rakiura / Stewart Island, as well on Rēkohu / Wharekauri / Chatham Islands and the subantarctic islands. Occasional visitor to mainland Aotearoa New Zealand waters.



Key Otago sites:

- Otago canyons
- Occasionally seen inshore

New Zealand endemic

A large and aggressive dark brown seabird with a hooked black bill. Long, broad wings have white crescents above and below. Opportunistic feeder that harasses other seabirds for their catch and sometimes predares them. Its territorial 'Viking helmet' display involves wing-raising accompanied by a gull-like 'ah-ah-ah' call.

Similar birds:



Arctic skua



Juvenile southern black-backed gull / karoro (juvenile)