

**The black-backed gull in northern New Zealand:**  
evidence of changing diet from stable isotope analysis of bone and feathers

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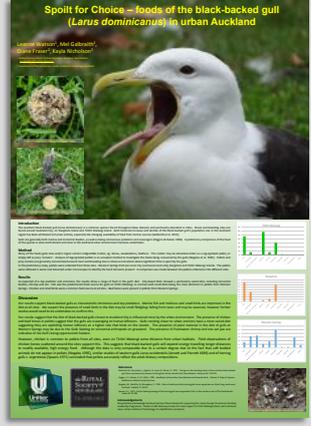
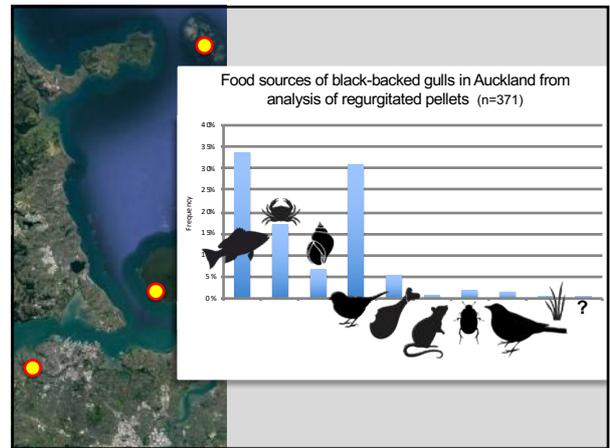


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Birds New Zealand conference 2015

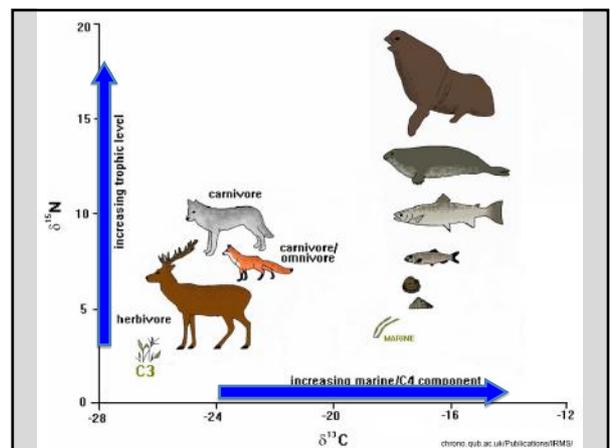
**Spoils for Choice – foods of the black-backed gull (*Larus dominicanus*) in urban Auckland**

**Why the black-backed gull?**

- Gulls are both marine and terrestrial feeders – likely to reflect changes environmental quality at relatively small scales.
- Black-backed gull an ideal species to investigate the long-term impacts of local environmental changes:
  - resident coastal seabird;
  - generalist marine and terrestrial feeder;
  - common in the Auckland region.

➤ Has the stable isotope signature of gulls in the Auckland area changed over time?

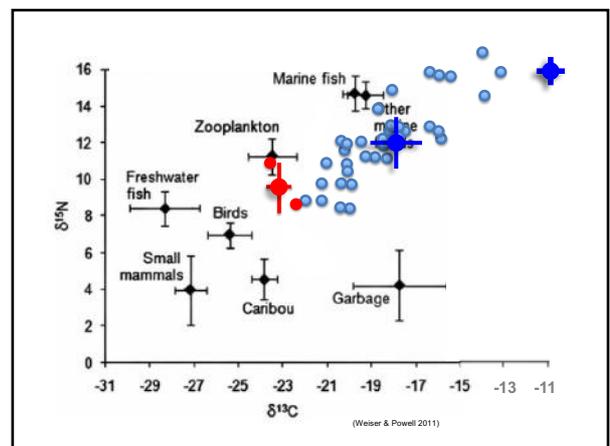
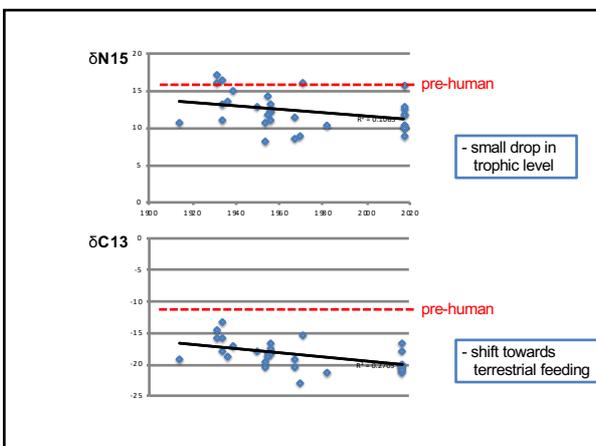
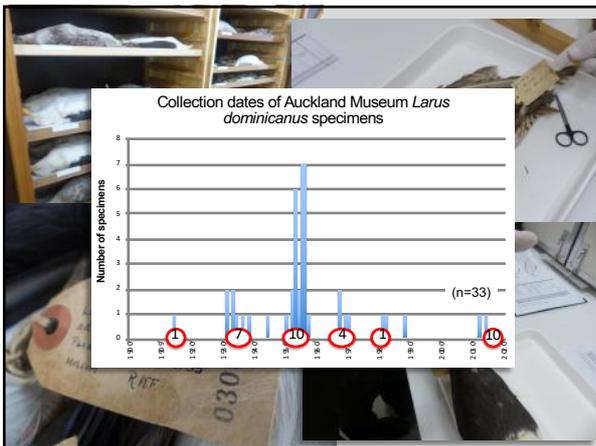
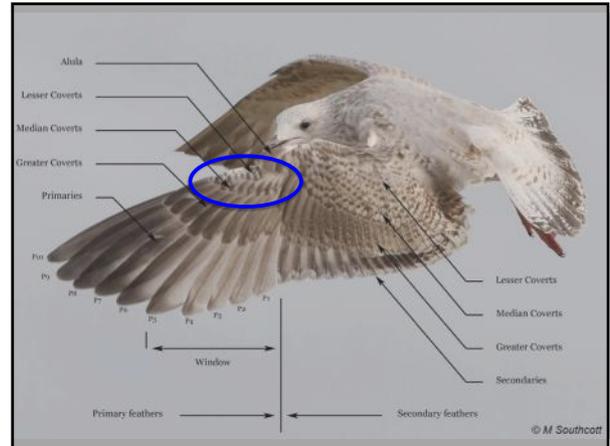


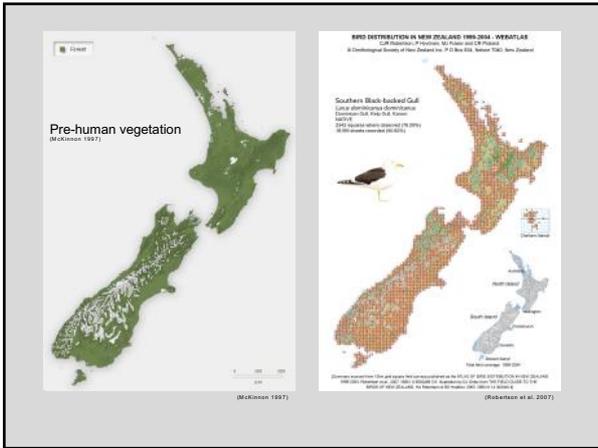
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Two sample sources:

- feathers – AM collection & contemporary samples;
- sub-fossil bones (pre-human marker) – AM collection.





Summary: - small drop in trophic level;  
 - trend towards an increase terrestrial foods.

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**References:**

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