

MMEDIA RELEASE

“This is the largest drop in food web position yet reported in any marine bird, suggesting a relatively rapid shift in the composition of the Indian Ocean food web, or changes in baseline carbon and nitrogen values.

“Current climate forecasts predict this trend to continue, leading to increased oceanic ‘tropicalisation’ and potentially competition between flesh-footed shearwaters and more tropical species with expanding ranges.

“Flesh-footed shearwater populations are declining, and current conservation measures aimed primarily at bycatch mitigation are not restoring populations,” Dr Lavers said.

“Widespread shifts in foraging, as shown in our study, may explain some of the reported decline.”
