

Living on the Edge - Birds 2000

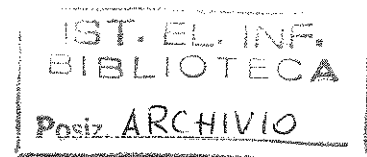


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S25 Wanless, Benvenuti, Harris & Dall'Antonia

At-sea activity of Black-legged Kittiwakes and Common Murres in an area exploited by a sandlance fishery. SARAH WANLESS*, *CEH Banchory, Scotland*; SILVANO BENVENUTI, *Pisa Univ., Italy*; MIKE P. HARRIS, *CEH Banchory*; and LUIGI DALL'ANTONIA, *C.N.R., Pisa, Italy*.

Many species of seabird in the North Sea feed on sandlance during the breeding season. This fish is currently the target of the largest human fishery in the area. Colony-based studies indicate that seabird productivity is declining and is correlated with sandlance availability. High quality information on at-sea activity of North Sea seabirds is therefore essential to investigate this relationship. We present data obtained using back-mounted activity loggers deployed on kittiwakes and murres. These results are used to compare the performance of surface-feeding and pursuit-diving species in terms of: (1) diurnal patterns of at-sea activity, (2) potential foraging ranges, and (3) foraging efficiency.