

FURTHER SIGHTING OF THE WHITE FORM OF THE
SOUTHERN GIANT PETREL

While on the FV *Nimrod* in Cook Strait on 21 June 1979, I observed a Southern Giant Petrel (*Macronectes giganteus*) which was wholly white with occasional black flecks. The position was 41°11.5'S 174°27.5'E, which is 9 miles north-east of Perano Head.

The bird was observed for 30 minutes and on occasions came to within a half-metre of the vessel for fish offal. It eventually became entangled in a fishing line and was hauled aboard and examined for bands, of which it had none. It was then released and flew off to the east. It was originally accompanied by two giant petrels of the dark form of the same species, but these remained in the area after it had gone.

In about 30 years of fishing in Cook Strait, the owner of *Nimrod*, Mr D. Fishburn, has seen only one other white giant petrel.

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