

The screenshot shows the Daily Mail website interface. At the top, it displays the date 'Friday, Dec 7th 2018' and a '5-Day Forecast' link. The main header features the 'Daily Mail .com' logo and a 'Science & Tech' section. Below the header is a navigation bar with links for Home, U.K., News, Sports, U.S. Showbiz, Australia, Femal, Health, Science, Money, Video, Travel, Columnists, and DailyMailTV. A secondary navigation bar includes 'Latest Headlines', 'Science', 'Pictures', 'Games', and a 'Login' button.

The main content area features a large advertisement for a Ford F-150 truck with the text 'GET UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH THE F-150' and 'ROLL OVER TO EXPAND'. Below this is the article headline: 'Seabird populations have declined 70% in the past 50 years as they compete with the fishing industry for food'. The article is attributed to Peter Lloyd for MailOnline, published on 6 December 2018. A list of bullet points follows:

- Seabird populations have fallen continuously over the past seven decades
- They are now the most threatened bird group, says academics from Aberdeen
- Factors contributing to decline include fishing, pollution and habitat destruction

Below the article is a social sharing section with icons for Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Reddit, Email, and Print, along with a '7 shares' count and a 'View comments' link. To the right of the article is a search bar and another advertisement for a 'YEAR END CLEAROUT' featuring a truck. On the far right, there is a vertical advertisement for a Kia Stinger, showing the car and the text 'NOUVELLE GT-LINE 2.0L' and 'CONFIGUREZ LA VOTRE'.

Seabirds are at risk due to the competition they face from the fishing industry for food, a new study has claimed.

There has been a 70 per cent decline in seabird populations over seven decades due to a combination of the fishing industry, pollution and habitat destruction.

Scientists from the University of Aberdeen looked at two timeframes - 1970 to 1989 and 1990 to 2010.

They assessed the degree of competition seabirds faced for their favourite foods - species such as anchovy, sardines, mackerel, squid, krill and crustaceans.

The team then estimated the annual consumption of these species for 276 different types of seabird species.

They based this on population counts and models, which they compared to annual catches by fishing boats recorded in the Sea Around Us world database.

Scroll down for video



Loss: Experts said there has been a 70 per cent decline in seabird populations over seven decades due to a combination of the fishing industry, pollution and habitat destruction

Experts found that the total annual seabird consumption decreased from 70 to 57 millions of tonnes between 1970 to 1990 and 1990 to 2010.

Annual fishery catches increased from 59 to 65 million tonnes over the same period.

Dr Aurore Ponchon, who co-led the study, said: 'Our research shows, that despite the decline of the world seabird community between 1970 to 1989 and 1990 to 2010, competition with fisheries remained sustained.

'This competition was even enhanced in almost half the oceans. This enhanced competition.

'In addition to other factors such as pollution, predation by invasive species on chicks, the destruction and changes in their habitat by human activities and environmental changes caused by climate change, puts seabirds at risk, making them the most threatened bird group, with a 70 per cent decline over the past seven decades.

'This study calls for an improved management of the world's fisheries to alleviate competition pressure on seabird populations.'

The study, published in [Current Biology](#), also involved scientists from the University of British Columbia and the French National Centre for scientific research.



Decreasing: The scientists found that the total annual seabird consumption decreased from 70 to 57 millions of tonnes between 1970-1990 and 1990-2010

The findings come just weeks after a shock report found the percentage of seabirds with plastic in their stomach has increased to 90 per cent from 5 per cent in 1960.

Plastic pollution is one of the worst ways man is adversely affecting the environment.

Global wildlife populations have fallen by 60 per cent since 1970 as humans overuse natural resources, driving climate change and pollution.

Only a quarter of the world's land area is free from the impacts of human activity and by 2050 that will have fallen to just a tenth, the Living Planet Report 2018 says.

From hedgehogs and puffins to elephants, rhinos, polar bears and orangutans, wildlife is declining – driven by habitat loss, poaching, pollution and higher temperatures, according to the report by the Zoological Society of London and the WWF.

Populations of more than 4,000 species of mammals, reptiles, birds, fish and amphibians have declined by an average of 60 per cent between 1970 and 2014.

Among the alarming findings was work from the Commonwealth and Scientific Research Organisation which showed that of 186 species of seabirds 90 per cent have plastic in their stomachs, a figure projected to rise to 99 per cent by 2050.

Species which live in fresh water habitats, such as frogs and river fish, have seen global population falls of 83 per cent. Tropical areas have experienced the worst declines, with an 89 per cent fall in populations monitored in Latin America and the Caribbean since 1970.

Marco Lambertini, director general of the WWF, said: 'Our planet is at a crossroads and we have the opportunity to decide the path ahead. The astonishing decline in wildlife populations is a grim reminder and perhaps the ultimate indicator of the pressure we exert on the planet.'

Link: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-6467605/Seabirds-populations-declined-70-past-50-years.html>