

# Investigation into using optics to determine levels of damage in seabird feathers

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In this study laser light was diffracted through seabird feathers in order to measure the level of coherency in the feather vane. This was done in order to quantitatively assess the level of damage in feathers contaminated by oil and treated using various methods as an aid to judging when seabirds are ready to be released back into the wild after rehabilitation. Trouble was had in gaining quantitative values for coherency but enough evidence was gained to suggest that further study into this area would be worthwhile.

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