**[Why Seabirds Love To Gobble Plastic Floating In The Ocean](https://bbox.blackbaudhosting.com/webforms/service/page.redir?target=http%3a%2f%2fwww.npr.org%2fsections%2fthetwo-way%2f2016%2f11%2f10%2f501606955%2fwhy-seabirds-love-to-gobble-plastic-floating-in-the-ocean&srcid=2590664&srctid=1&erid=183300970&trid=f7dd4729-b495-4055-90f8-21aa07729605) (NPR)**

A team of scientists at University of California, Davis has discovered why some oceanic birds have been eating floating plastic. Scientists had previously hypothesized that the birds ate the plastic because it looked like food. It turns out that the real reason is that the plastic smells like food – or algae to be more specific. It works like this: The algae is food for tiny fish like krill. When the krill eats the algae, the algae emits a chemical called dimethyl sulfide. When the sea birds smell the chemical it means that krill are in the water and it is time to start feeding, so they scoop up the krill and plastic. Biologist Matthew Savoca and his UC Davis team suspect that other birds and marine animals are ingesting plastic for the same reason – which could have serious consequences for those marine animals and the people who eat them.

Albatross Barfing Plastic <https://vimeo.com/102186626>

BLOUS Video <http://oikonos.org/education/>