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Concern over hundreds of dead birds on the Iquique coastline

Published: Monday, July 26, 2021 at 1:48 p.m. | Digital Journalist: [Daniela Esquivel](#), [Cooperative](#)

- Around 500 specimens of the well-known "guanay duck" have been affected.
- Lawyer points to purse seine fishing as responsible for deaths.

Photo: [@EsDeliquenos](#)



Specimens were found dead at sea and on the beach.

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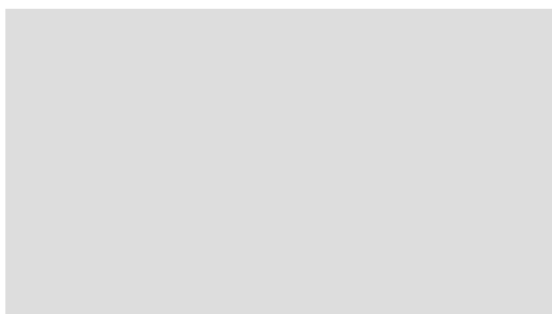
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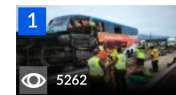
A **worrying** situation has kept authorities and environmental organizations in Iquique on **alert** , after **hundreds of birds were found dead** on the shore of the commune's **coastline** .

It all began on **July 21** with a complaint made through social media by the councilor of Iquique, **Rodrigo Oliva** , who reported with photographic and audiovisual records **hundreds of birds, better known as cormorants or "guanay ducks", dead at sea** .



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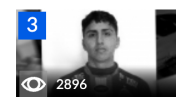
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Following this discovery, marine biologist from the Arturo Prat University of Iquique, **Guillermo Guzmán**, told **Cooperativa Regiones** that there are now **500 specimens** found **dead** on various beaches along the Iquique coast.



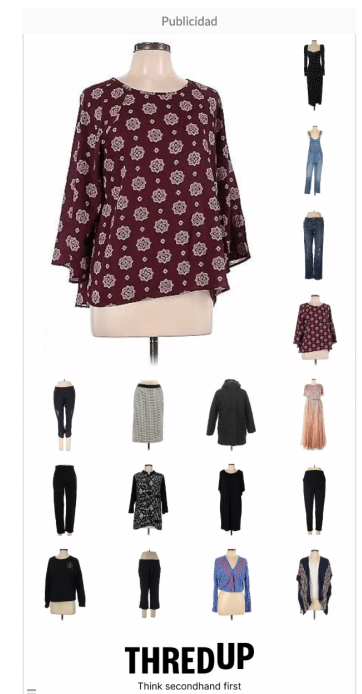
"On the first day, around **140 birds** were collected in the **Playa Brava** area. Yesterday (Sunday) I went to explore **Playa Huayquique** and counted around **200 specimens**. In total, and with what some other colleagues in the area have counted, we are talking about around **500 specimens**, which is quite a lot," he said.

Necropsy and possible drowning

Once the corresponding complaints were made, the Agricultural and Livestock Service (SAG) through the Livestock Protection and Renewable Natural Resources Unit, performed a **necropsy** on the birds to determine the cause of death. Through a statement they stated the following:

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"We can only point out that in the field we only detected stranded birds, which **did not show any evidence of bullet wounds associated with poaching**. In the autopsy, **no signs of exotic diseases were detected in the organs inspected**; samples were taken for laboratory analysis in search of viral diseases that affect birds," they said.

According to Guzmán, the cause of death of these birds **is not due to any particular pollution event**.

" **The possibility that they died from contaminants was ruled out** early on. In the examination that I performed on the specimens from Playa Huayquique, I found that **they had no bone fractures and their stomachs looked full of contents**. **It remains to be determined whether there is water in their lungs**, which would imply that these animals **drowned**," said the director of research at the university.

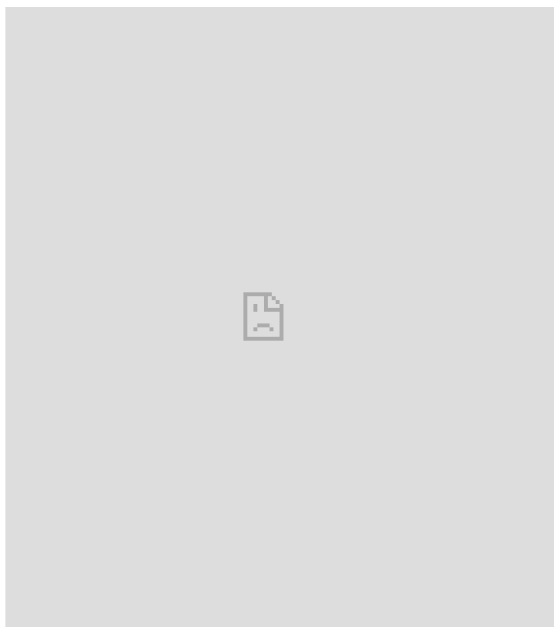
Responsibilities

The lawyer and former councilor of Iquique, **Matías Ramírez**, **filed a criminal complaint** this Monday before the Local Prosecutor's Office of Iquique "against those responsible in order to **determine who caused the death of the birds**."

"It is important **to determine** whether **there is any liability on the part of companies associated with fishing** in order to determine not only **criminal liability**, but also any **mitigation measures** that must be taken in light of the facts," he added.

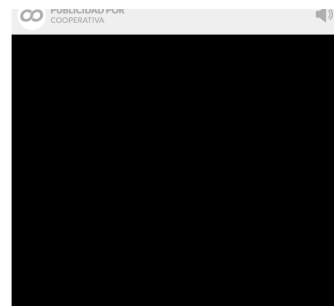
Regarding what could be causing the death of the cormorants, Ramírez emphasized that "it is due to the actions of the **purse seine fishermen**, that is, **when they use the fishing net they destroy the birds and the birds that are there feeding also fall into this fishing net**."

According to the lawyer, and with the background information provided by the autopsy, there are **two facts** that support this hypothesis: "One, that (the birds) **had water in their lungs** and the second, that **they were eating fresh anchovy**, so that, at least, is what allows us to suggest that this is due to the **intervention of third parties**, particularly those who were **fishing** for anchovy in that area," he said.



Meanwhile, the director of Sernapesca Tarapacá, **Marcelo Moreno**, indicated that "Sernapesca makes available to the investigating authority all the **fishing information** they require, that is, **which vessels were operating in the area, what distance, the schedules**, among others, in order to reach a conclusion about the cause of death of these birds, which - apparently - was due to immersion," he concluded.

Through her Twitter, the regional secretary of the environment of Tarapacá, **Moyra Rojas**, expressed that all the background information was gathered to file a complaint with the **Environmental Crimes Brigade of the PDI** in order to determine precisely the death of the specimens.





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1:57 p. m. · 24 jul. 2021



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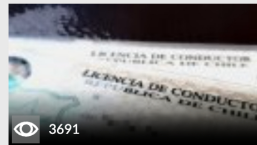
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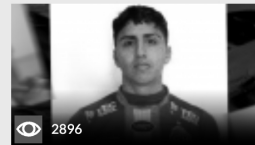
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The trial against the leaders of the Aragua Train in Chile begins this Tuesday

Published: Monday, March 10, 2025 Author: [Cooperativa.cl](#)

- The group includes Carlos González Vaca, alias "Estrella"; and Hernán Landaeta Garlotti, nicknamed "Satan."

Photo: *Channel 13*



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