

PROJECT REPORTING FORM



● CONTACT

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If you have suggestions for improvement of this form, your feedback would be appreciated:

COUNTRY: Falkland Islands

PROJECT TITLE: Darwin Southern Sea Lion Project

REPORTER: Name, Organization, Contact Details.

(✓ tick if same as APPLICANT)

Dr. Alastair Baylis
Falklands Conservation
Stanley
Falkland Islands
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Dr. Iain Staniland
British Antarctic Survey
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION: How did the project go? What were the HIGHLIGHTS and OVER-ACHIEVEMENTS of objectives? What CHALLENGES did you encounter? How were these RESOLVED?

HIGHLIGHTS and OVER-DELIVERY

Although a 'snap-shot', results from our Darwin Challenge Fund Project redefined our understanding of sea lion foraging habitat. Lactating females showed two modes of foraging with (i) overnight trips confined to waters close to the colony and (ii) trips lasting several days involving distances of over 100km to shelf break waters. The more distant trips will bring sea lions into conflict with commercial fishing activities and into areas of hydrocarbon exploration (Fig.1). The JNCC small project grant enhanced our capacity to undertake this research, through the provision of funding to purchase additional tags.

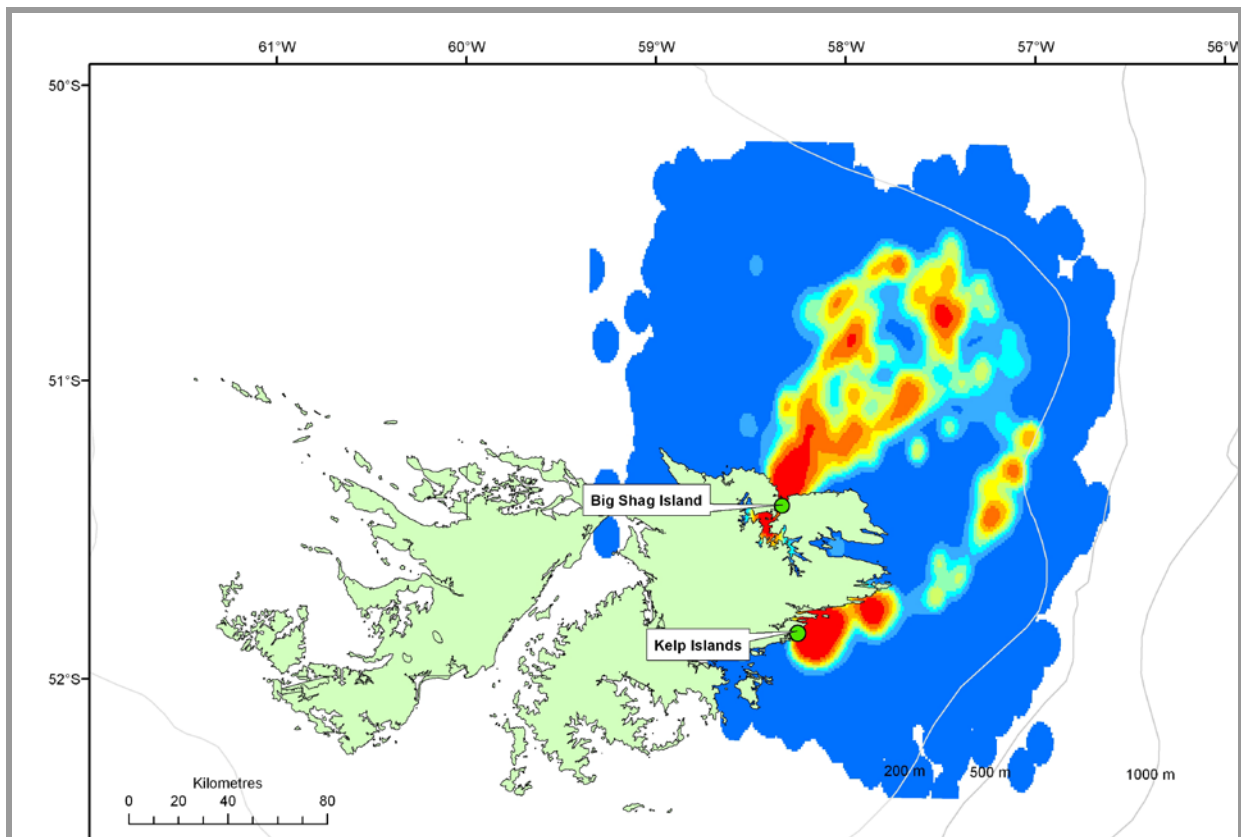


Fig 1. Initial results showing the distribution of foraging effort of adult female southern sea lions.

PROBLEMS and RESOLUTION

- (i) Satellite tags failed after 20 days of deployment. Tags were replaced under warranty by the manufacturer. The replacement of satellite tags provided the opportunity to expand our project and deploy tags on juveniles. This additional work extended our initial planned end date and delayed analysis.
- (ii) Sea lions molt annually to replace old and worn out fur. We were eager to avoid deploying tags on molting animals because tags would fall off with molting hair. Only anecdotal information was available on the timing of molt, so planning our field work (to avoid molting animals) was initially difficult. We established that adult female sea lions molt between March - June, and that juveniles molt earlier than females, having completed their molt by the end of April.

OUTPUTS: With reference to the FUNDS APPLICATION form, did your MAIN OUTPUTS achieve their EXPECTED OUTCOMES?

ACTIVITY	ACTUAL OUTCOME	COMMENTS
1	Identified key breeding sites around the Falkland Islands. Assessed the feasibility of access to these sites (in terms of boating, vehicle access, capacity to camp and in terms of securing land owner support)	
2	Established methods for the safe capture of sea lions	
3	Deployed ten (10) satellite tags on lactating adult females at two (2) important breeding sites	
4	Deployed satellite tags on six (6) juvenile sea lions from one site	
5	Collected adult female scat samples from two breeding sites	
6	Results have been disseminated through the Falklands Conservation newsletter, local newspaper, via the Falklands Conservation Facebook page and via the web: www.falklandsconservation.com	
	JNCC acknowledged on our sea lion 'blog', with link to JNCC provided.	

INFORMATION: This final section is, in some ways, the most important part of this form. Provision of this information will enable us to pursue further funding and support for conservation projects in the Overseas Territories.

I ATTACH the following, by way of INFORMATION:

(Please v tick appropriate boxes, and attached necessary information as necessary)

- Brief QUOTATIONS from the Project Manager / individuals involved with this project, which may be used freely by JNCC to promote and publicized the conservation achievements of this project through suitable media:**

Dr. Alastair Baylis

'These initial results already redefine our understanding of foraging habitats used by adult female sea lions. Ultimately, this information will help to clarify any impediments to population recovery in the Falkland Islands and contribute to a more comprehensive Species Action Plan'

- PHOTOGRAPHS or VIDEO CLIPS and full details of associated photo-credits, which may be used freely by JNCC and other OTs, to promote and publicized the conservation achievements of this project through suitable media.**

- A scanned copy and / or web-address of any NEWS ITEMS, PUBLISHED ARTICLES arising from this project.**

- A copy of any EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS, books, brochures, pamphlets or posters, arising from this project.**

- Details of any WEBSITE or WEBLINKS arising from this project.**

www.falklandsconservation.com

- Details of any COLLABORATION or PARTNERSHIP, local or international, which contributed to the success of this project.**

- Details of any other unexpected benefits arising from this project, such as CONSERVATION AWARDS, PUBLIC SUPPORT, VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION or SPONSORSHIP.**