

## 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:**

Falkland Islands Southern Sea Lions

**REPORTER:** Name, Organization, Contact Details.

(v tick if same as APPLICANT)

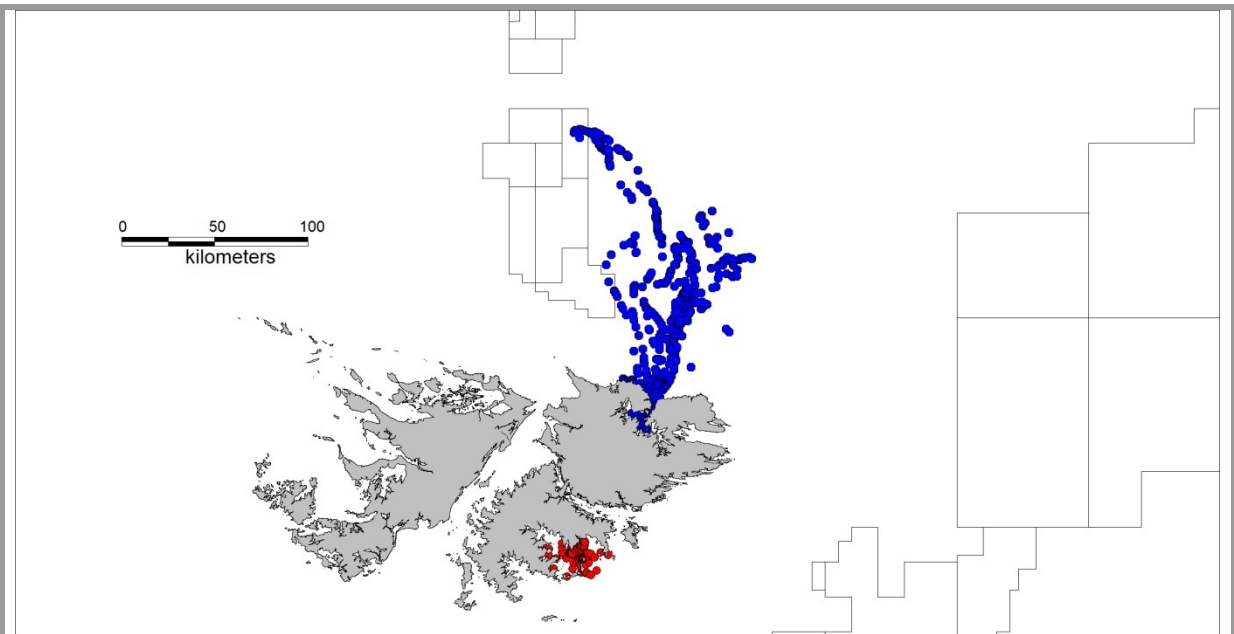
Alastair Baylis

**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?

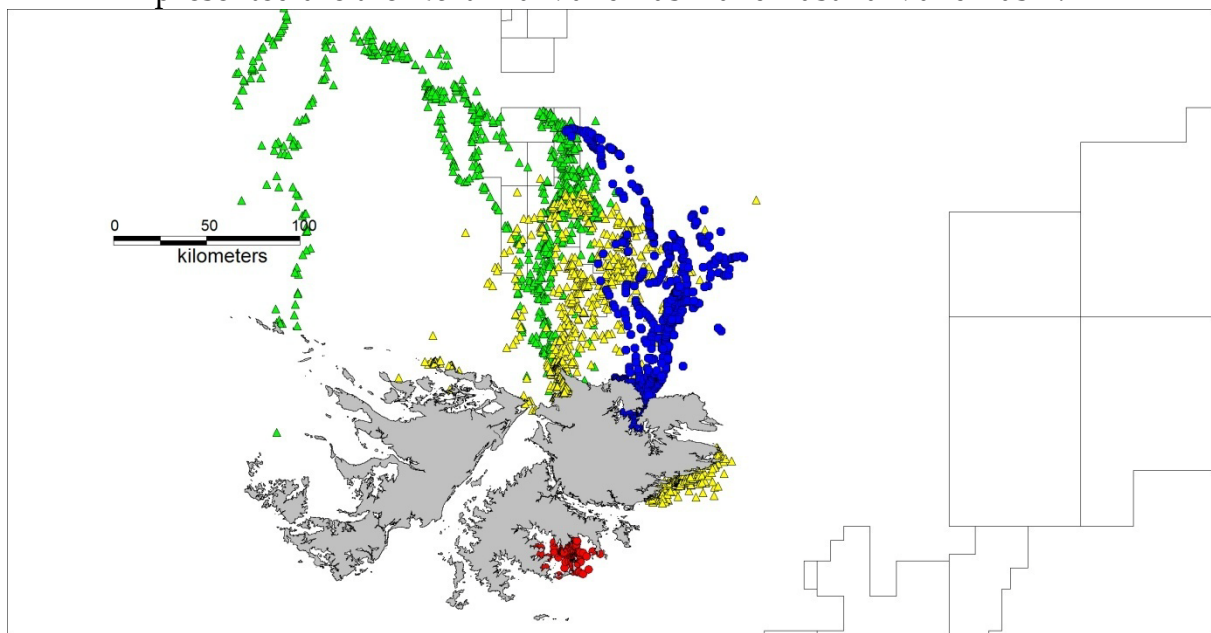
**HIGHLIGHTS and OVER-DELIVERY**

GPS/TDR units were deployed on southern sea lions breeding at the Falkland Islands. Ten units were deployed at Big Shag Island on adult females. In March satellite tags were deployed on two adult females at Turn Island. GPS deployment duration lasted on average 2 days, with the shortest and longest deployment period for adult females being 1 and 4 days, respectively. All females carrying GPS units were recaptured. Females generally foraged 100 km to the north of Big Shag Island (Fig 1). At Turn Island females foraged locally, within Low Bay (Fig 1). Turn Island is the fourth breeding site at which tags have been deployed (Fig. 2). Sea lions from different colonies generally foraged in discrete areas (i.e. colony specific foraging areas). This implies any potential threats to the Falklands sea lion population will vary in relation to colony location. Tracking should ideally be extended to West Falklands to better assess the management needs of the Falklands population, overlap with commercial industry and important at-sea areas.

In addition, a total of 90 skin samples were collected from adults and pups for genetic analysis. The skin samples will be used to assess population genetics and whether historical bottlenecks are impeding population recovery.



**Fig 1:** Foraging locations of 10 adult females from Big Shag Island in February 2013 (blue dots) and two adult females from Turn Island in March 2013 (red dots). Also presented are the North Falkland Basin and East Falkland Basin.



**Fig 2:** Colony differences in foraging areas and the need to deploy tags at multiple sites. Big Shag Island adult females 2013 (blue dots); Turn Island adult females 2013 (red dots); Cape Dolphin juveniles 2011 (green triangles) and 2012 (yellow triangles); Port Harriet juvenile 2012 (yellow triangles).

#### PROBLEMS and RESOLUTION

We were unable to undertake a census. However, to better understand critical at-sea areas we deployed GPS tags at several breeding sites around the Falkland Islands.

This data is critical, because it is necessary in order to assist the Falklands Islands Government in implementing the 'FI Biodiversity Strategy' and will assist with marine spatial planning.

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

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ACTUAL OUTCOME</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
1	Identified important areas at-sea	GPS Tags deployed at new breeding sites
2	Population genetics	Skin samples collected to elucidate population genetics
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

**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:**

Quote from Nick Rendell, FIG Environment Officer:

**This is the third concurrent season that satellite tracking tags have been deployed on Sea Lions in the Falkland Islands and the data being collected is incredibly useful. The initial results are very interesting and demonstrate different foraging patterns in different geographical areas of East Falkland. The FIG Environmental Planning Dept is in full support of Dr Baylis in his research and particularly in his plans to conduct a census of breeding Sea Lions in the Falkland Islands in early 2014.**

- 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.**  
  
See two photos attached.
- 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.**
- 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.**