



Meeting: Conservation Services Programme Technical Working Group

Date: 28 February 2020
Time: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Place: 2.09 Kauri Room, Conservation House, 18-32 Manners Street, Wellington
Chair: Graeme Taylor (gtaylor@doc.govt.nz)

Attendance: Igor Debski, Karen Middlemiss, Graeme Taylor (DOC), David Thompson, Paul Sagar (NIWA), Richard Wells (DWG)

POP2019-04: Snares Southern Buller's Albatross population study, methodology presentation- NIWA

KM Key outcomes are (1) finish the census (2) breeding pairs (3) adult survival (this is the #1 priority)

DT Confirming that for the first season finishing the census is the priority and then the adult survival is the priority in other seasons

KM Yes

KM Southern Ops have raised concern over using stakes to mount cameras on (damage to land)
PS Need to position cameras to gain maximum next coverage and that is not always possible using existing structures (i.e. scrub). Suggest developing a site plan for proposed camera install sites for approval by Southern Ops and install cameras in year 2 of the project

KM Contacted Joseph at Southern Ops who was happy with that approach

PS Highlighted that the nests are often underneath scrub

GT Discussion around need for better documentation of GPS coordinates for study sites and site boundaries

PS Will map out study site using GSP coordinates for boundaries (Mollymawk Bay, Lower Punui Bay, and Upper Punui Bay) on North East Island

RW Noted difficult to map out cliff areas

PS All nests will be inspected, and the contents recorded. Band numbers of all adult birds associated with these nests will be recorded and any un-banded birds incubating will be captured and fitted with a uniquely numbered stainless-steel leg band.

GT Formalise method for measuring immigration/emigration between sites and adjacent areas. Paul already does this but not well documented.

ID General discussion around changes over time

PS as many birds as possible will be checked for leg bands. This information will inform the dispersal rate of birds banded in the study colonies. GPS locations will be acquired to delineate these buffer areas checked for emigration of breeding birds from study areas. A hand-held GPS unit will be used to create a series of locations that define the circumference of each of the three study colonies. Within study areas, the locations of nests with long-standing nest

markers will also be determined using a hand-held GPS unit.

ID We have 50 spare GLS tags to track some birds this year

DT Will collect the tags on completion of the meeting

PS/DT GLS tags will be fitted to quantity 50 birds at a single colony site, selected based on ease of access and opportunity to tag previously monitored birds. Tags will be deployed in the 20/21 season and retrieved in the 21/22 season.

KM Wished the team well for the season and will speak with David Thompson to complete final preparations for schedule 10 March 2020 departure.

End of meeting