

POP 2007-01 New Zealand sea lion Auckland Islands - project reporting review

Meeting with Seafood Industry Council (SeaFIC), following CSP Technical Working Group meeting of 29 October 2010-11-08

5 November

Seafood Industry House, Wellington

Present: Paul Breen (SeaFIC), David Middleton (SeaFIC), Louise Chilvers (DOC) & Igor Debski (DOC)

These minutes supplement those from the CSP TWG 29 Oct 2010

Discrepancy of 2010 pup estimates

- LC explained that the data extract provided to SeaFIC in Sept 2010 contained transcription errors in the mark-recapture data for 2010. The correct number of marks deployed was 148 at Sandy Bay, not 150, and 389 for Dundas not 387.
- The transcription error for Sandy Bay arose because a copy of the 2009 spreadsheet was used as the basis for providing the 2010 data, but the 2009 number was not updated.
- For Dundas, the number of marks deployed recorded in the Sept 2010 extract related to an earlier mark-recapture experiment, carried out on 12/13 January, rather than the main estimate carried out on 21/22 January.
- The mark-recapture experiment on Dundas on 12/13 January was a feasibility trial, carried out in addition to other field tasks, and so had not been reported to the CSP TWG.
- All agreed that estimates of pup production reported by LC for 2010 were correctly derived given the corrected data.

Discrepancies in pup production standard errors

- LC confirmed that there were some errors in the reported standard errors, as the sample size used in her spreadsheet formulas did not all match the actual sample sizes. All calculations for the POP2007-01 project will be repeated, and corrected.
- PB noted additionally that there were errors in the published standard error estimates for 2005, and recommended pup estimates and standard errors be verified for all years where the required data are available.
- LC holds data from 02/03 onwards. She will recalculate estimates and standard errors for 02/03 to 09/10, and tabulate these in the final report for POP2007-01. Any corrected standard errors will be flagged in reporting.

Other matters related to the draft POP2007-01 report

- PB presented a number of specific comments to aid revision of the report
- DM expanded on comments made at the CSP TWG meeting regarding the depth of information that should be reported on methods, activities and sightings.

General matters on NZ sea lion data archiving by DOC

- LC explained that original records from the field are stored in field note books, some of which are at Enderby Island. Other more historic field records may be held by the investigators of the day, and they were not all readily available at DOC. In addition, some observations recorded in these field notebooks are not necessarily held in any other form by DOC.
- PB/DM requested more formal and readily accessible archiving of field data (both the original data sheets and transcribed data in spreadsheet or database formats) to allow any discrepancies to be easily investigated, and recommend historic pup production estimates be verified.
- ID agreed to source electronic copies of original field records contributing to pup estimates.
- PB/DM reiterated previous SeaFIC feedback on the importance of developing a robust database to store all information from the project, rather than the current use of multiple spreadsheets. This would reduce the chances of errors due to data handling.
- LC agreed in principle, but noted that efforts to establish a database had been hampered by wider DOC IT protocols.
- DM offered assistance to establish an appropriate database.