

To: Igor Debski, Conservation Services Program
From: Thomas Mattern, Mel Young
Project: Hoiho Population and tracking: POP2018-02
Date: 21 May 2019

Monthly report for the period 21 Apr 2019 – 20 May 2019

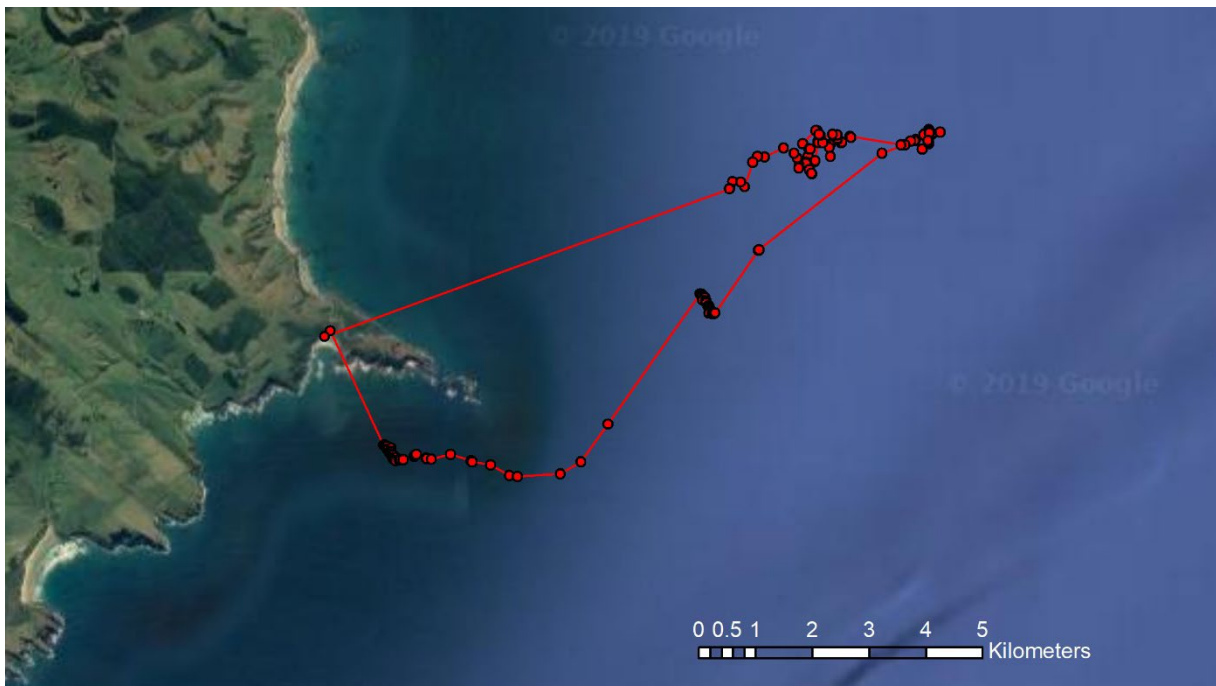
Summary

Following the conclusion of the annual Yellow-eyed penguin moult in late April, tracking work resumed in the first week of May in the Catlins. Between 1 and 10 May 2019, a total of 7 penguins were fitted with GPS dive loggers. Four birds from Nugget Point were fitted with devices, at Penguin Bay one bird was tagged and a further two birds are currently being tracked at Te Rere. At the time of this writing, one bird at the Nugget Point has been recaptured.

Results

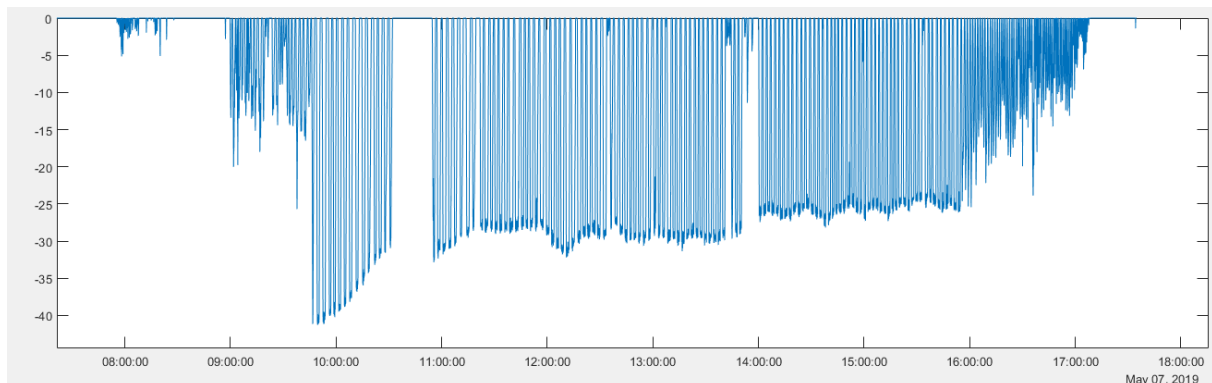
Nugget Point, bird id: 982 000405532782

During its seven-day deployment, the penguin undertook only a single one-day foraging trip on 7 May 2019 during which it ventured no further than 10 km to the east of Nugget Point into the western ranges of Molyneux Bay.



Foraging track of female 982 000405532782 on 7 May 2019

The penguin performed a total of 274 dives on its 9 hrs 12 minutes long trip, reaching an average maximum depth of 18.4 m with its deepest dive being 41.3 m. 77% of the dives were benthic dives with the majority of non-benthic dives being performed at the beginning and the end of the foraging trip indicating travelling behaviour.



Dive profile of female 982 000405532782 on 7 May 2019

Daily log

30/04/2019

Travel to Nugget Point for the first round of post-moult device deployments. An unbanded adult was caught at Roaring Bay (weight: 5100 g, head length: 136 mm, foot length: 123 mm) - very small female, in good condition. Tail not yet through following moult. Right foot hole in outer webbing, scar on outside toe. Transponder #982000407009124 inserted. Field team: Mel Young & Graeme Loh.

01/05/2019

Two penguins were captured and deployed with GPS dive loggers (982000405533363, weight: 5000 g; 982000405532782, weight: 6200 g). Both birds were captured on the Roaring Bay side. Field team: Mel Young & Graeme Loh.

02/05/2019

A third penguin was captured at Nugget Point in the morning but was released without device as it was deemed to light for deployment (982000407009124, weight: 4400g). Field team: Mel Young & Graeme Loh.

06/05/2019

982000063607146, a male from creek area (weight: 5400g) caught in grassy area and fitted with GPS dive logger at around 5.30pm. Field team: Mel Young, Catherine Geoffrey & Rachel Hickcox.

07/05/2019

982000405532782 (weight: 5700 g) caught ca. 5.30pm coming ashore for device recovery. Two birds were found together at the nest site below the penguin hide in Roaring Bay. The female (982000402100750, weight: 5100 g) was fitted with GPS dive logger, as was the other attending male penguin (982000210214049, weight: 5200 g, head length: 144 mm, foot length: 130 mm). Cloacal swab and/or oral swabs in PBS were taken for Miguel in Virology Dept at University of Otago. Field team: Mel Young, Catherine Geoffrey & Rachel Hickcox.

10/05/2019

Transfer to Te Rere reserve with Fergus Sutherland. Male penguin 982000405532831 was found in the gully area at 3.10pm. 1st week of the moult, underweight (4900 g), right foot of middle toe

thickened, was splaying this foot out behind when lying on belly (head length: 144 mm, foot length: 135 mm). Uplifted for veterinary assessment at Dunedin Wildlife Hospital. An unmarked male penguin in excellent condition was caught for device attachment (weight: 5950 g, head length: 145 mm, foot length: 130 mm). Transponder 982000407009083 inserted by Rachel Hickcox under training supervision - but microchip popped out. Re-chipped as 982000407011612 inserted by Mel Young - double-checked microchip packet and found that new microchips are in fact 32mm not 23mm. Bird went back out onto the rock platform on release. Another female penguin (982000405532344, weight: 5400g, head length: 144mm, foot length: 131 mm) was caught and fitted with GPS dive logger.

10/05/2019 – 20/05/2019

Monitoring of penguin movements by Catherine Geoffrey at Nugget Point. Attempts to recover devices from 19 May onward. One bird with device caught in the early hours of 20 May 2019. However, no data cable was available so that download must wait until the device is returned to Dunedin. Results will be presented in next month's report.