

Salvin's albatross – at sea distribution

POP2012–06

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Purpose of the Project

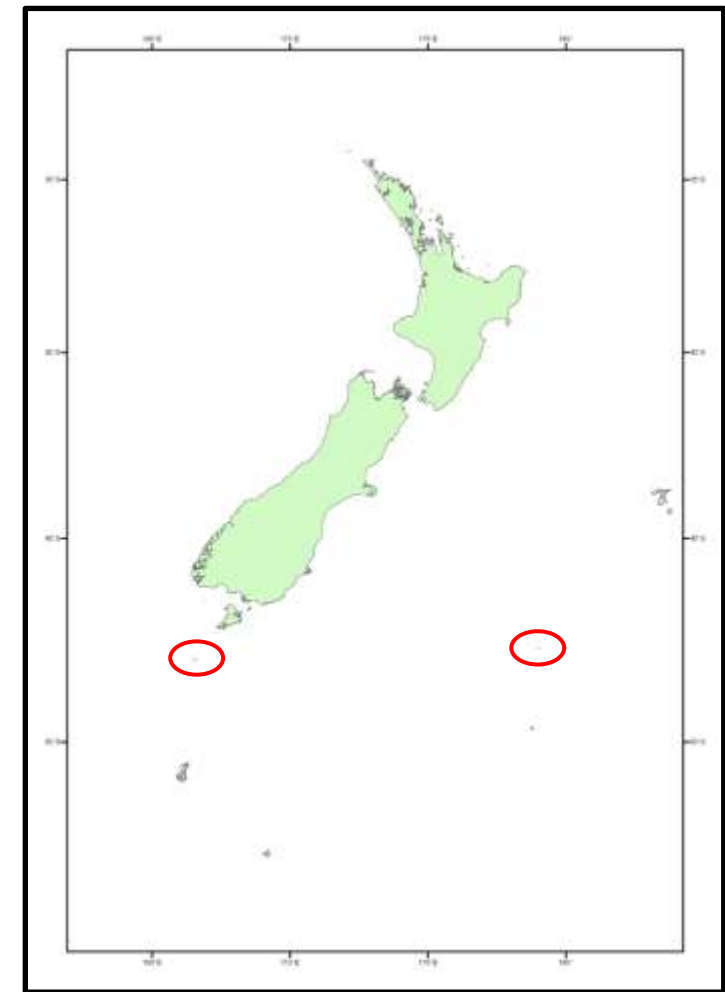
- To estimate the at-sea distribution of Salvin's albatross at the Bounty Islands

Specific Objectives

- 1. determine the foraging range of Salvin's albatross at the Bounty Islands; and
- 2. collect information to ground truth aerial survey techniques in 2013

Background

- NZ endemic
- Ca. 40,000 at Bounty Islands (97%)
- Ca. 1,000 at Western Chain (3%)
- Annual breeder
- Leaves NZ waters following breeding



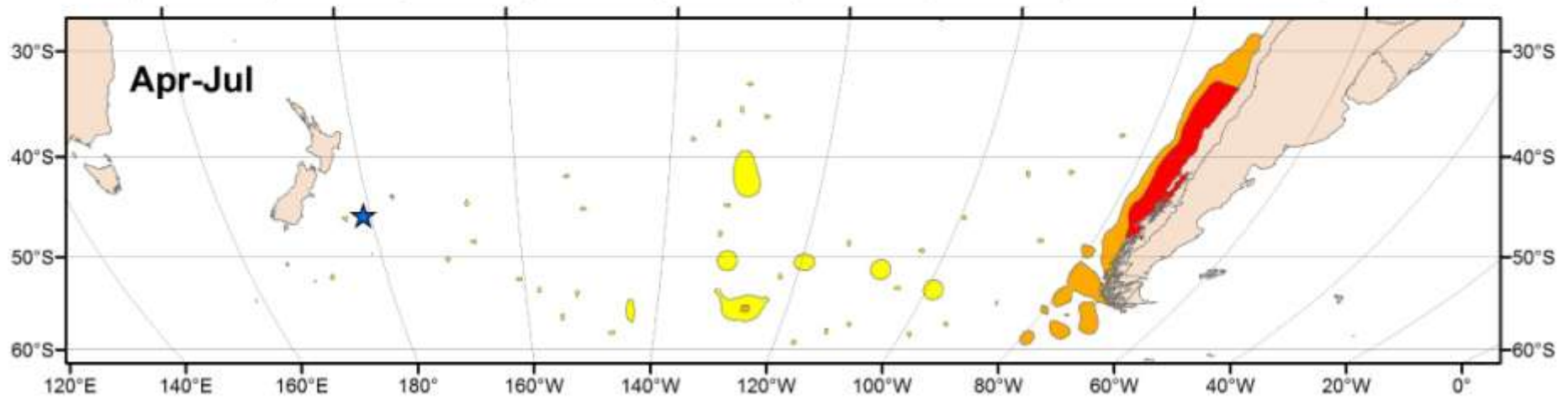
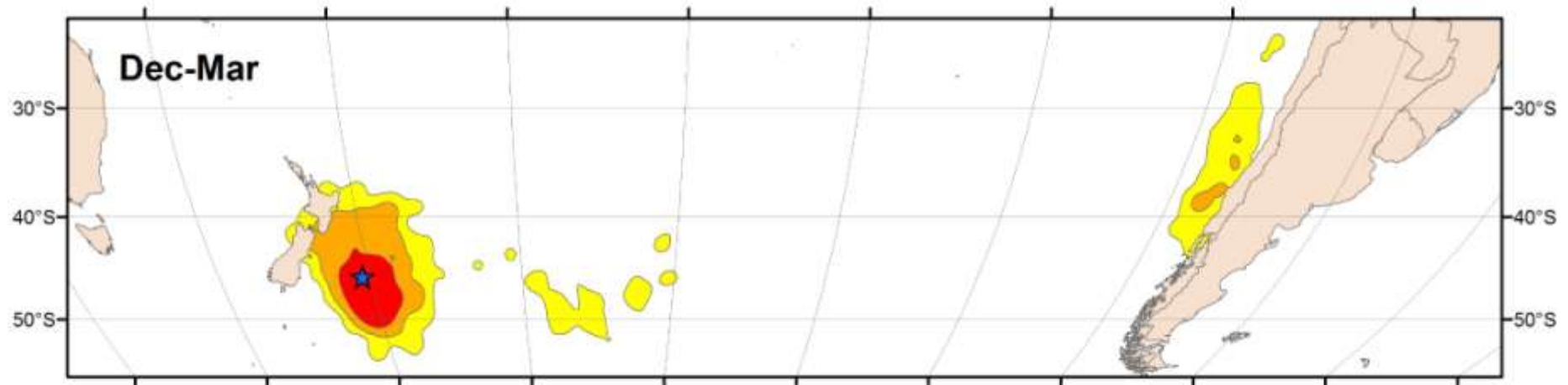
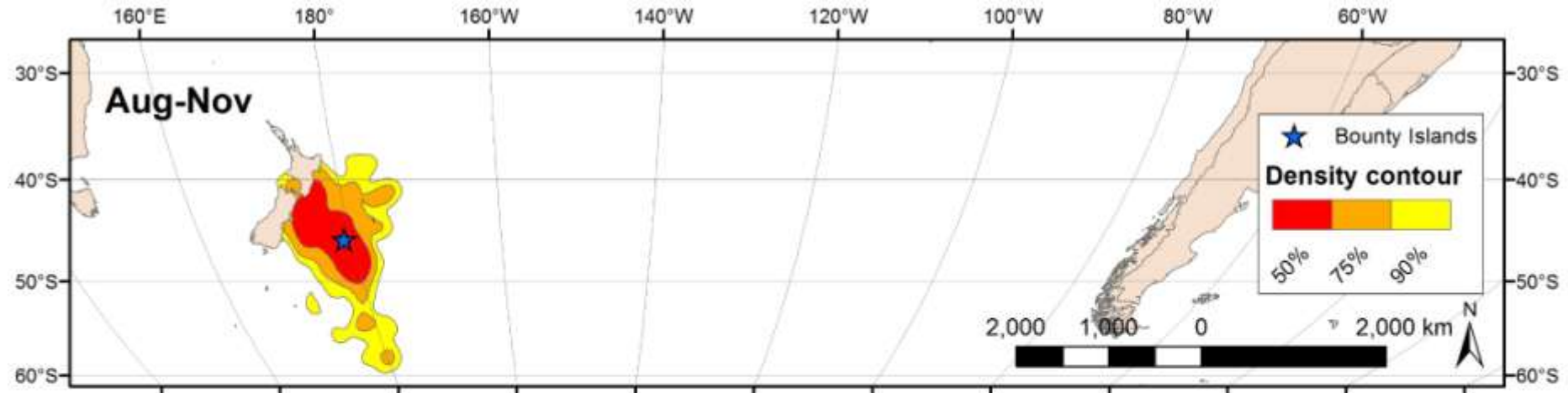
Methods 1

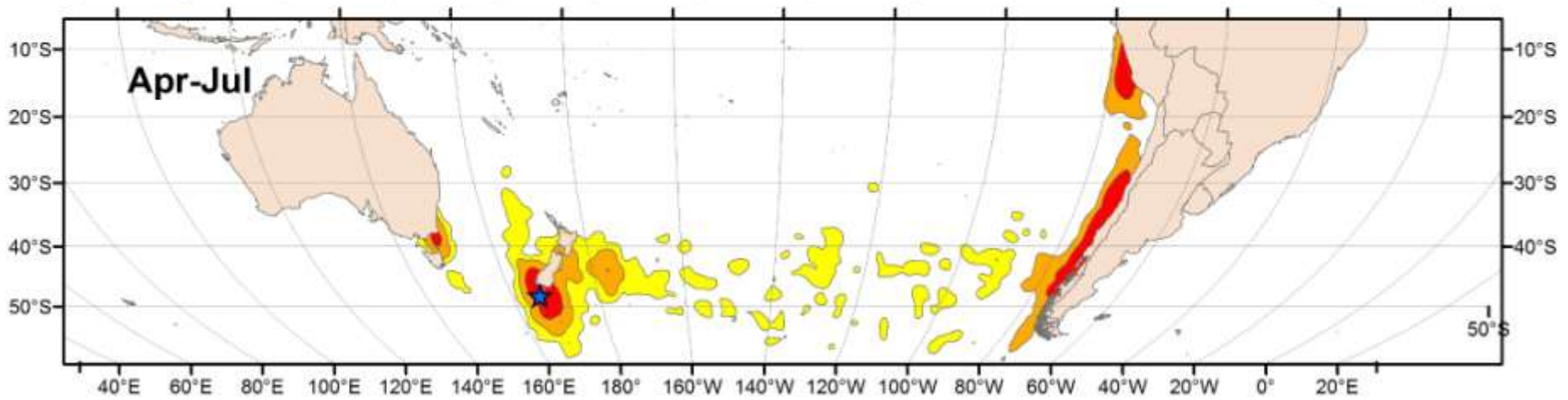
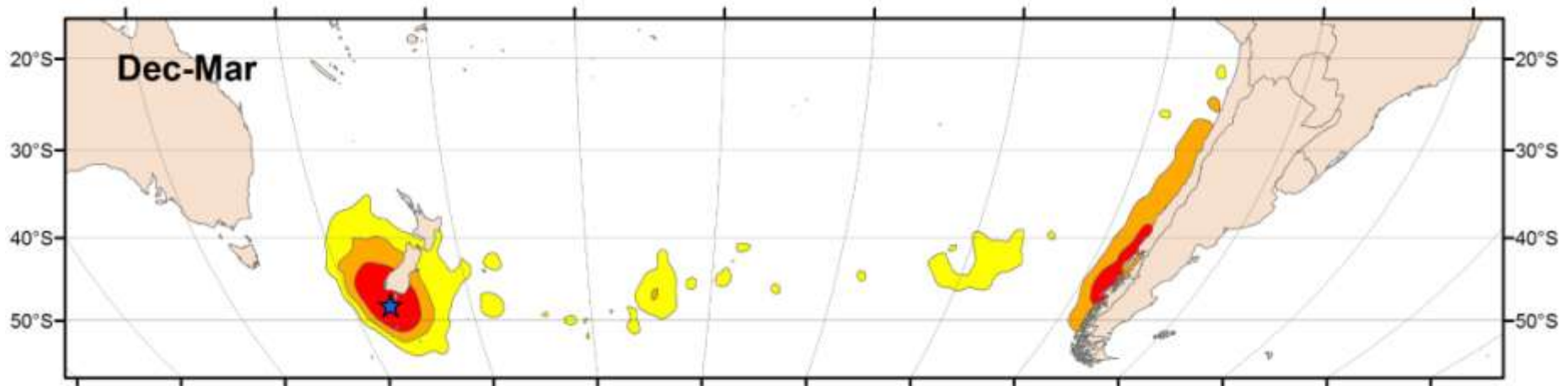
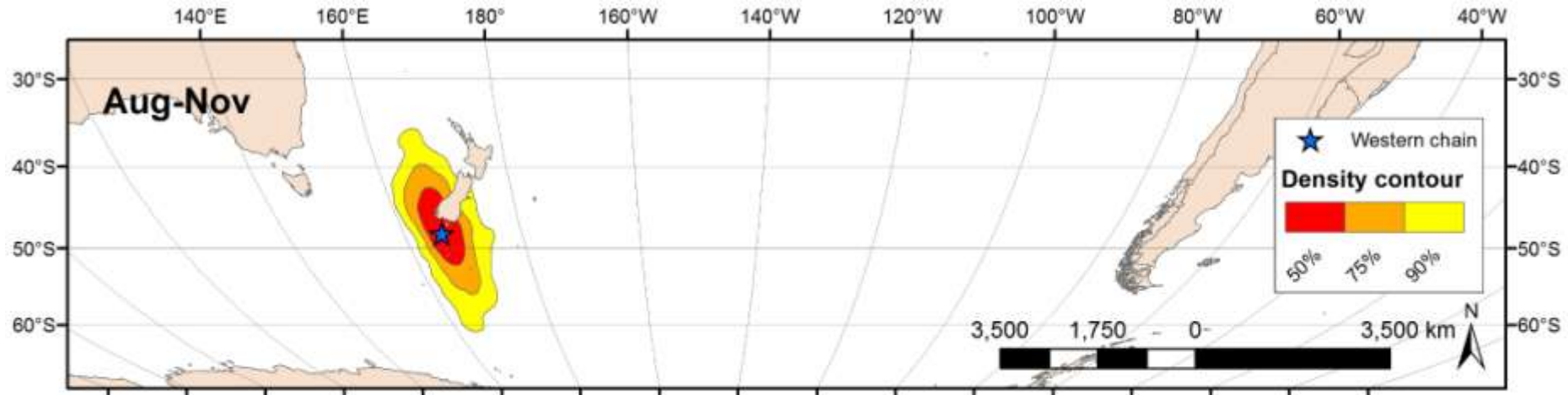
- 50 Lotek/Biotrack 3005 type geolocation loggers deployed October 2012
- 24 loggers retrieved October 2013, including one from a dead bird returned as bycatch
- 6 other tags lost
- 20 unaccounted for
- Weather unhelpful

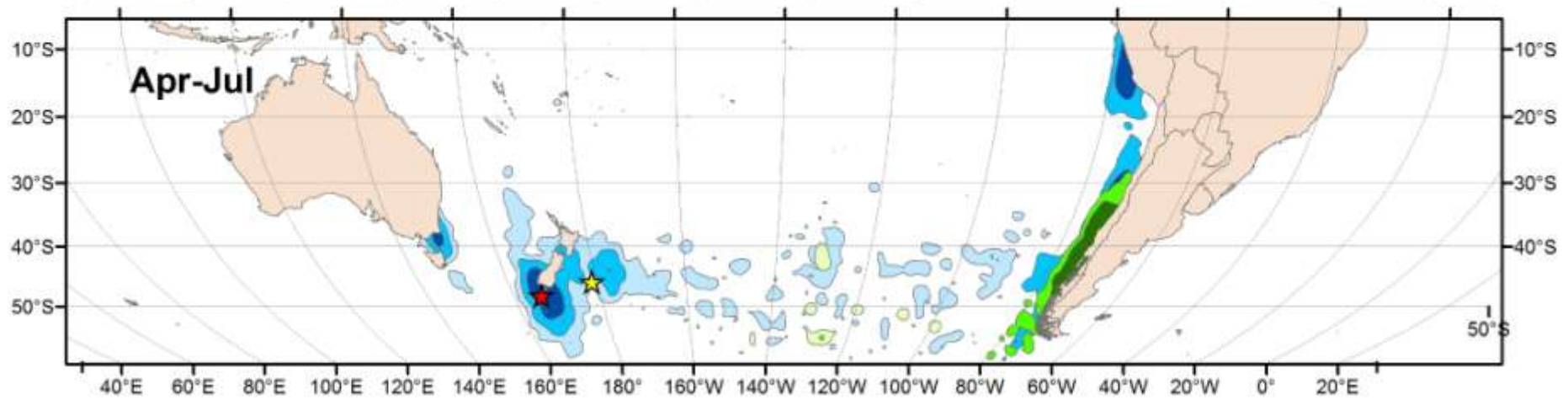
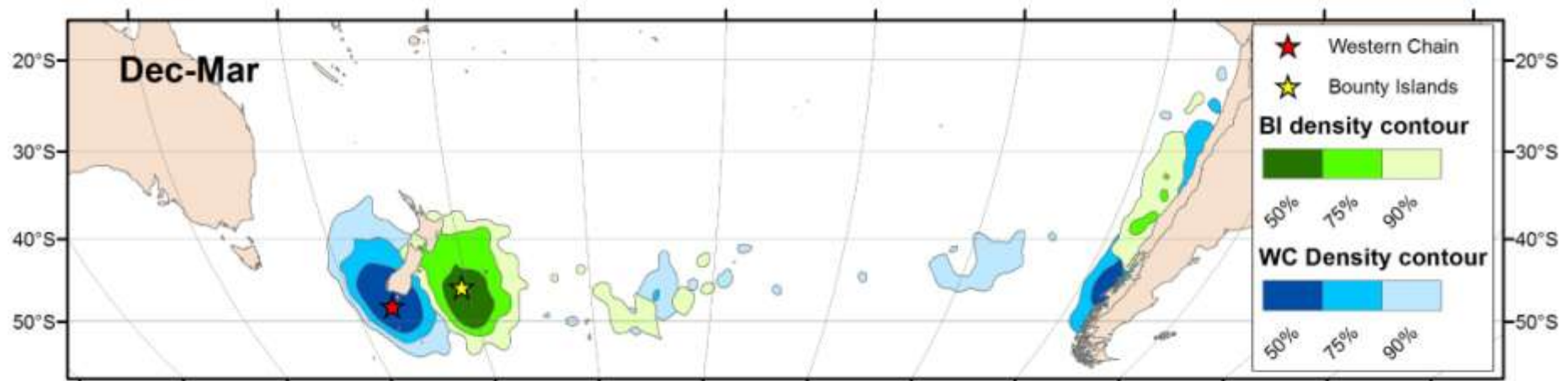
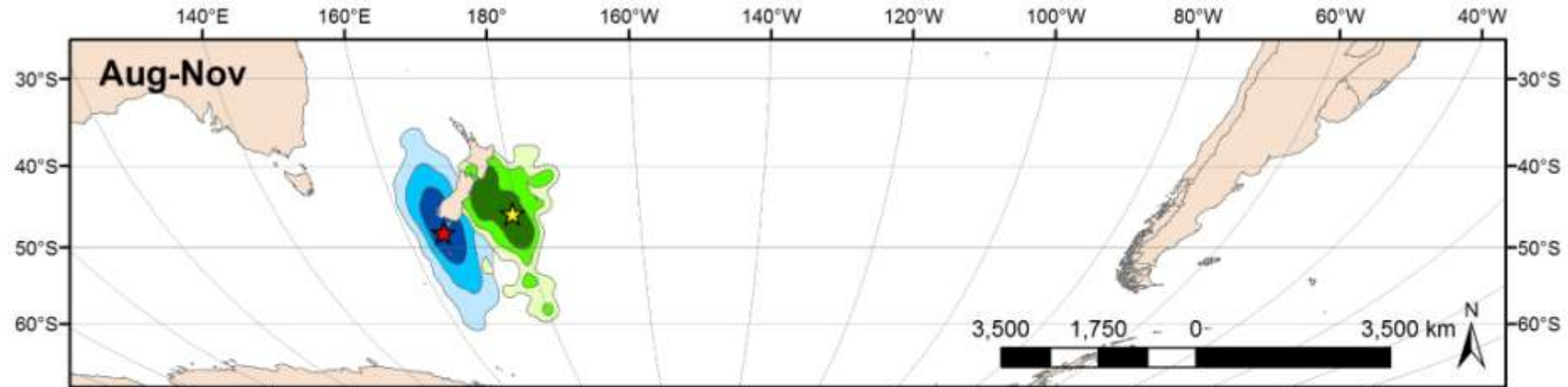


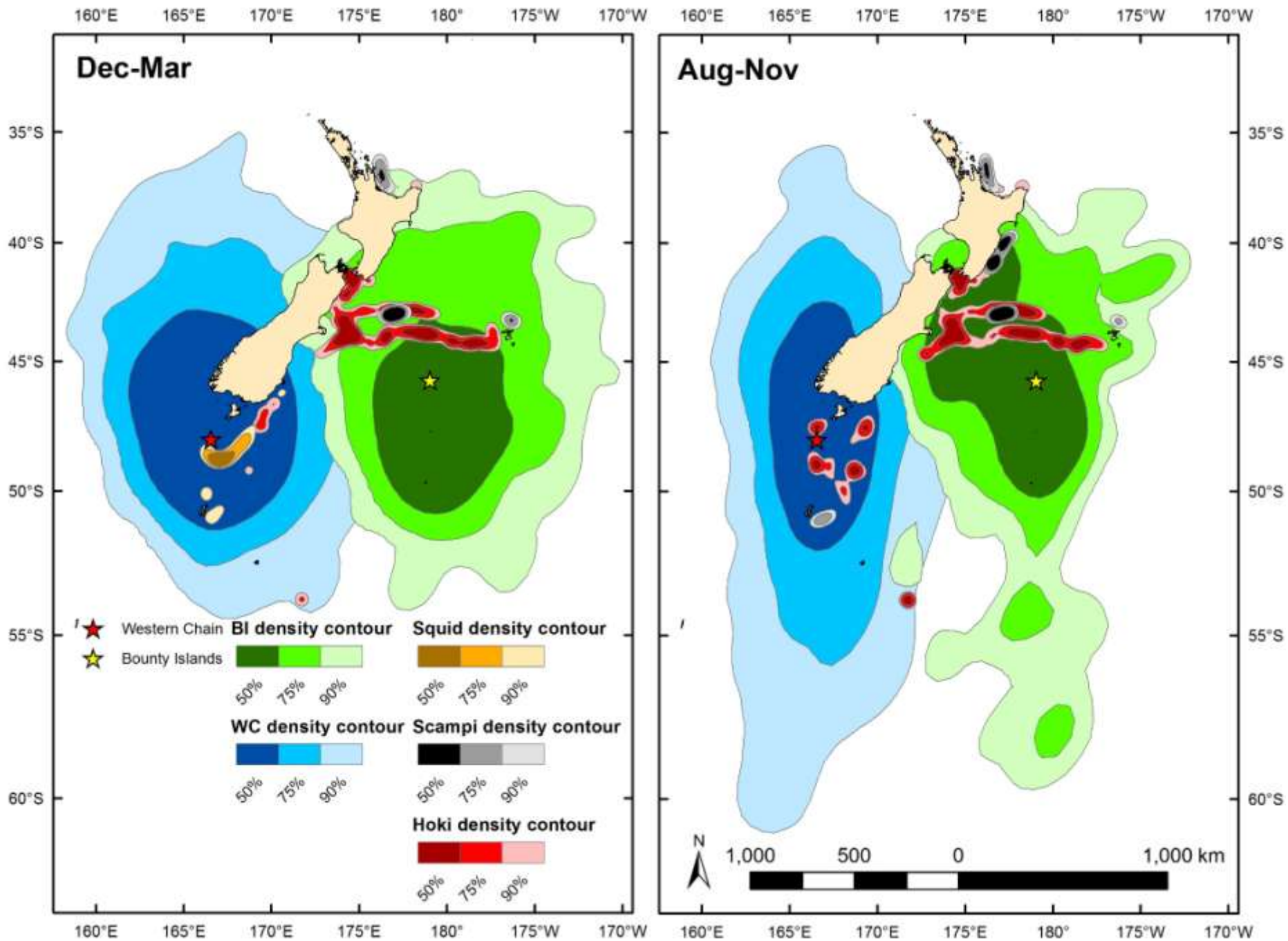
Methods 2

- Tag issues
- BAS to Lotek
- Lotek used a different temperature chip from that used by BAS
 - Elevated temperature values
 - Increased power consumption
- Early battery failure, markedly reduced data sets
- Data extracted from 20 of 24 loggers retrieved, mean duration 125 days
- 7 data sets unusable









Conclusions

- Two NZ populations of Salvin's albatross appear to segregate spatially, roughly east-west along 170 deg E
- All birds from the Bounty Islands leave NZ post-breeding and migrate eastwards to Chilean waters – but small sample size
- Most birds from the Western Chain migrate to South America, populations off Peru and Chile, but some residency in Australasia
- Exposure to commercial fisheries
 - Western Chain - sub-Antarctic hoki, squid and scampi
 - Bounty Islands – Chatham Rise and Cook Strait hoki, Chatham Rise and east coast scampi

Acknowledgements

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