

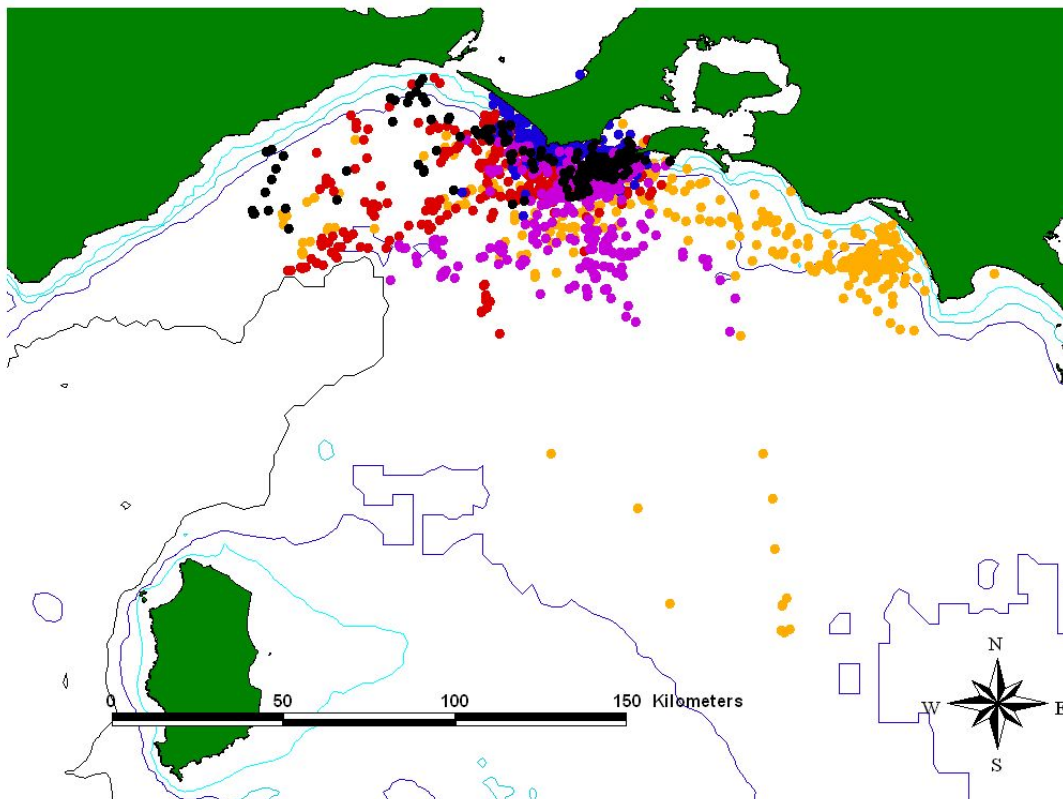
## Juvenile Seal Tracking - 2010



Tracker deployments on Maggie and Nym at Seal Rocks in July.

- On 20-22 July, trackers/ dive recorders were attached to 6 juveniles at Seal Rocks.
- On 24-30 Sept, all devices were recovered.

Seals	Sex	Mass (kg)	Length (cm)	Girth (cm)	Tracker
Juliet	F	31	114	76	yes
Crusoe	M	46	137	85	yes
Nym	F	38	124	83	yes
Maggie	F	42	123	86	yes
Scrappy	M	35	114	82	yes
Jackson	M	34	116	80	no



This map shows where the seals travelled.

## REPORT FOR SEAL ROCKS TRIP – September 2010

**Aim:** Retrieve satellite trackers from seals, collect fresh seal bodies & scats, and monitor entanglement rates, monitor birds, hut & tower maintenance.

<b>Actual date:</b>	24-30 Sep 2010	<b>Ethics Permit:</b>	1.2010
<b>Actual duration ashore:</b>	6 nights	<b>Wildlife Permit:</b>	10005446

### Crew

Name	Affiliation	Role
Roger Kirkwood	PINP	Trip leader
Tony Mitchell	DSE	Assistant
Mary Ceccolini	Melb Uni	Vet student

### Summary

1. Devices recovered from all 6 juvenile seals that carried them – all dive data downloaded & ok.
2. 3 x entangled seals seen, all deep cutting– caught & removed string from one, white string? on another, one dead entangled in squid jig.
3. 2 fresh fetuses autopsied.
4. *Subantarctic fur seal* juvenile on main beach for several days.
5. Diving petrels called each night, several unusual passerine sightings.
6. 1 x Nesting silver gull.
7. Hut maintenance included new front step, cleaned outside wood-pile, starling proofing.
8. No tower maintenance – intended visitors to tower couldn't make the boat times.

### Conditions

<b>Arrival:</b>	24 Sep, 3 pm: SW swell of 2-3 m, NW winds ~15-20k, tide falling, rough chop, landing ok but bouncy around boat.
<b>Stay:</b>	Sunny with strong Northerlies (to 30-35k), then overcast and some rain with SW at 20-30k.
<b>Departure:</b>	30 Sep, 7.30 am: SW swell 1-2 m, SW winds 10-15k, tide low. High cloud clearing.

### Diary

24 Sep. Fri

*Moderate north to south-westerlies*  
 14.00 – boat departed Rhyll, rough trip out.  
 15.00 – arrived seal rocks, transferred gear ashore, recovered device from seal **Crusoe**, on main beach.  
 15.00 to 18.00 – searching for other seals present, **Nym & Juliet**. **Juliet** not seen, **Nym** sighted in uncatchable position north of main beach.  
 Collected scats, transferred gear to hut.  
 18.00 to 20.00 – autopsied fresh foetus collected from main beach, cleaned hut, settled in.

25 Sep. Sat

*Moderate westerlies*  
 06:30 to 07.00 – scanned for seals, only **Juliet** present, possibly on main beach?  
 07.00 to 08.00 – caught entangled seal near hut, removed string which was cutting.  
 08.00 to 11.00 – searched/ crawled for **Juliet** – located her VHF tracker buried on main beach.  
 11.00 to 19.00 – scanned frequently with VHF, scope, binoculars for tracker seals.

26 Sep. Sun

*Strong north-westerlies – sunny*  
 06:30 to 07.00 – scanned for seals, none detected.  
 07.00 to 19.00 – scanned frequently with VHF, scope, binoculars for tracker seals.  
 10.00 to 19.00 – concreted in new step and northwest corner for hut – erosion was undermining corner making it vulnerable to collapse.  
 17.00 – foetus aborted on main beach, crawled to and recovered for autopsy.

27 Sep. Mon

*Strong south-westerlies – rain – large swell (4-6 m)*  
 06:30 to 07.00 – scanned for seals, one present, **Scrappy** – up near hut.

	07.00 to 08.00 – caught <b>Scrappy</b> , recovered devices. 08.00 to 19.00 – scanned frequently with VHF, scope, binoculars for tracker seals. 15.30 – seal <b>Maggie</b> returned and rested at main beach. 15.30 to 18.00 – searched/ crawled for <b>Maggie</b> – captured on main beach.
<u>28 Sep. Tue</u>	<i>Strong south-westerlies – rain – large swell (4-6 m) – high tide at ~4 pm</i> 06:30 to 07.00 – scanned for seals, <b>Nym</b> in West Bay near water's edge and looking easily disturbed, <b>Jackson</b> at north of main beach near end of main, also sighted <b>Juliet</b> (no VHF) near boat landing on main beach. 07.00 to 11.00 – crawled for <b>Juliet</b> then <b>Jackson</b> , caught both, devices recovered. 1300 – <i>Subantarctic fur seal</i> juvenile arrived on north of main beach – settled in 11.00 to 18.00 – maintained vigil on <b>Nym</b> – rising tide pushing her higher up beach. 18.00 to 19.00 – crawled for <b>Nym</b> , caught and devices recovered.
<u>29 Sep. Wed</u>	<i>Moderate south-westerlies – rain –swell decreasing (3-5 m)</i> 07:30 to 19.00 – scanned for entangled seals, birds etc, cleaned/ repaired wood-pile, ladder supports at back of hut, patched holes in hut wall to reduce starling access.
<u>30 Sep, Thu</u>	<i>Light south-westerlies – low swell (1-2 m)</i> 05:30 to 07.00 – packed gear, cleared hut and shifted gear to main beach. 07.00 to 08.00 – assembled zodiac, collected scats. 08.00 to 08.30 – departed Seal Rocks. 09.30 – arrived at Rhyll boat ramp.

### Seal observations

Seals	Low to medium numbers (~2-4000) plus pups
Fresh dead	On main beach: ~50+ yearlings/ juveniles, 2 cows, 1 sub ad male 12 foetuses on arrival, 3 recorded during stay
Entangled	Juvenile – located between plateaus - string, cutting – removed Juvenile – on west bay - white string?, cutting, Juvenile – dead on main beach - squid jig and line
Tagged	Subadult male, two yellow tags, numbers not seen – main beach on 27 Sep
Scats	from main beach – easy to find
Alopecia	5 cow, 2-3 juvenile

### Seal trackers recovered

No.	Name	Date	Sex	PTT/	VHF	Tags	Comment
1	Juliet	28/09	female	41429	150.08	.96/97	Had lost VHF, other devices good, seal healthy
2	Crusoe	24/09	male	41431	150.42	.98/99	All devices good, seal healthy and alert, lucky to locate in sea of stampeding seals
3	Nym	28/09	female	41432	150.52	.100/101	All devices good (VHF half off), seal very alert and edgy, otherwise good condition.
4	Scrappy	27/09	male	53622	150.62	.102/103	All devices good, seal very chubby (obviously receiving milk)
5	Jackson	28/09	male	41433	150.95	.104/105	All devices good, seal healthy
6	Maggie	27/09	female	53613	150.58	.106/107	All devices good, seal alert and strong

### Birds sighted

Birds	Max. count	Comment
Kelp gull	36A, 3J	Settled in evenings on east arm, few evening views of Black Rock so might have been more there
Pacific gull	3A, 4A	Rested at north plateau or east arm
Silver gull	42	Rested on east arm or around seals, one nesting on east face of south plateau
Crested tern	120 +	Rested on east arm
Black-faced cormorant	30	North plateau
Sooty oystercatcher	4	Pair on south plateau, pair on main beach <b>Tag</b> – Yellow, Yellow, Metal / Red (possibly banded as 3+ at West Head Flinders, 21/04/2004, orange band under red lost since sighting in July) – was on main beach with unbanded bird <b>Tag</b> – White, Metal - on right leg, was on south plateau with possibly unbanded bird
Ruddy turnstone	14	Scattered in ones and twos occasional group of up to 6.
Common diving petrel	2	Calling most nights, most often as flew past back of hut
Shearwater	>1000	Offshore – flying past, Few on Fri night, many on Sat night, thousands on Sun night etc
Australasian Gannet	3	Offshore – flying past
Shy Albatross	2	Offshore – flying past
Giant petrel	1	Offshore – flying past
Starling	~50	Arrived on dusk
Welcome swallow	6	Darting around hut and south plateau
Masked lapwing	2	1 seen for several days on main beach, second bird arrived and stayed one afternoon.
Cape Barren Goose	2	1 on one day didn't land, 2 arrived on Mon landed at cormorant roost at north plateau
Brown falcon	1	Bird seen on 2 consecutive days, didn't land
Grey fantail	1	Seen on day several times around hut and south plateau
Willy wagtail	1	Seen on several days – around hut and south plateau
Rainbow lorikeet	2	Flew past quickly from south, calling



Seals on main beach



Tracker recovery operations



Scrappy relieved of trackers



Dead seal entangled in squid jig and line



Subantarctic fur seal juvenile



New step to support hut corner and organizing timber pile at back of hut