Project Update: February 2013

The last few field trips for the Gentoo penguin tracking work were extremely challenging. With near record rain falls it made for some interesting work. Thankfully with some tough volunteers we were able to reach our target goals for number of trackers deployed. The lab work is currently underway and preliminary results are indicating differing foraging strategies among the various sites we are working at. At present we have confirmed eight different fish, five cephalopods and three crustacean species in the diet. We have been working closely with the Falkland Islands Fisheries Scientists who have assisted with species identification. As part of a marine themed term an interactive session was done with the Falkland Islands High School. The importance of understanding animal diets was explained. Once all stomach samples have been worked through in the lab, isotope samples will be prepared for a greater understanding of Gentoo diet.



Gentoo bill measurements for sexing penguins. ©Reinhard Mischke

Squid beak identification. ©Jonathan Handley



The field team. ©Jonathan Handley