

A population and distributional study of white-capped albatross (Auckland Islands)

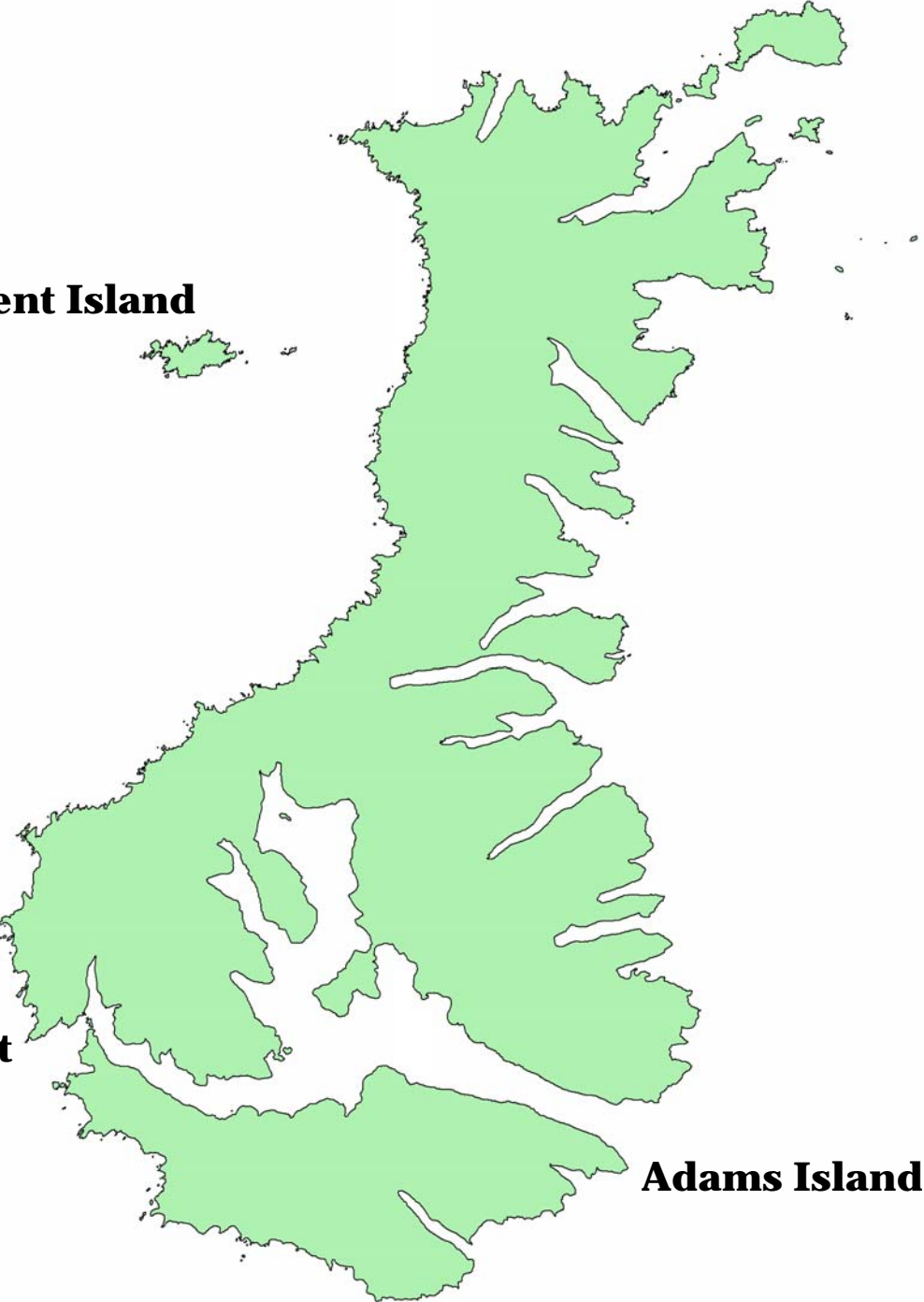
Contract POP2005/02

David Thompson & Paul Sagar



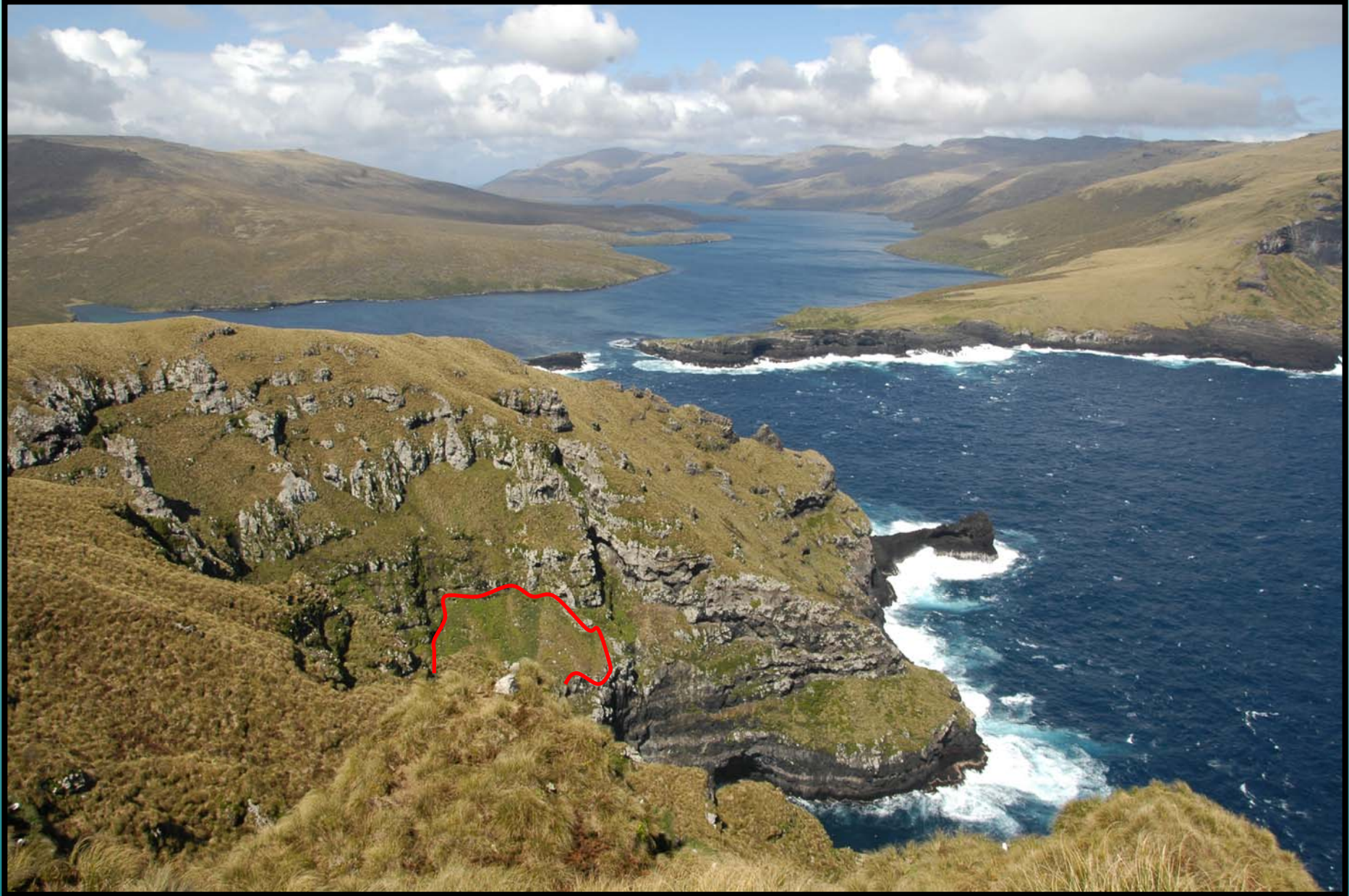
NIWA
Taihoro Nukurangi

Disappointment Island



**South West
Cape**

Adams Island



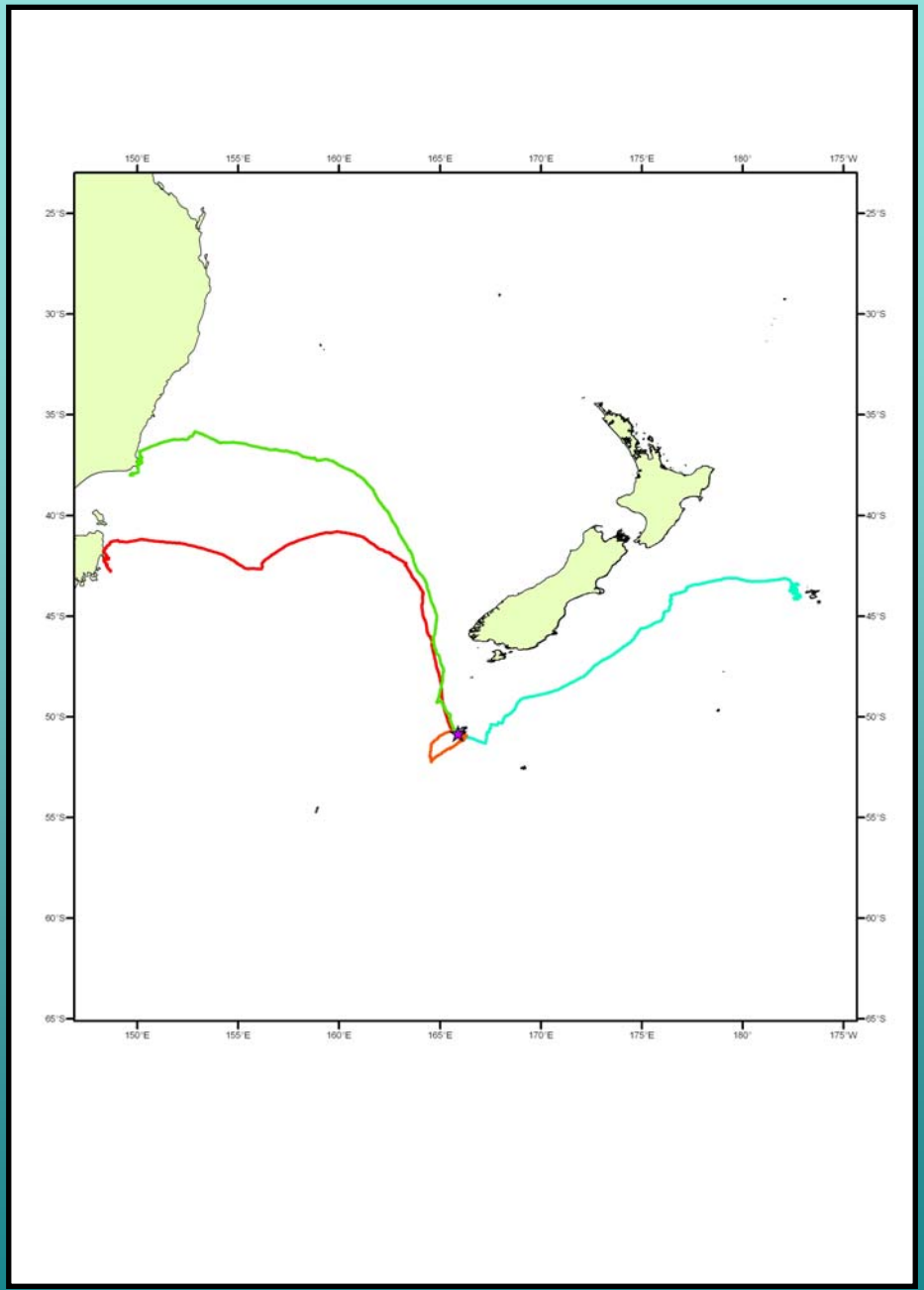
2007-08 breeding season...

- **Fieldwork during incubation (Nov-Dec) plus short visit during chick-rearing (Mar)**
- **Banding and re-sighting adults**
 - **93 breeding adults, 35 pairs**
- **Breeding frequency, nest occupancy**
- **Breeding success**
 - **62%**
- **GPS tracking**
- **Retrieval and final deployment of geolocation tags**

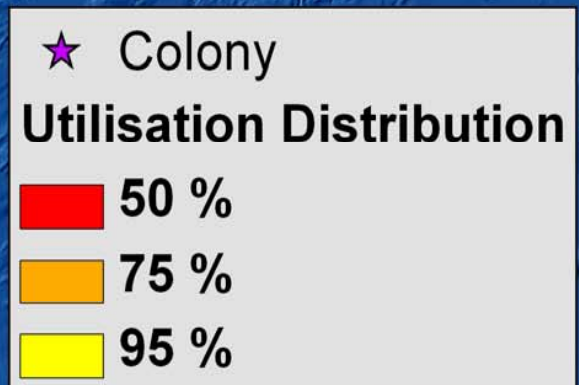
Tracking...

- **GPS work problematic due to long incubation shifts – foraging trips**
- **Some data retrieved, but insufficient**
- **12 geolocation tags retrieved, 13 in total**
- **12 data sets**
- **15 tags deployed**

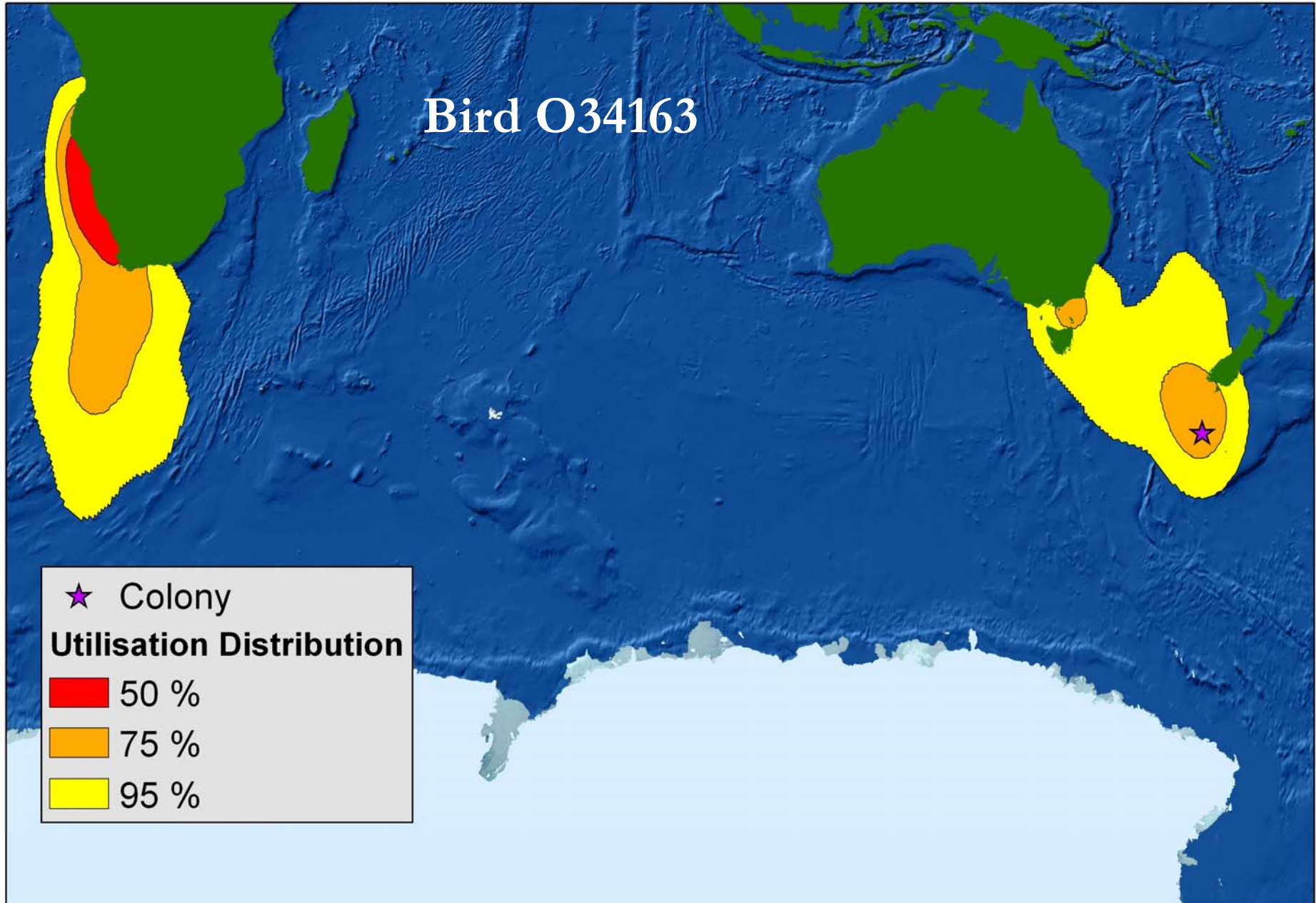




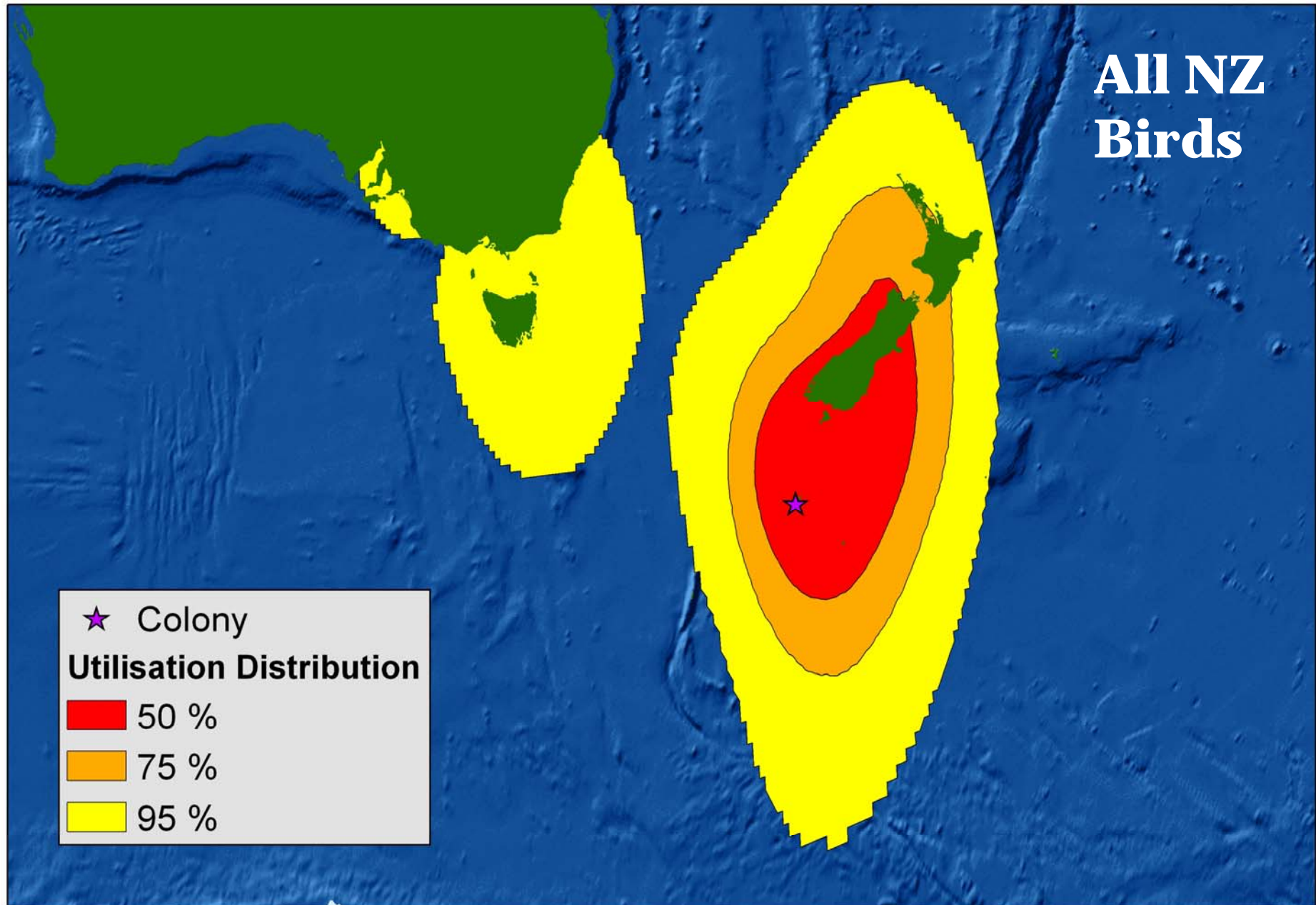
All data

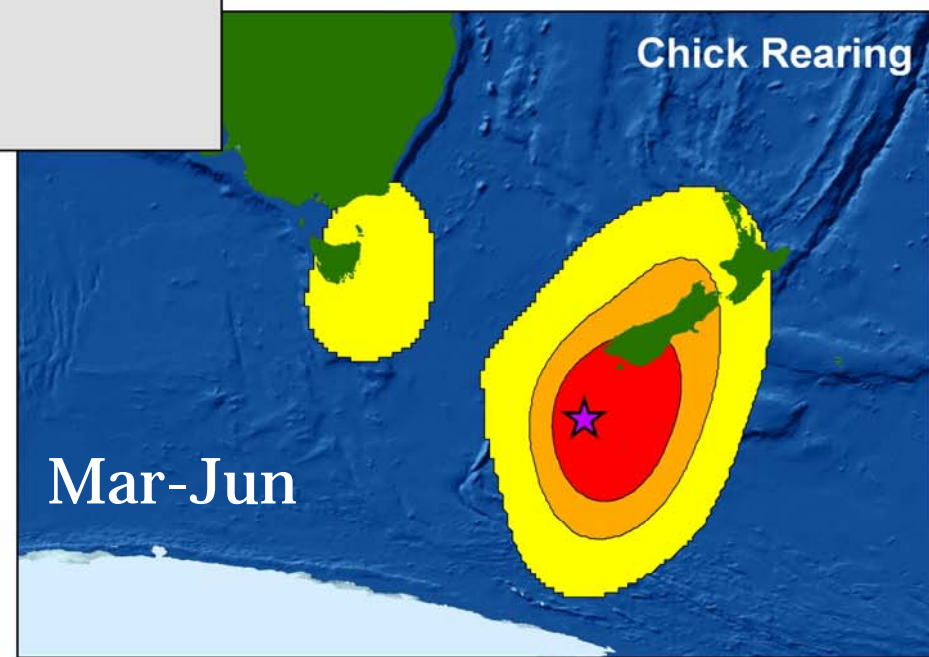
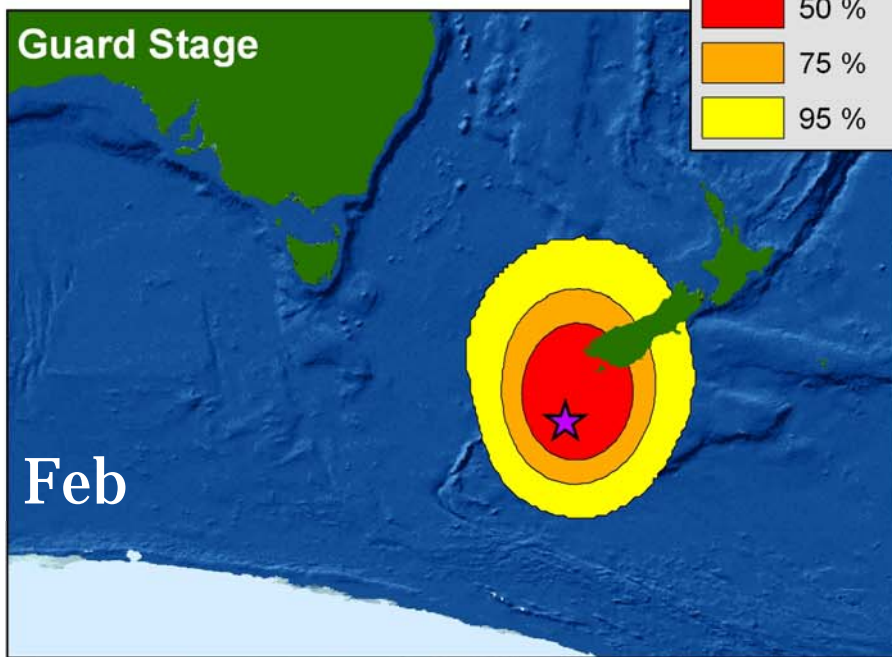
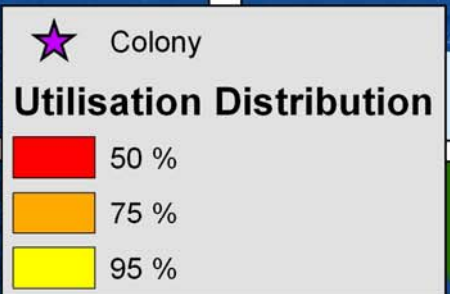
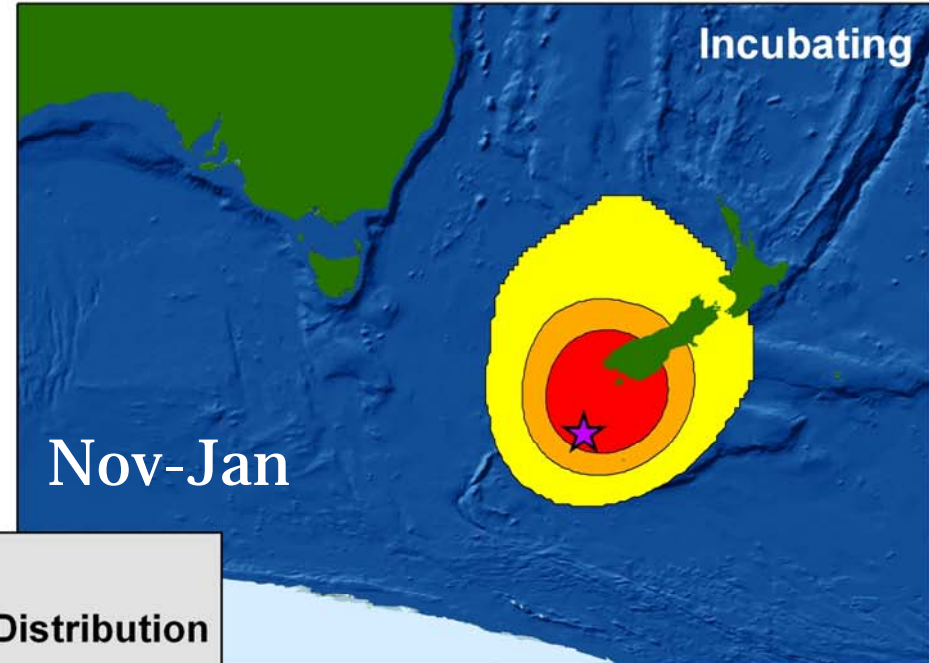
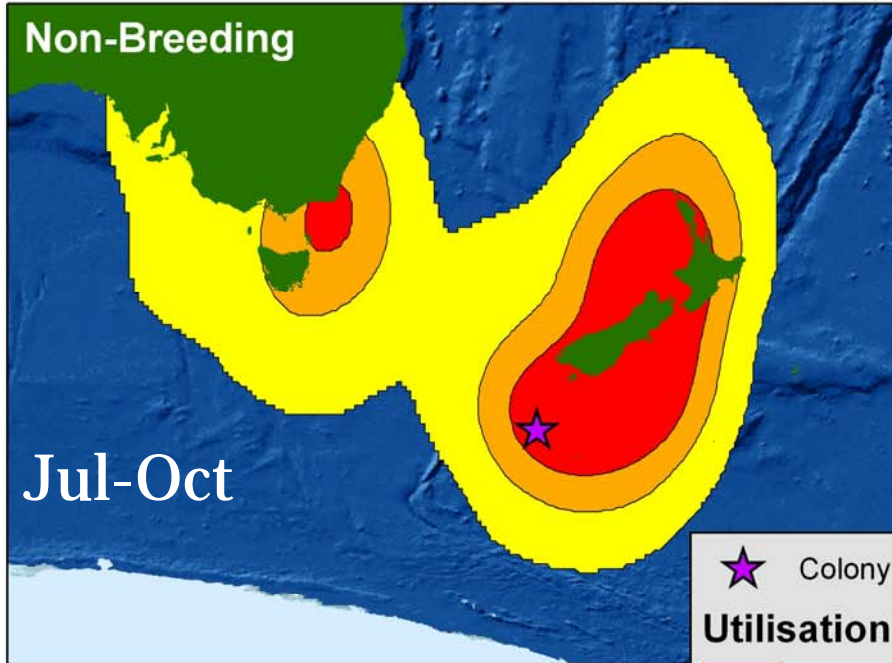


Bird O34163



All NZ Birds





Summary of geolocation data...

- **Ca. 10-20% migrate to South Africa**
- **Most within Australasia → NZ's EEZ**
- **Distribution varies temporally**
- **NW Tasmania**
- **Implications for fishing mortality estimates**

Preliminary nesting observations...

- **ca. 25% nests unused**
- **Pop. estimates for 06/07 and 07/08**
 - **Disappointment: 110,649 to 86,080**
 - **SW Cape: 6,548 to 4,786**
- **Only ca. 25% of successful birds in 06/07 attempted to breed in 07/08**

Conclusions...



- **Data point towards white-capped albatross being a biennial breeder**
- **Adult white-capped albatross dispersive**
 - **Visit Tasmania except during guard**
 - **Small proportion migrate to South Africa**