

Penguin Rescue

Annual Report 2015/16



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Penguin Rescue

www.penguins.org.nz

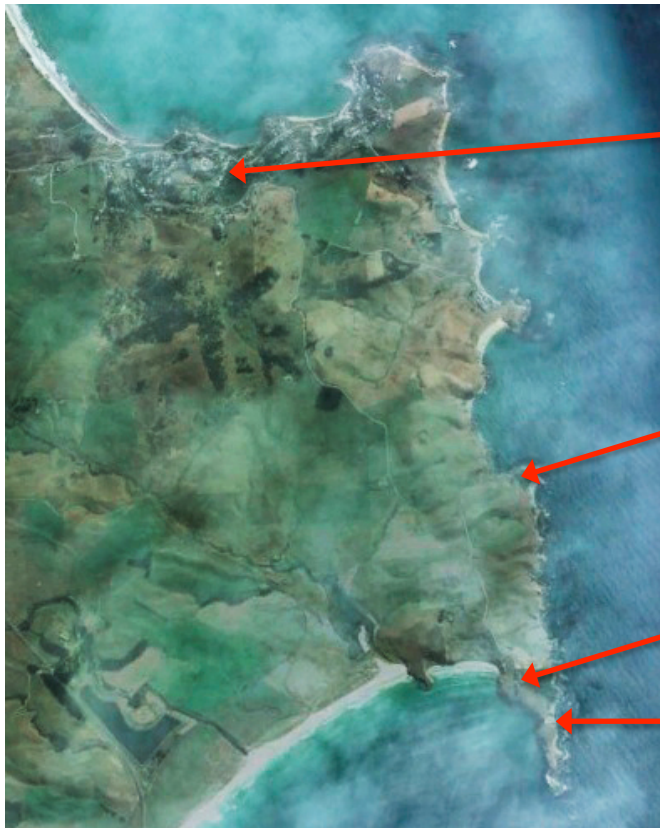
aka Katiki Point Penguin Refuge Charitable Trust

Our goal: remove Yellow-eyed penguins off the endangered species list

Our mission: providing sanctuary for penguins

Our work: optimise penguin habitat
maximise breeding success and survival
minimise human disturbance

- based at Katiki Point Lighthouse
- two Yellow-eyed penguin colonies:
 - Katiki Point
 - Okahau Point
- started 30 years ago by Janice and Bob Jones and Chris Lalas



Moeraki

Okahau Point

Katiki Point Lighthouse

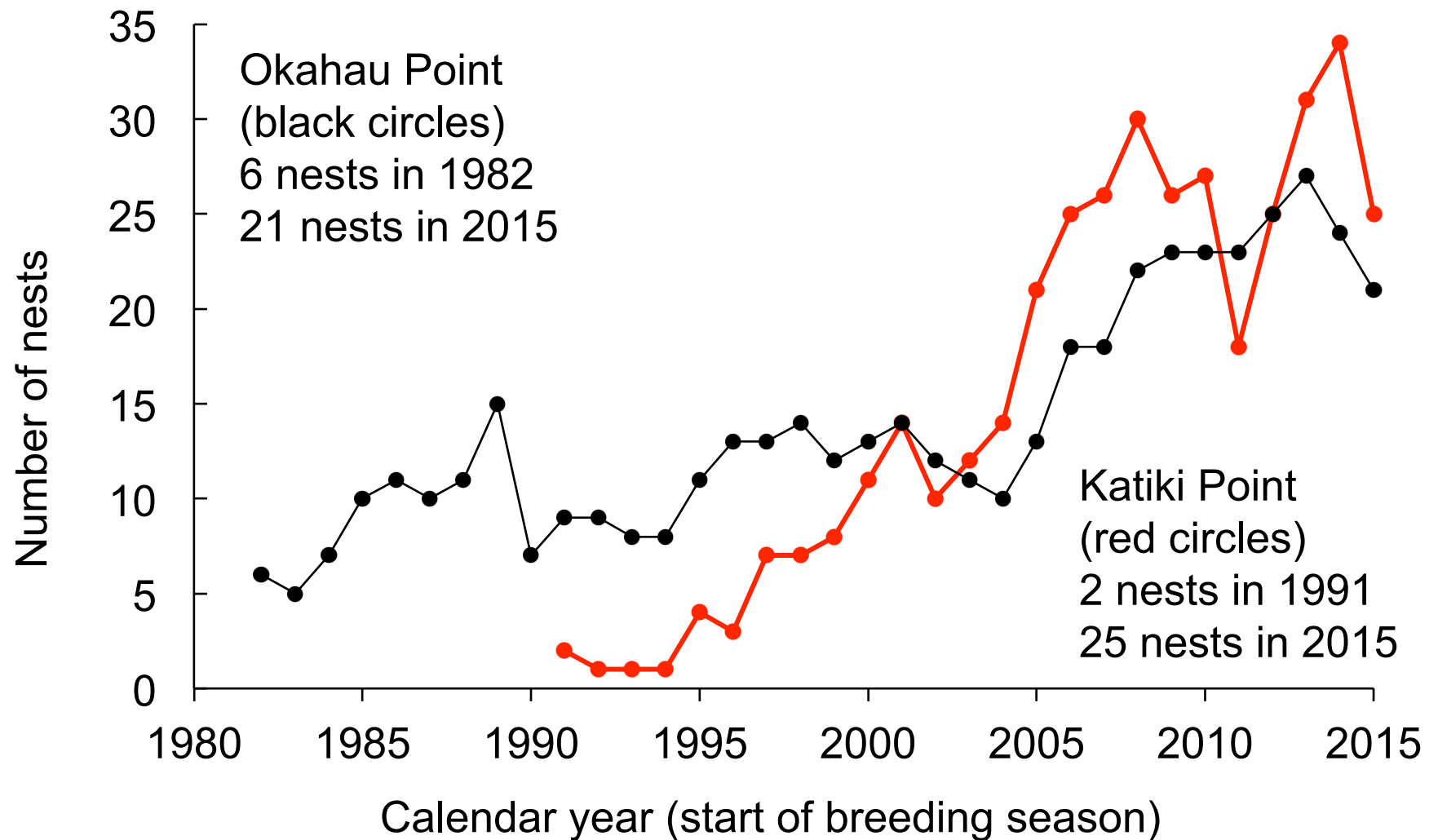
Katiki Point

2015/16 season

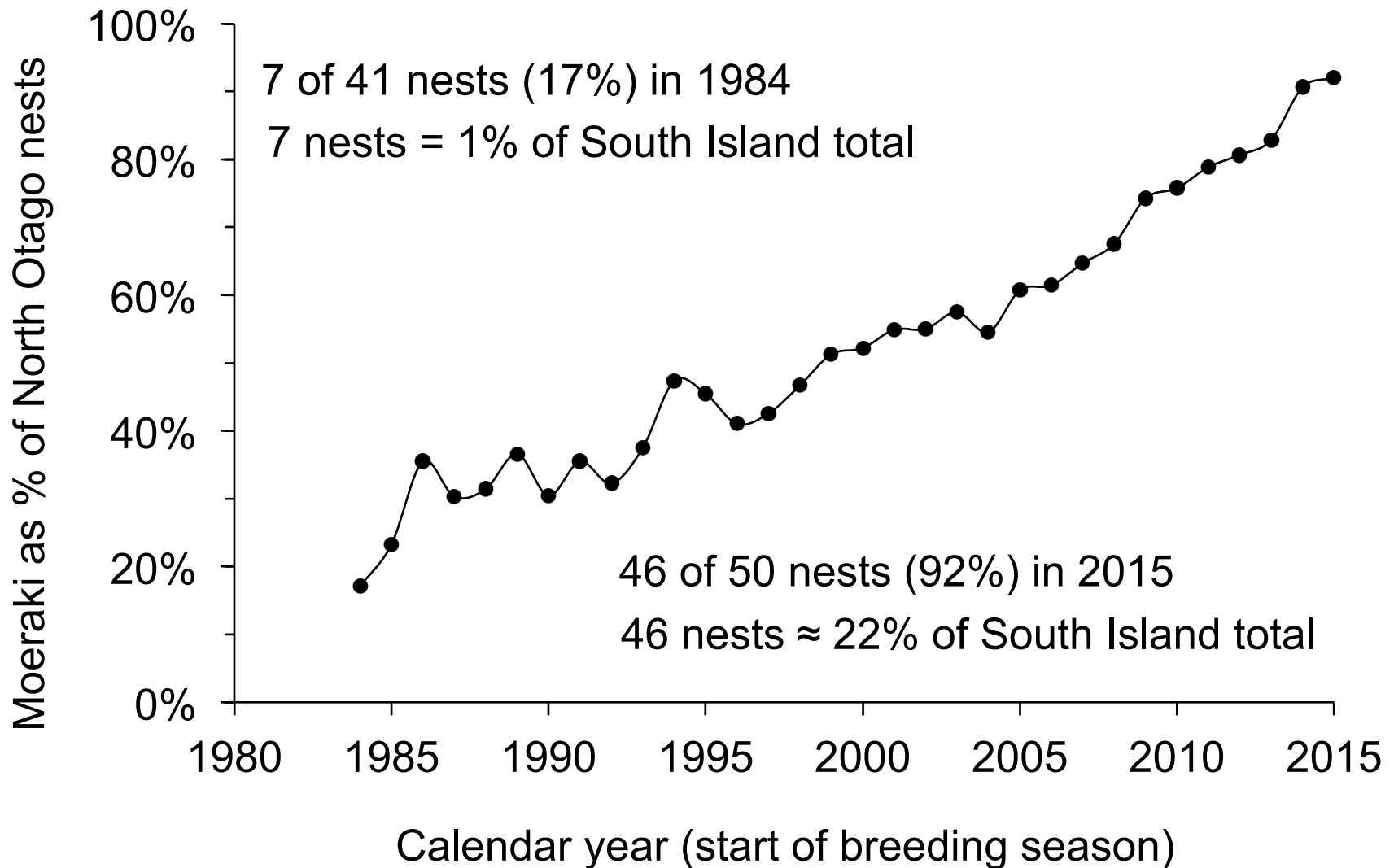
Katiki Point: 25 nests

Okahau Point: 21 nests

Yellow-eyed penguin nests at Katiki Point and Okahau Point from 1982 to 2015

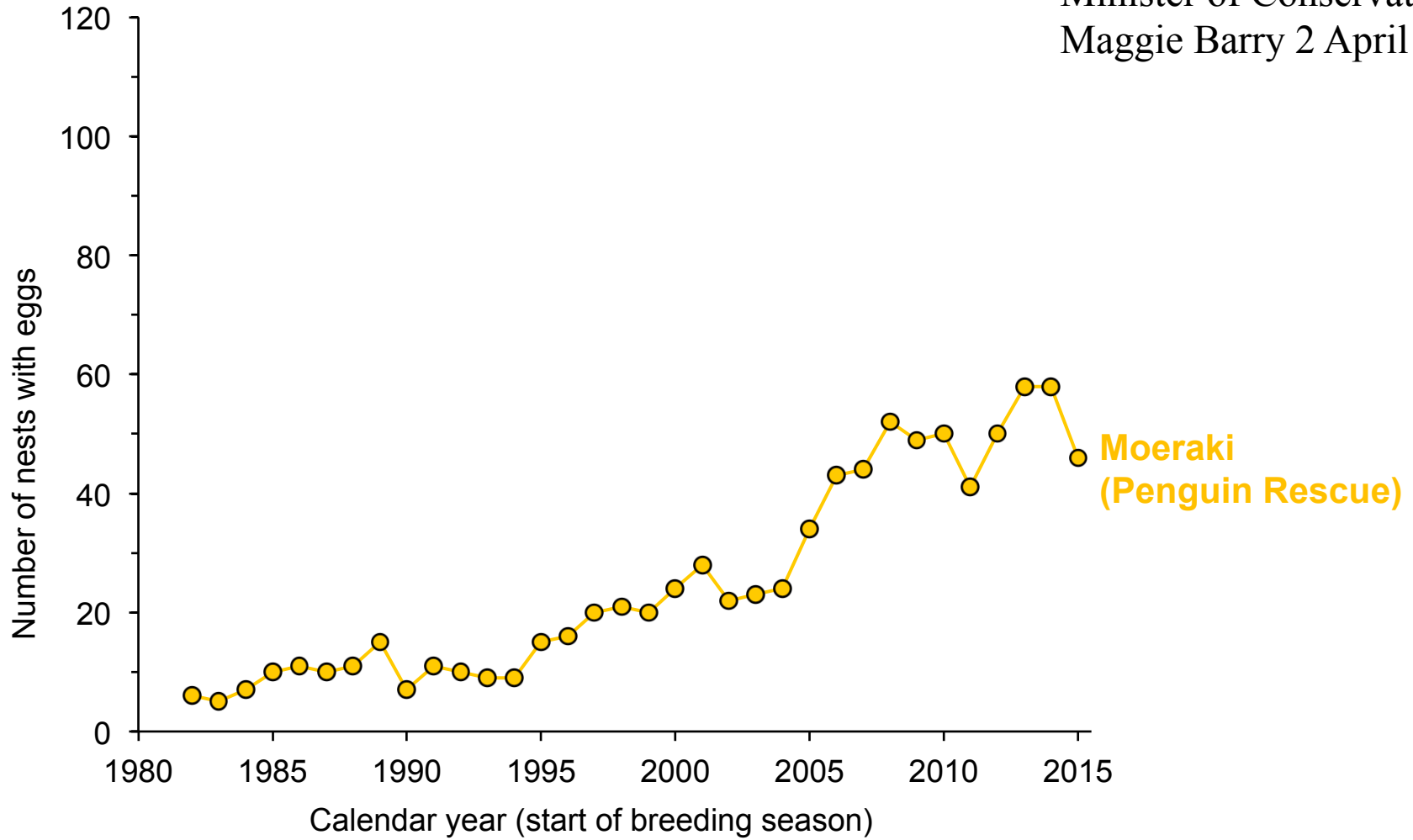


Yellow-eyed penguin nests at Moeraki as a proportion of all North Otago nests from 1984 to 2015

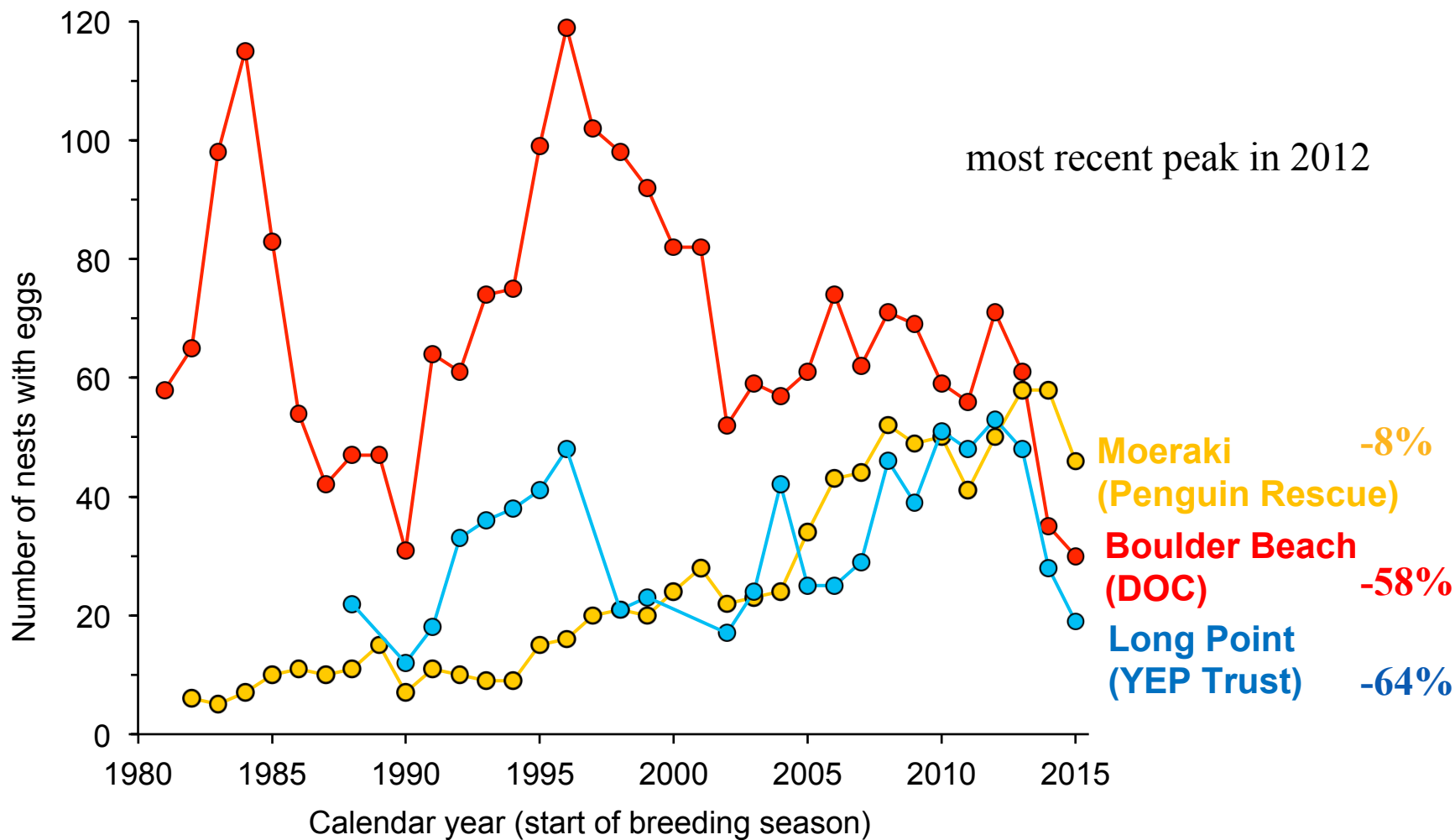


3 key mainland breeding sites for yellow-eyed penguins

Minister of Conservation
Maggie Barry 2 April 2015



3 key mainland breeding sites for yellow-eyed penguins



Minimum effect of rehabilitation effort on 2015/16 breeding pair numbers

Katiki Point: 25 females bred

10 (40%) had been rehabilitated and released

At best there would have been 15 nests

Okahau Point: 20 females bred

2 (10%) had been rehabilitated and released

At best there would have been 18 nests

Rehabilitation July 2015 - June 2016

Yellow-eyed penguins:

	individuals	admissions	release rate of individuals
adults	16	17	100%
juveniles (1 yr old)	1	1	100%
pre-fledging chicks	15	20	87%
post-fledging chicks	16	24	94%
TOTAL	48	62	94%

Breeding success in 2015/16

	Katiki Point	Okahau Point
Number of nests	25	21
Fertility eggs hatched / laid	86% (43/50)	85% (34/40)
Chick survival chicks fledged/ hatched	74% (32/43)	68% (23/34)
Chicks raised per pair chicks fledged/ nest	1.28	1.10

3 main concerns in 2015/16

- Major outbreak of Diphtheria
- Predation of chicks at Okahau Point
- Tourism

Predation at Okahau Point

- Predators caught
 - Katiki Point: 14 cats, 8 ferrets, 3 stoats, 8 rats
 - Okahau Point: 7 cats, 4 ferrets, 0 stoats, 2 rats
- Predation
 - Okahau Point: 7 (21%) chicks disappeared < 2 weeks old
 - After a rat was caught predation stopped

19 November:
Trail camera photo
showed rat in penguin
nest.



25 November:
Rat caught in trap.
Necropsy revealed fish
in its stomach but no
chick remains.



Predation stopped

Bitten chick

Foot damage to a 24 day old chick



3 months old

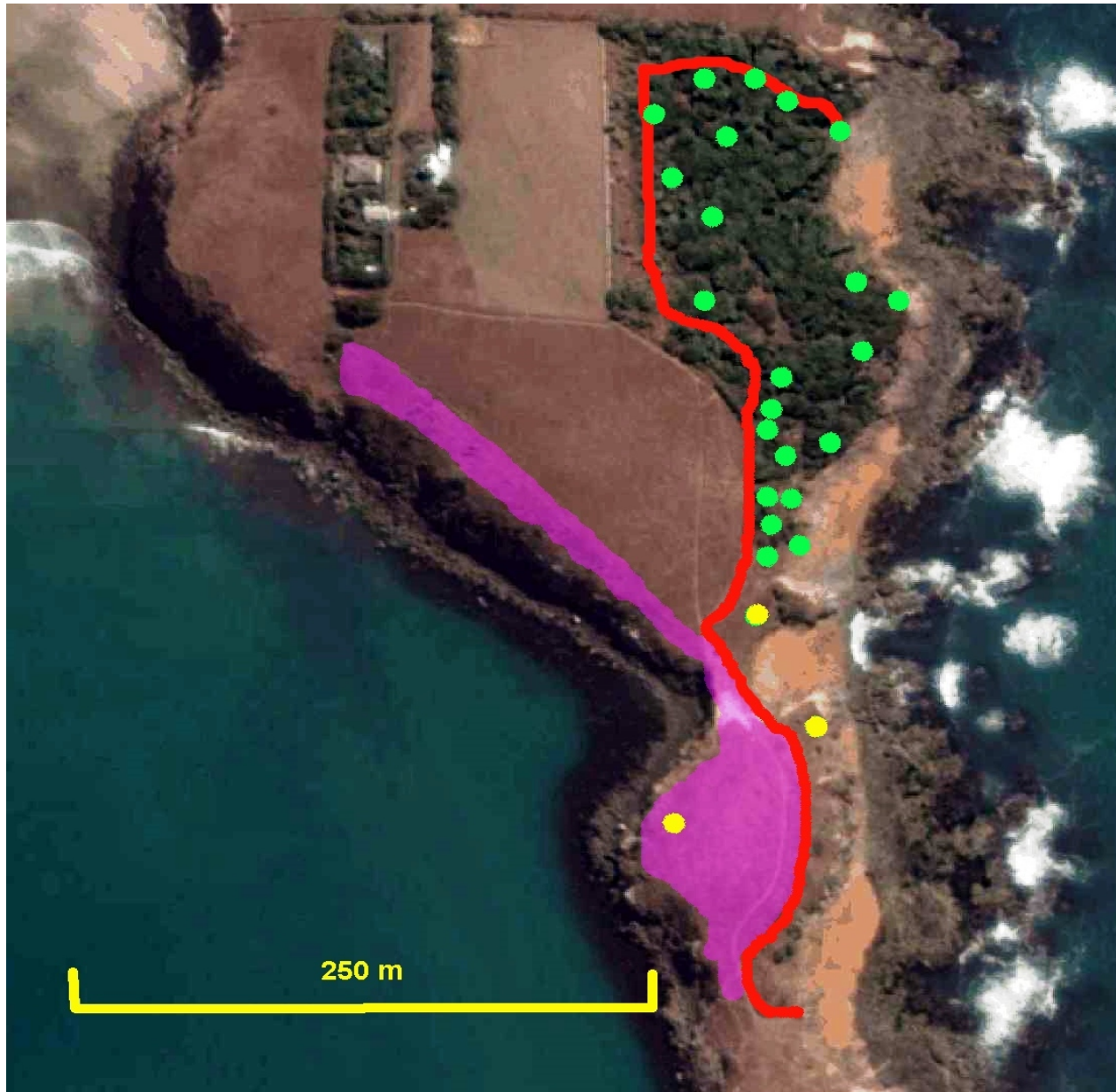


Mitigating the effect of the onslaught of uncontrolled tourists

- In 2014/15 season over 50% of chicks died <2weeks old at Katiki Point
- Affected nests were within 10m of tourist path or adults had to cross tourist path

Our response:

- Building of internal fence 20m from colony edge (as suggested by DOC)
- Blocking penguins from crossing tourist path



Green dots: nests in Wildlife Reserve (22)

Yellow dots: nests in Historic Reserve (3)

Red line: internal fence

Purple: area outside the fence previously used by penguins in the Historic Reserve

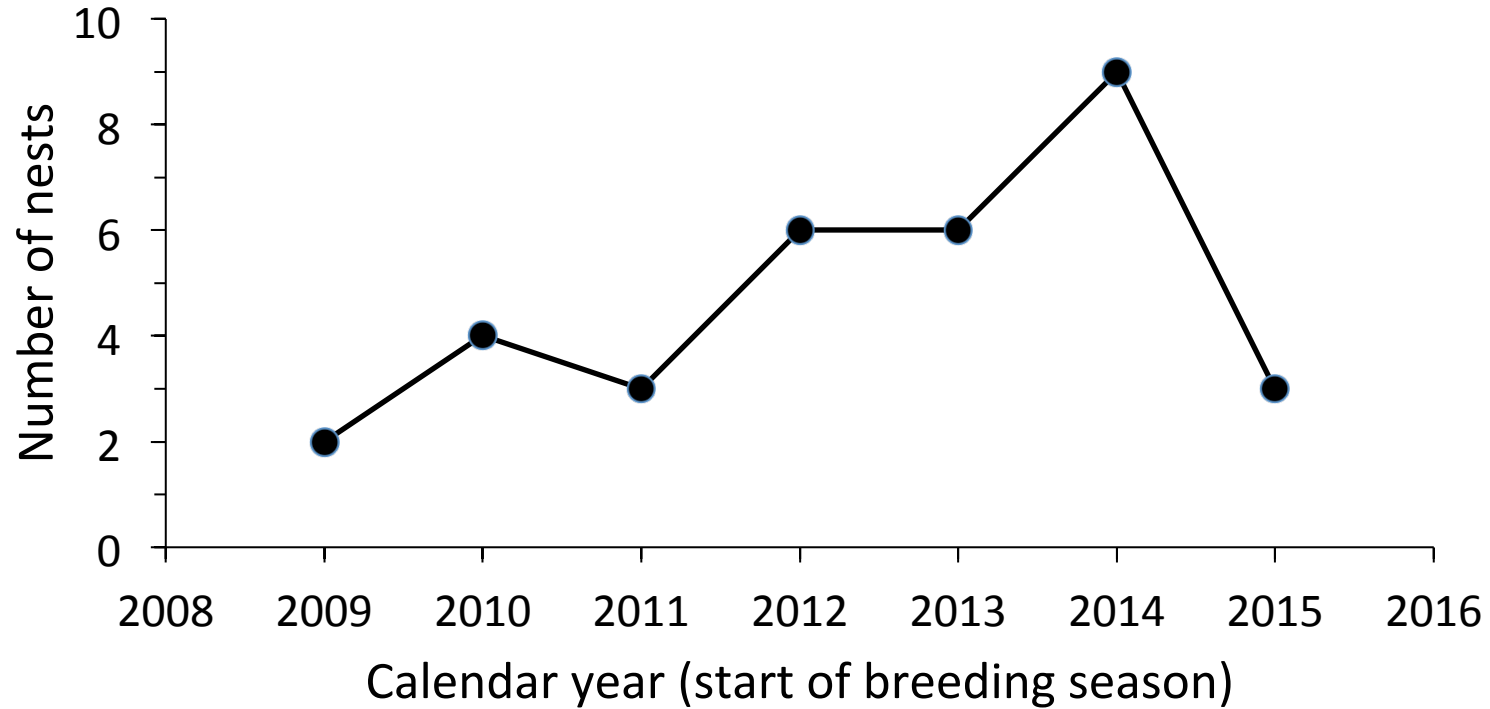
Loss of penguin breeding area:

Wildlife Reserve: 21%

Historic Reserve: 75%

Overall: 44%

Nest numbers in the Historic Reserve 2009 to 2015



2 pairs moved and nested in the Wildlife Reserve

3 pairs remained on the Historic Reserve

Rest: either one or both adults were not recorded again

Tourism

- No numbers – DOC proposed to deploy a people counter in October 2015
 - not yet happened
 - (archaeological permit needed)
- Best guess: 70 000 people



5 July 2015: tourists taunt NZ fur seals for photos

24 October 2015: our donations box was broken into and the money stolen





27 February 2016: spearfishers return to the Katiki Point car park with their dog.



19 March 2016: taking a dog for a walk near the pa at Katiki Point.

People jumping over fences

31 January 2016



Ltl Acorn ◀ 062°F 017°C 01/31/2016 17:54:24

14 May 2016



Ltl Acorn ▶ 066°F 019°C 05/14/2016 15:50:12

29 February 2016



Ltl Acorn ◐ 062°F 017°C 02/29/2016 12:19:03

14 May 2016



Ltl Acorn ▶ 068°F 020°C 05/14/2016 15:55:50



Our mission: providing sanctuary for penguins

Summer:

7:30am to 7:30pm: free, uncontrolled access to Katiki Point

Hundreds of people asked to leave after 7:30pm

2 complaints

Letter received from DOC and Ngai Tahu telling us to stop or our permits will be revoked

No one asked for our side of the story



Our mission: providing sanctuary for penguins

Result:

People present 6am to 10pm

Effect on penguins:

3 chicks into rehabilitation after losing weight

2 adults into rehabilitation during the moult



Our mission: providing sanctuary for penguins

Conclusion

- Fence keeps almost all people on the paths
- Late stayers are having an impact



Who is responsible for the penguins?

Katiki Point has two administrators:

Wildlife Management Reserve – DOC is responsible

Private landowners of the Historic Reserve:

Ngai Tahu – kaitiakitanga – guardians

12 months ago:

Our message :

Yellow-eyed penguins are not expendable

Yellow-eyed penguins are not items to be ticked off on a list of things to do in NZ

No Yellow-eyed penguin colony should be a sacrificial lamb

Yellow-eyed penguins have the right to live undisturbed anywhere

DOC and Ngai Tahu are legally responsible

What we ask:

Address the issue of uncontrolled tourists at Katiki Point

Stop making our lives harder: our ONLY interest is the protection of the penguins

Start helping us and supporting our efforts instead of telling us all the things we are not allowed to do

Nothing has changed yet

We were assured at a hui on 4 August that work will be done this summer to mitigate tourist disturbance



Our mission: providing sanctuary for penguins

So what has happened?

- 44% of the area previously used by penguins is gone
- Number of tourists is increasing
- 3 hui: more talking, more report writing – nothing has changed yet for the penguins



Questions?