

Penguin Rescue

Annual Report 2016/17



Hiltrun Ratz, Rosalie Goldsworthy and Chris L alas



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

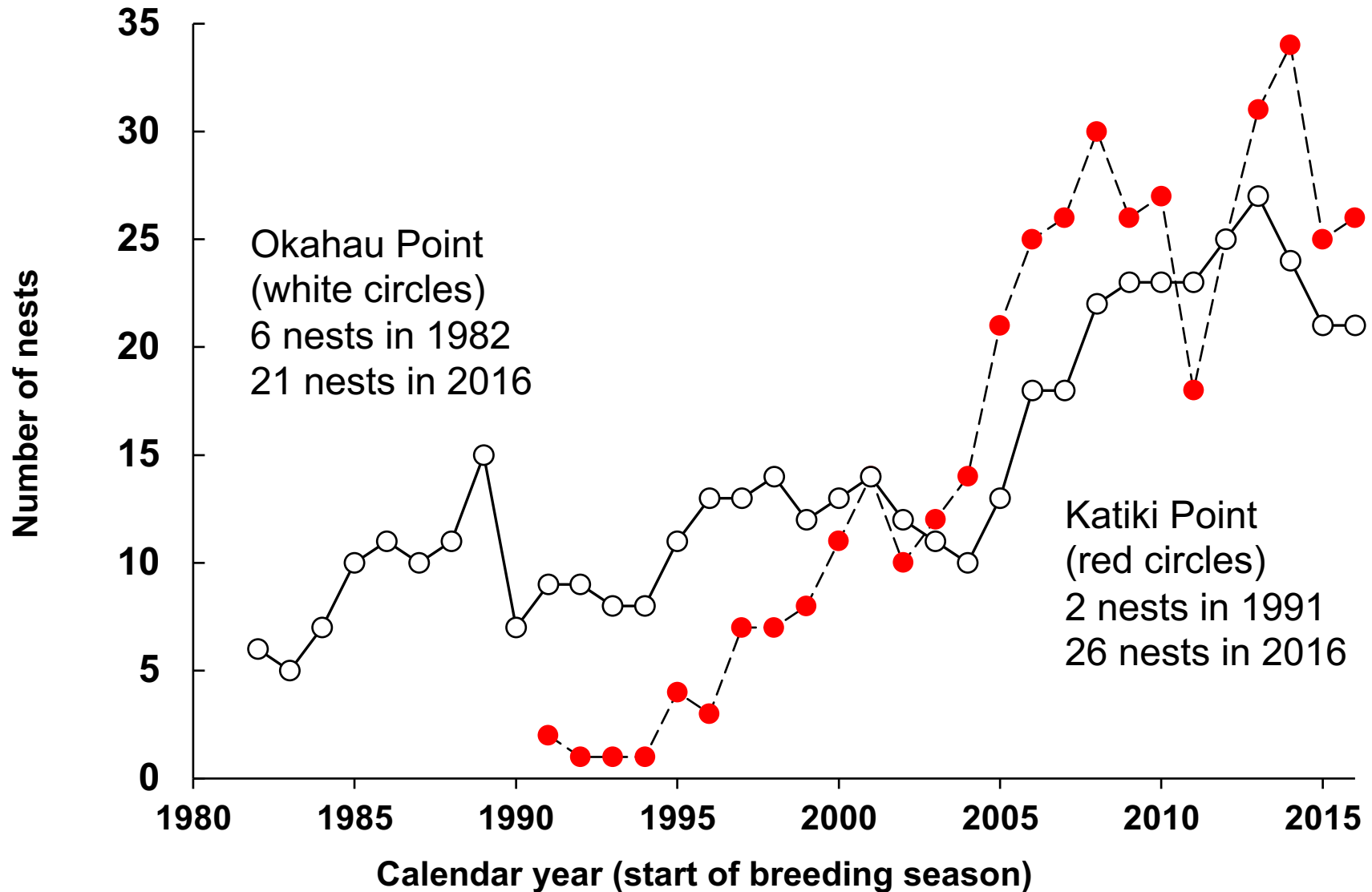
Katiki Point

2016/17 season

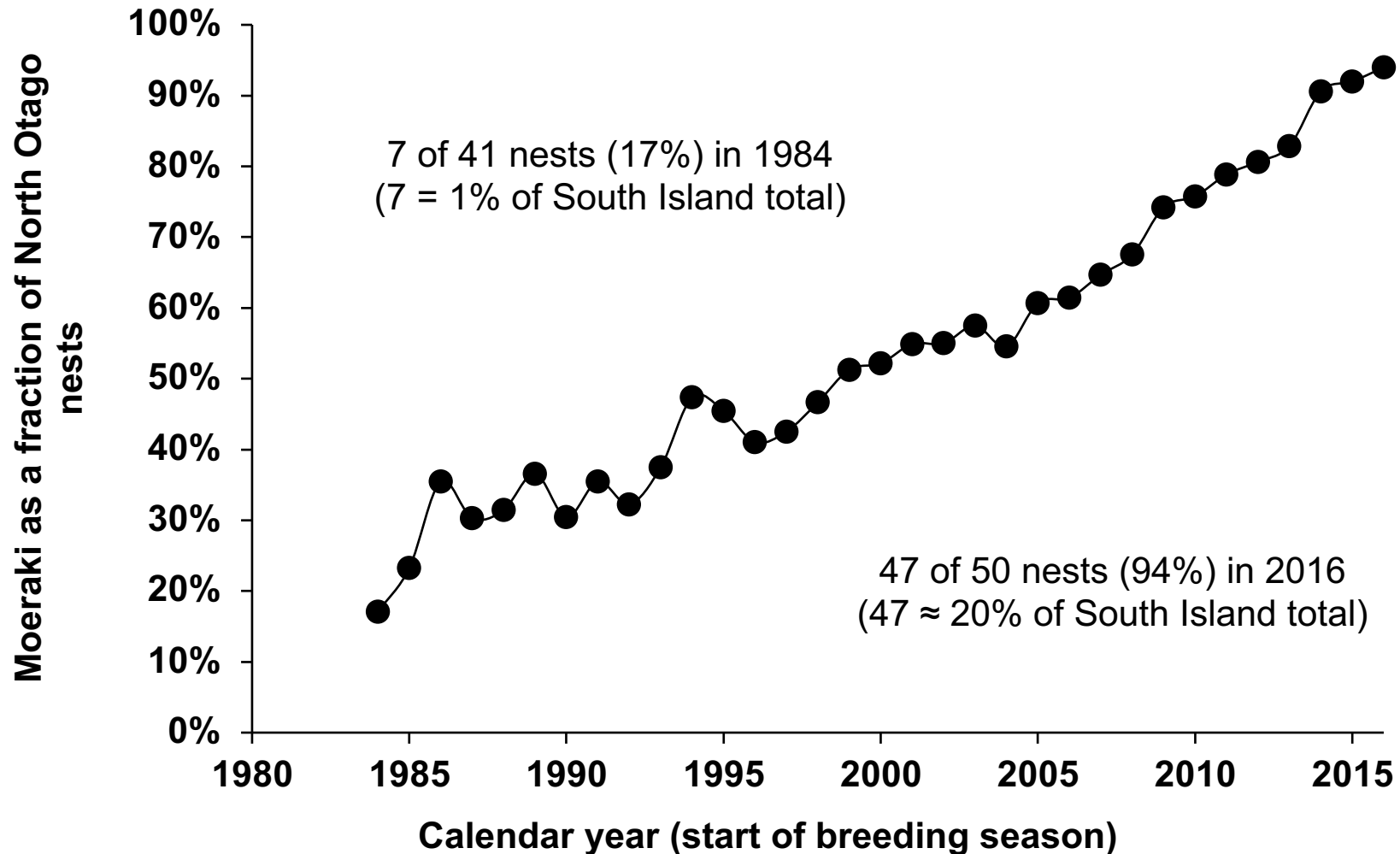
Katiki Point: 26 nests

Okahau Point: 21 nests

Yellow-eyed penguin nests at Katiki Point and Okahau Point from 1982 to 2016

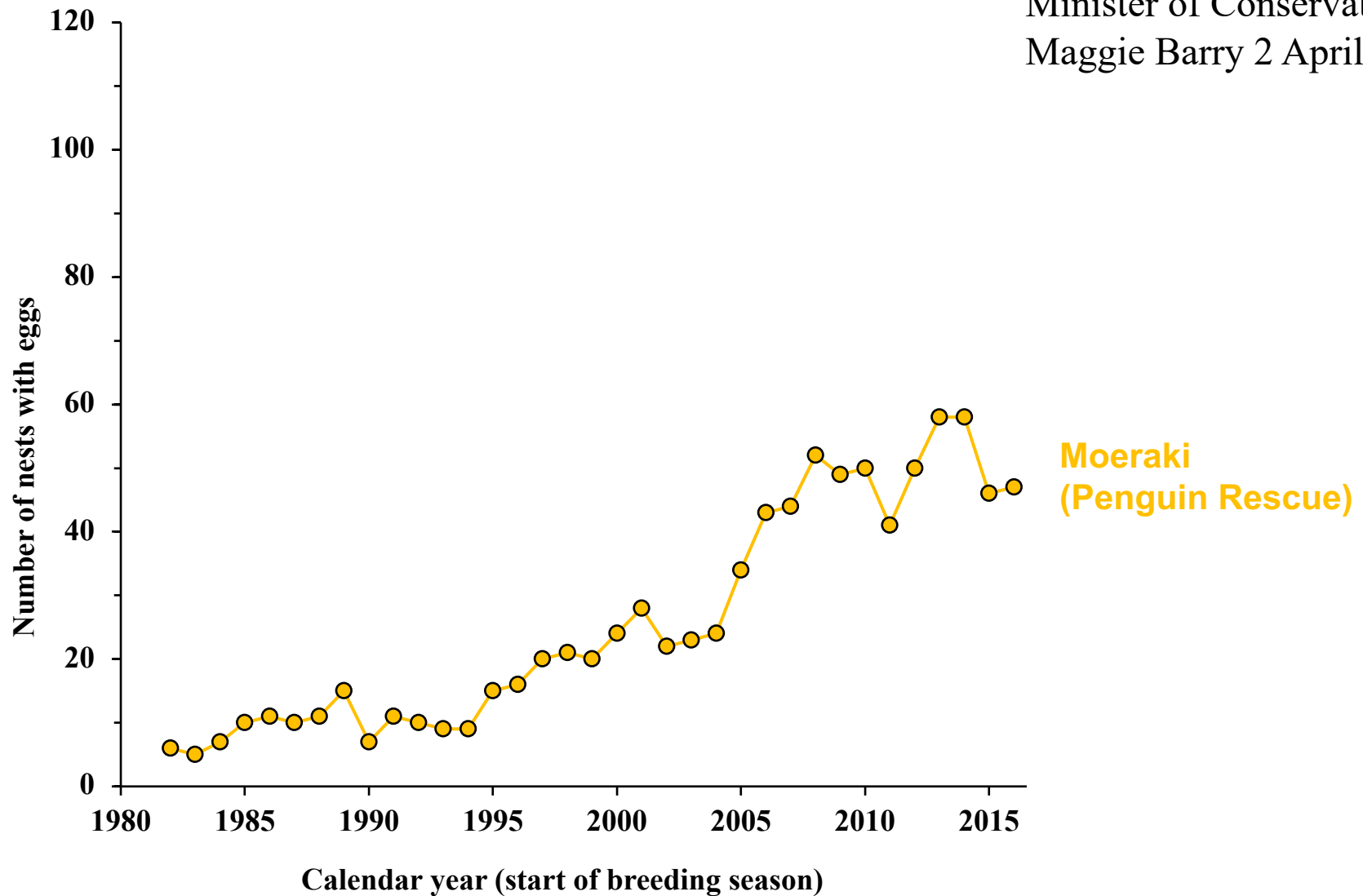


Yellow-eyed penguin nests at Moeraki as a proportion of all North Otago nests from 1984 to 2016

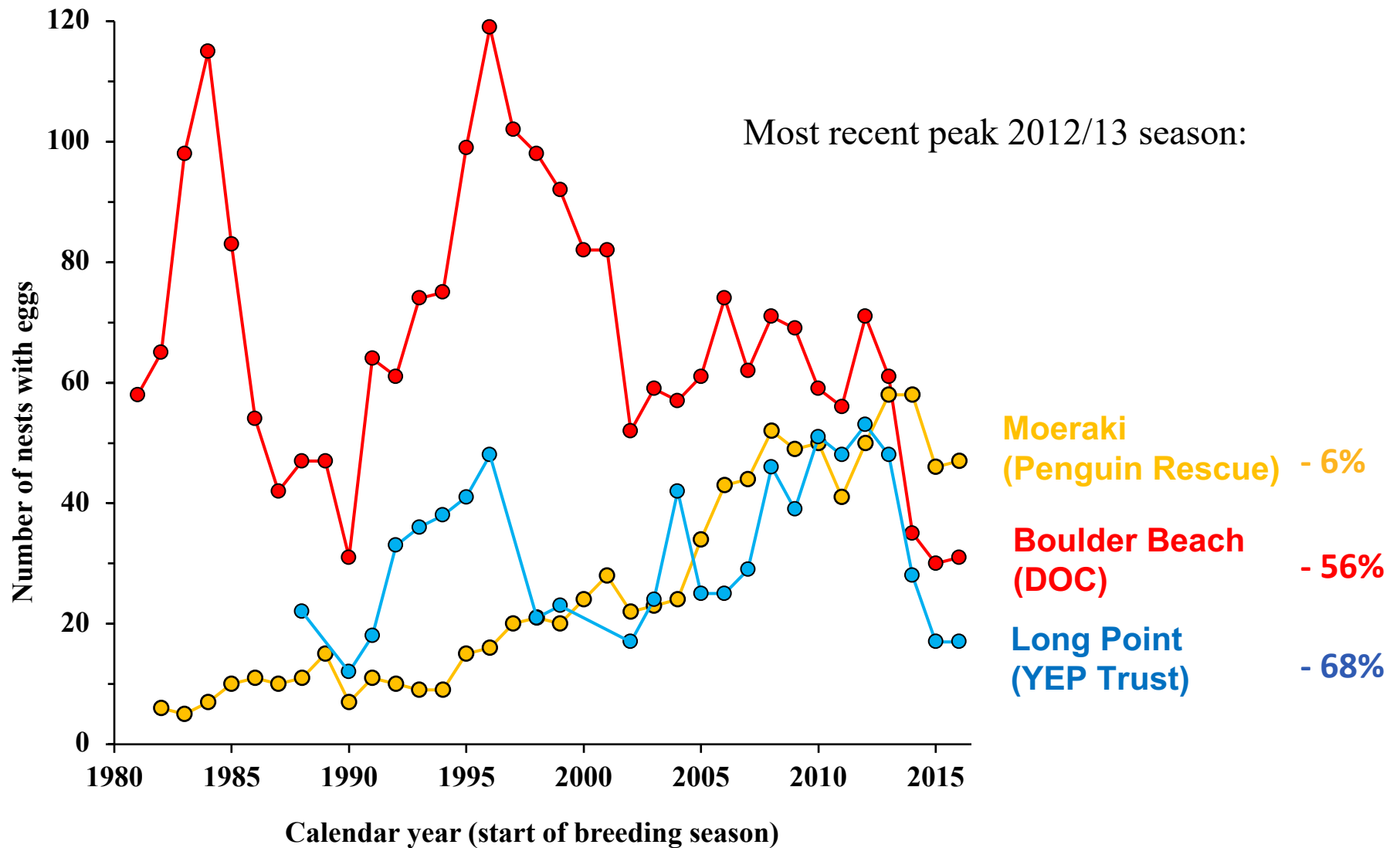


3 key mainland breeding sites for yellow-eyed penguins

Minister of Conservation
Maggie Barry 2 April 2015



3 key mainland breeding sites for yellow-eyed penguins



Minimum effect of rehabilitation effort on 2016/17 breeding pair numbers

Katiki Point: 26 females bred

14 (54%) had been rehabilitated and released

At best there would have been 12 nests

Okahau Point: 21 females bred

4 (19%) had been rehabilitated and released

At best there would have been 16 nests

Moeraki decline since 2012: - 44%

Rehabilitation July 2016 - June 2017

Yellow-eyed penguins:

	individuals	admissions	release rate of individuals
adults	21	22	95%
juveniles (1 yr old)	26	29	100%
pre-fledging chicks	24	24	92%
post-fledging chicks	4	10	95%
TOTAL	75	85	95%

Breeding success in 2016/17

	Katiki Point	Okahau Point
Number of nests	26	21
Fertility eggs hatched / laid	96% (49/51)	90% (36/40)
Chick survival chicks fledged/ hatched	47% (23/49)	67% (24/36)
Chicks raised per pair chicks fledged/ nest	0.88	1.14

Predator control

- Predators caught
 - Katiki Point: 9 cats, 1 ferret, 5 stoats, 59 rats
 - Okahau Point: 12 cats, 1 ferrets, 0 stoats, 25 rats

No predation of yellow-eyed penguins or any other seabirds at either colony

3 main concerns in 2016/17

- Major outbreak of Diphtheria
- Interference by non-breeding males
- Tourism

Major outbreak of Diphtheria

		Katiki Point	Okahau Point
Number of chicks hatched		49	36
Number of chicks treated		26 (53%)	15 (42%)
	untreated	23 (47%)	21 (58%)
Survival	treated	19 (73%)	11 (73%)
	untreated	8 (35%)	13 (62%)
Weight	treated	3.6kg	3.8kg
(23 Dec 16)	untreated	3.6kg	3.5kg

Interference by non-breeding males



Interference by non-breeding males



Effect of the continued onslaught of uncontrolled tourists

- In 2014/15 season over 50% of chicks died <2weeks old at Katiki Point
- Building of internal fence 20m from colony edge (as suggested by DOC) – blocking penguins from crossing tourist path
- Best guess: 70 000 people but a people counter was installed on 3 April 2017 – no results yet

15 August 16: DOC installed two signs and removed all others

16 September 16: DOC another sign at the turn-off to Lighthouse Rd: open 7:30am-7:30pm





Yellow dots: 2016/17 nests

350m



car park

hide

Yellow dots: 2016/17 nests

Red line: old tourist route to the hide and to the point

19 September: work starts on new route

350m







Yellow dots: 2016/17 nests

Red line: old tourist path to hide and to the point

19 September: work starts on new route

Blue line: new tourist path to hide and to the point

2 Mar 2017 new route was opened

7:30am – 7:30pm opening hours



7:30am – 7:30pm opening hours: number of vehicles in carpark at 7:30pm

	Oct 2016	Nov 2016	Dec 2016	Jan 2017	Feb 2017
Average	1.9	3.5	4.4	5.7	5.7
(range)	(0-5)	(0-8)	(0-10)	(1-13)	(1-17)



8 October 2016 8pm: visitor
tried to take photos in the dark

People jumping over fences

21 July 2016



Ltl Acorn ☾ 046°F 008°C 07/21/2016 10:52:41

10 October 2016



Ltl Acorn ☾ 055°F 013°C 10/10/2016 15:28:06

20 October 2016



Ltl Acorn ☾ 055°F 013°C 10/20/2016 12:44:22

1 April 2017



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22 August 2016: visitor climbs
fence



17 October 2016: visitor climbed fence
and chased penguins in the dark

Conclusion

- Fence still keeps almost all people on the paths
- Nothing had changed for the 16/17 season
but if the new route had been in place 85% of
nests probably far enough away to be ok
- Late stayers are having an impact: 6am to 10:30pm

Effect on penguins:

3 chicks into rehabilitation after losing weight
2 adults into rehabilitation during the moult

To protect 20% of South Island
yellow-eyed penguin population

what is the cost?

\$ 52 500 spent

6217 hours volunteer work = 3.4 full time positions



Thank you