

SESSION: Marine Mammals**MARS Themes:**

Ecosystems, biodiversity and biodiscovery

Title:

Understanding the drivers of Marion Island's elephant seal population

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Abstract:

In the middle of the twentieth century, Marion Island's population of southern elephant seals declined rapidly, as did other populations throughout its circumpolar distribution. Fortunately, the trend for Marion Island's population has reversed since then. Using the long-running mark-recapture program on the island, we developed an integrated population model to identify the demographic factors that are responsible for the rebound. Our results indicate that increasing survival of adult female seals and immigration from other Southern Ocean colonies have driven population growth in the last few decades.

Format:

Oral Presentation (5 min)

Keywords: (add ; between keywords)

southern elephant seals; Marion Island; population dynamics; mark-recapture