

1 A preliminary evaluation of the evidence supporting fishery-driven  
2 localised depletion effects on the performance and demographic trends  
3 of pygoscelid penguins in Subarea 48.1

4 Andrew Lowther<sup>\*,a</sup>, Martin Biuw<sup>\*\*,b</sup>, Ulf Lindstrøm<sup>\*\*,b</sup>, Bjørn Krafft<sup>\*\*,c</sup>

5 <sup>a</sup>Norwegian Polar Institute, Research Department, Fram Centre, Hjalmar Johansensgata 14, Tromsø, Norway, 9297

6 <sup>b</sup>Institute of Marine Research, Tromsø 9296, Norway

7 <sup>c</sup>Institute of Marine Research, Nordnesgaten 50, 5005 Bergen, Norway

8 **Abstract**

Two independent lines of evidence have been presented to the working groups and SC-CAMLR that claim to demonstrate that fishery-driven localised depletion of krill around pygoscelid penguin colonies has had a deleterious effect on their performance traits and demographic trends, that are equivalent to the impacts of climate variation. One study utilises 30 years of penguin foraging and reproductive performance measurements collected at two colonies in the South Shetland Islands while the other uses demographic rate changes derived from a comprehensive dataset of penguin population count data across Subarea 48.1 matched against acoustic measurements of krill biomass and krill catches at the gSSMU scale (Watters et al., 2020). The second uses estimated population trajectories across a wide range of penguin breeding colonies alongside krill catches within 30km (Krüger et al., 2021). Both studies then explore the synergistic relationships to measurements of broad-scale climactic variation (El Nino Southern Oscillation; ENSO, and the Southern Annular Mode; SAM). Herein we provide a preliminary assessment of the efficacy of both approaches in drawing conclusions, that are now being used at the Commission level, as representing sound scientific advice. We demonstrate that several underlying assumptions in Watters et al. 2020 are contrary to the published scientific literature, and when the model syntax is re-written to reflect this, predicted penguin performance against long term expected means are substantially different to those presented to CCAMLR. The analysis provided by Krüger et al. (2021) is less sophisticated, however given the details provided we were unable to recreate the initial results and could not test the sensitivity of the model to some of the assumptions made. We do, however, point to areas in which we have concerns, and would welcome collaboration in order to address these. Overall while our preliminary assessment focuses on potential issues, future work will centre on considering competitive interactions both at appropriate time and space scales between the fishery as well as between a range of krill dependent predators beyond just pygoscelid penguins.

9 **Introduction**

10 Concerns over the potential impact of localised depletion of krill through concentrated fishing effort  
11 on krill-dependent predators has been a topic of debate within SC-CAMLR and its Working Groups  
12 for many years. Recently, two studies have been presented that suggest that local harvesting rates  
13 can impact predator performance to the same degree as poor environmental conditions (Watters et  
14 al., 2020) and when poor climactic conditions are coupled to locally high harvest rates the synergistic  
15 impacts on predators are evident (Krüger et al., 2021).

16 While both studies attempt to tackle the same overall problem, they do so using very different  
17 methodologies. Watters et al. (2020) exploit a considerable dataset; a substantial multi-species time  
18 series of a large number of penguin performance indices (including those collected under CEMP)  
19 collected over three decades at two sites (Cape Shireff on Livingstone Island and Copacabana on  
20 King George Island, South Shetland Islands; Figure 1) and over a decade of summer acoustic krill  
21 surveys that cover the at-sea distributions of Chinstrap, gentoo and Adélie penguins. Drawing in  
22 monthly krill catch statistics from the C1 Catch and Effort dataset and climactic data (Oceanic Niño

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\*Corresponding Author  
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Email addresses: andrew.lowther@npolar.no (Andrew Lowther), martin.biuw@hi.no (Martin Biuw), ulf.lindstroem@hi.no (Ulf Lindstrøm), bjorn.krafft@hi.no (Bjørn Krafft)

Index; ONI), the authors use a hierarchical analysis of variance approach to estimate the variance in performance indices as a function of Local Krill Biomass (LKB), Local Harvesting Rates (LHR; the ratio of krill catch to LKB) and ONI. In contrast, Krüger et al. (2021) utilise a broader range of penguin colonies across the same three species throughout the Antarctic Peninsula area, in combination with their respective abundance survey estimates (number of occupied nests) from an open-source database ([www.penguinmap.org](http://www.penguinmap.org)). The authors calculate population trends for appropriate sites, and using the CCAMLR C1 Catch and Effort data to extract annual catch values within a 30km radius of each colony. Finally, Krüger et al. (2021) use the sign of the difference in the number of nests between annual surveys as a response in a binomial generalised linear mixed effects model using the accumulated annual catch and the mean wintertime Southern Annular Mode (SAM) to determine the relative contributions of each predictor and their interactive effects on population abundance trends. Both studies draw similar conclusions; that local harvesting levels of krill impact predators, and the degree of impact can either be similar to that of poor environmental conditions or have a synergistic impact when high local harvesting coincides with poor conditions.

These conclusions have been propagated into Commission documentation supporting the reformulation of the D1MPA proposal (CCAMLR-39/BG/02) as well as into Commission discussions (CCAMLR-39, Para 5.48 & Para 5.51). However, while the two studies have moved from Working Papers of EMM into the realm of the peer-reviewed literature, there are some areas of concern regarding the structuring of these studies that we think deserve attention. Some of these concerns are unique to each study while others are common across both, and we structure our paper accordingly. Firstly, we review Watters et al. (2020) and Krüger et al. (2021) through the lens of some of the ecological assumptions made versus the available evidence pertaining to them. Within the constraints of the data and analytical methods that are available from the studies, we also quantify how rationalising these assumptions to the evidence available impacts on the conclusions drawn. We then highlight some overarching concerns applicable to both papers.

#### 48    **Watters et al. (2020) / WG-EMM 2019/11**

49    A key goal for the paper is to highlight the mismatch between the areal scales of fisheries management and ecological interactions between fishing extractions and dependent predators. To do this, the 50 authors create two strata aligned with groups of SSMU (gSSMU); gSSMU #1 including those SSMU 51 inside the Bransfield Strait (APBSE and APBSW) and gSSMU #2 incorporating SSMU north of the 52 South Shetlands, including Elephant Island (APDPE, APDPW and APEI) represented in Figure 1. 53 These gSSMU cover 15,500nm<sup>2</sup> and 20,600nm<sup>2</sup>, respectively, and are used to characterise both krill 54 biomass and harvesting rates that are “local” to the penguin colonies for which performance data are 55 used. The reasoning behind scaling to gSSMU are linked to the foraging behaviour of the penguins for 56 which performance data area available i.e. breeding, adult pygoscelids. The authors cite Hinke et al. 57 (2017) as the evidence supporting usage of the two gSSMU as appropriate strata.

58    Pygoscelid penguins exhibit staggered breeding, with Adélies commencing first, followed by Chin- 59 straps then Gentoos (Black, 2016). Adélie penguins are the first to fledge their chicks and thus cease 60 to be centrally foraging, typically departing mid-February for their moulting grounds on the sea ice. 61 Chinstrap penguins depart for a pre-moult foraging trip towards the end of February and return to 62 land in order to moult, before departing again for their overwinter trip (Hinke et al., 2015, 2019)(Figure 63 2). Conversely, Gentoo penguins appear to remain in close proximity to their breeding colonies 64 overwinter (Korczak-Abshire et al., 2021).

65    We use the Argos-CLS PTT telemetry data provided by the supporting studies to characterise the 66 actual at-sea habitat used, in the context of the relative stage of breeding for each species (though we 67 also recommend Warwick-Evans et al. (2018) and Lowther et al. (this meeting) amongst other work, 68 for further quantification of foraging behaviour of breeding penguins in this area). For each species, 69 we refrain from undertaking extensive state-space modelling of location errors and merely exclude 70 locations with a “Z” error class, accepting the remaining locations had varying degrees of uncertainty 71 around them, then calculated the 99% Minimum Convex Polygon (home range) using the R package

73    *adehabitatHR* and their associated areas in  $nm^2$ . For Chinstrap penguins at Cape Shireff, this equated  
74    to a home range area of  $\sim 4,782 nm^2$ , or only 23% of the gSSMU to which their performance metrics are  
75    indexed against (Watters et al., 2020). For the same species at Copacabana the 99% MCP home range  
76    is  $2,905 nm^2$ , or  $\sim 19\%$  of gSSMU 1 in the Bransfield Strait. Similarly for Adélie penguins, the breeding  
77    foraging range occupied  $1,139 nm^2$  or only  $\sim 7\%$  of the area of gSSMU #1. After breeding, available  
78    overwinter PTT telemetry and light geolocating data on chinstrap and Adélie penguins suggests a wide  
79    dispersal westwards into the Pacific sector of the Southern Ocean, and eastwards into the Weddell Sea  
80    and Atlantic sectors, with a relatively small proportion of chinstraps from the study sites remaining  
81    within 500km of their breeding colonies (Hinke et al., 2019). Yet despite the evidence supporting  
82    widespread post-breeding migration of both Adélie and Chinstrap penguins, the model used by Watters  
83    et al. (2020) constrains both species from Copacabana to gSSMU 1 and Chinstraps from Cape Shireff  
84    to gSSMU 2 over winter (Supplementary Material 1 & 2, code lines 258 to 259). This has the effect  
85    of constraining the variability in performance indices from these species to LHR, LKB and ONI over  
86    winter in areas where the species has a demonstrated tendency to migrate away from (Figure 2). This  
87    is particularly important given that the fishery can now be characterised with a late autumn/early  
88    winter start which places a seasonal element on LHR towards increased values in the winter (Figure  
89    5).

90    Our preliminary review thus far raises two areas of concern. Firstly, that the scales at which “local”  
91    predictors are summarised are in some cases five times larger than the habitat exploited by the penguins  
92    monitored. Local Harvest Rate is a function of the catch and its distribution; we demonstrate catch  
93    variability across breeding seasons within the original gSSMU, using available C1 Catch and Effort  
94    data during the austral summer period, relevant to the breeding season and thus centrally foraging  
95    Adélie and Chinstrap penguins between 2009 and 2018 for Subarea 48.1 (Supplementary Figure 1).

96    Secondly, that the known overwinter migratory behaviour of Adélie and Chinstrap penguins are  
97    poorly reflected in the model formulation. To demonstrate the impact that these ecological assumptions  
98    have on the model output, we rerun the model of Watters et al. (2020) with modified code. To avoid  
99    an overly burdensome paper, we shortly summarise those code changes here, and if requested during  
100   the meeting we are happy to include the rmarkdown version of this paper with the modified code in  
101   place, or submit the modifications to the meeting in some other format.

102   We also note an additional coding error that may influence how the original, unmodified results  
103   are interpreted. In summarising the model outputs into boxplots, the code relating to developing the  
104   original manuscript Figure 2 (Supplementary Material 1, lines 661-665) seemingly classifies the “Worst  
105   Case” with “neutral” ONI ( $-0.5 ^\circ\text{C} < \text{ONI} < 0.5 ^\circ\text{C}$ ; LKB  $> 1 \text{ Mt}$ ; and LHR  $\geq 0.1$ ) using Parameter  
106   set 36 from the output dataframe, which actually reflects a “warm” ONI component ( $> 0.5 ^\circ\text{C}$ ; LKB  
107    $> 1 \text{ Mt}$ ; and LHR  $\geq 0.1$ ). Yet the discussion in Watters et al. (2020) suggests that the likelihood of  
108   their “Worst Case” includes future warming (see Figure 3 below)

109   We agree that any “Worst Case” should reflect ENSO conditions into the future under a warming  
110   climate. However, climate change is likely to increase ENSO in amplitude - both El Niño (ONI  
111   “warm”) and La Niña (ONI “cold”) (Capotondi et al., 2015). How this increasing amplitude can be  
112   integrated appropriately into the presented modelling framework to match with long-term predicted  
113   mean performance of predators has not been explored yet. As such, and for the sake of comparison  
114   with the original study, we maintain the authors designation of ONI “neutral” when rendering the  
115   “Worst Case” boxplots, though caution that this is unlikely to be a realistic expectation.

116

### 117   *Modifications*

- 118   1. We scale the gSSMU LKB to the SSMU that the summer tracking data indicate penguins occu-  
119        pied. To do this, we calculate the area ( $nm^2$ ) of the SSMU for which the predator occupies and the  
120        gSSMU to which it is assigned, then create a scaling ratio. For example, we scale LKB for Cape Shireff  
121        Chinstrap penguins solely to ADPDW (Figure 1) by multiplying the gSSMU LKB by the areal ratio  
122        of ADPDW/gSSMU #2. We then select the corresponding SSMU catch values provided in Watters et  
123        al. (2020) to estimate SSMU-scale LHR. We also caution that while considering the gSSMU scale of  
124        harvesting as inappropriate for “local” effects, even the SSMU-scale catch levels likely do not reflect

125 pressures at scales relevant to breeding penguins (Supplementary Figure 1). 2. We remove Adélie and  
126 Chinstrap penguins from the model formulation over winter; that is, we attribute each species as “NA”  
127 during winter (to account for dispersal after breeding), thus removing them from association with any  
128 gSSMU.

129 3. The authors place LKB/LHR values in March into the “summer” period. However fishing effort over  
130 the period that performance indices are available is not uniform over the thirty year period, with catch  
131 over the preceding decade showing a nonlinear increase from the middle of March and three years  
132 where catch rates increased rapidly from the beginning of the month (Figure 4). Given the highly  
133 variable rates of catch throughout the study period, we run scenarios that classify March as either  
134 summer or winter to reflect the linkage between March and the breeding state of penguins i.e. Adélie  
135 and Chinstrap penguins have either migrated out of the area or have ceased to be centrally foraging  
136 species by March.

137 Thus we reformulate the underlying assumptions above into a new model construct, in which  
138 performance indices from all three species during the summer are included, but Adélie and Chinstrap  
139 penguins cease to be centrally foraging species after breeding and migrate out of the area. The  
140 performance indices are matched in space and time but using SSMU level estimates of LKB and LHR.  
141 We re-run this reformulation using the original analysis of variance model framework that includes  
142 imputed values for LKB in years where survey data are missing. We further consider two alternatives  
143 for considering March, either in a) summer or b) winter.

144 We present the outputs both in the same boxplot format as Figure 2 in the original manuscript, and  
145 as individual cases grouped and colour-coded as ONI “warm” ( $\geq 0.5$ ; red), ONI “neutral” ( $-0.5 < \text{ONI} > +0.5$ ; white) and ONI “cold” ( $< -0.5$ ; blue). We also recreate the original marginal probabilities in  
146 Table 1 of Watters et al. (2020), and two additional tables in the same format with the probabilities  
147 extracted from our reformulated model, the difference between the latter two tables reflecting whether  
148 March is in summer or winter.

150

### 151 *Results*

152 From the original Watters et al. (2020) model, the probability that the Worst Case would cause  
153 penguin performance indices to drop below their long-term mean was 77%, while relative to the Best  
154 Case there was a 93% probability that penguin performance would decline as a response to high LHR.  
155 Similarly, there was a 99% probability that high LHR and LKB under neutral ONI (“Worst Case”,  
156 though see above for comments on this) would drive penguin performance to fall below its long term  
157 mean (Table 1).

158 Our reformulation paints a very different picture, and while we refrain from providing an exhaustive  
159 in-text comparison, we highlight a few examples here. Comparing the original model outputs with ours,  
160 relative to the Best Case, the probability of negative impacts to penguins due to high LHR dropped  
161 precipitously from  $\geq 93\%$  to 37% (Table 3). In other words, considering the migration of penguins in  
162 accordance with their known ecology (Figure 2), the relative probability of negative impact of LHR  
163 drops from a near-certainty to 1-in-3 (Table 2 and 3). Given the temporal separation between fishing  
164 and penguin breeding over the preceding decade, our results are unsurprising.

165 The probability that the effects of warm or neutral ONI would be more detrimental to penguin  
166 performance were greater than for the Worst Case (Table 2 and 3). When we consider the marginal  
167 effects of neutral ONI and high LHR, the probabilities that the former would negatively impact penguin  
168 performance below the long-term mean was x4 greater than the impact of high LHR (Table 2 and 3).  
169 Looking at the case-by-case and selected plots in Figure 4 the overwhelming dominance of the ONI  
170 state can clearly be seen. La Niña (“cold” ONI) conditions resulted in predictive probabilities of  
171 performance that were equal to, or surpassing, those of the Best Case irrespective of increased LKB or  
172 LHR. Even more bizarrely, an increase in LHR to even high levels has a lower probability of decreasing  
173 penguin performance than that of the Best Case (Table 2 and 3). However, it is important to note that  
174 overall our intention is not to suggest that increased fishing is beneficial; merely that when the model  
175 is reconditioned on ecological knowledge, the outputs in its current formulation should be treated with  
176 caution.

177 The authors contend that they have little doubt that penguins are responding to both the environment and fishing; we contend that they are reacting to the environment, and the scales at which  
178 their model incorporates fishing bear no relevance to the scales at which penguins exploit (FIgure S1).  
179 The authors of the original model also identifying an insensitivity of penguin performance to marginal  
180 changes in LKB as corroborating previous failed attempts to parameterise functional responses of  
181 penguins - we fully agree as our reanalysis draws similar conclusions of insensitivity, but we propose  
182 that even the SSMU scale is inappropriate for matching food availability and harvesting pressure to  
183 predator performance (Figure S1).

184 In light of this, and the scales of management originally proposed by us in WG-EMM 2019/18, we  
185 support the direction of discussions during WG-ASAM this year to consider spatial scales of manage-  
186 ment smaller than Subarea level.

188 **Krüger et al. (2021) / WG-EMM 2019/10**

189 The key objective of the paper by Krüger et al. (2021) is to examine the potential synergistic  
190 effects of climate change and increased fishing activity in recent decades on the breeding performance  
191 of Chinstrap and gentoo penguins. The authors make the implicit assumption that there has been a  
192 general decrease in krill density in response to climate change, although this is still a topic of debate  
193 and is not supported by recent large-scale surveys in the Scotia Sea (SG-ASAM 2019/08 Rev.1).

194 *Perhaps describe the model already here, to set the scene for the data input issues? -  
195 YEP*

To address this topic, the authors use data on the number of occupied nests (breeding pairs) counted at a large number of sites throughout the Antarctic Peninsula between 1980 and 2017. These data are available from the Mapping Application for Penguin Populations and Projected Dynamics (MAPPPD) data archive ([www.penguinmap.com](http://www.penguinmap.com); Humphries et al. (2017)). Krüger et al. (2021) include count data on occupied nests based on surveys carried out in November or December, reflecting the early breeding season. They further subset the data to include only colonies for which at least 2 survey estimates are available throughout the 38-year period under consideration (i.e. 1980-2017). These data are provided in the supplementary materials for the paper. Based on the raw counts, they calculate an index of temporal variation in population growth rate using:

$$\lambda_{std} = ((n_b/n_a)/years_{b-a} - 1$$

196 where  $n$  is the number of breeding pairs counted in Nov-Dec of a given year,  $b$  and the number of  
197 breeding pairs counted in the nearest previous year  $a$  in which a Nov-Dec survey was conducted,  
198 divided by the interval between surveys (i.e.  $b - a$ ). While this index may be a robust index of  
199 population change, the authors then convert  $\lambda_{std}$  into a binary index,  $bin\lambda_{std}$  that takes the value 1  
200 for negative growth and 0 for positive growth. The rationale is that this value can be interpreted as the  
201 probability of population decline (irrespective of its magnitude) in response to catch and environmental  
202 change. However by only taking the sign of the change and creating a binary response the authors  
203 completely ignores the magnitude of the absolute or relative this change in population size; that is, a  
204 decline of 1% or 99% is considered equivalent in the model.

205 Another problem with this index is the interval between consecutive surveys. Based on the Krüger et  
206 al. (2021) supplementary dataset, intervals between surveys exceeding one year are relatively common  
207 (intervals >1 year: 26% for Chinstraps and 47% for Gentoos; intervals >2 years: 15% for Chinstraps  
208 and 14% for Gentoos, Table 1). As we describe below, these larger intervals may represent a temporal  
209 mismatch problem, given the fact that response variables only represent conditions within the one year  
210 prior to the breeding season.

211 As in the case of Watters et al. (2020), Krüger et al. (2021) also use CCAMLR C1 Catch and  
212 Effort data from the krill fishery to estimate fishing pressure, but in this case only hauls within a  
213 30km radius are considered for each specific colony. This selection is based previous observations that  
214 foraging of pygoscelid penguins is more probable within 30 km of the colonies during the breeding season

(Warwick-Evans et al., 2018). While they initially summarise these data within distinct time periods (reflecting different important stages of the penguin annual cycle), these are only used for illustrative purposes (Fig 3 in Krüger et al., 2021). When modelling the effect of fisheries on population response, the authors then use accumulated annual catches within these 30km areas, making the assumption that the number of breeding penguins counted in a given survey is affected by resource availability in the immediate vicinity of their specific breeding colonies during the non-breeding period in winter. While this might be valid for gentoo penguins which appear to remain close to the breeding colonies also outside the breeding season (Korczak-Abschire et al., 2021), it is questionable how appropriate this is for Chinstraps that disperse much more widely during winter (see above section and references therein). This spatio-temporal mismatch problem is further exacerbated in cases where intervals between consecutive breeding population surveys exceed one year (Table 4).

The authors use monthly data on the Southern Annular Mode (SAM) index to represent environmental variability (Doddridge and Marshall, 2017; Kwok and Comiso, 2002). Based on an observed 0-3 month lagged correlation between SAM and relevant local climate variables (fractional sea ice cover, open water sensible heat flux and sea level air pressure), the authors exclude SAM values for months coinciding with the breeding season. As discussed in the review of Watters et al. (2020) above, the climactic conditions over the WAP are a function primarily of the Amundsen Sea Low and its interactions with both ENSO and SAM as well as the bathymetry of the local areas. There is a rich scientific literature addressing climate-driven hydrographic variability in the WAP , none of which is considered in this paper.

To test statistically the effects of local fishing pressure and environmental conditions on penguin breeding performance, Krüger et al. (2021) fit a binomial Generalized Linear Mixed Effects model of the form:

$$\text{bin}\lambda_{\text{std}} = \text{catch}_y * \text{SAM} + (1|\text{colony ID})$$

where  $\text{catch}_y$  is the accumulated krill catch within 30km of each colony during the year immediately leading up to the second survey in an interval (i.e. equivalent to  $\text{year}_b$  in the population growth rate equation above), SAM is the SAM index during the winter prior to the same survey (i.e. temporally overlapping with most of the catch data accumulation period) while the term in brackets indicate a random intercept effect on colony. Fundamentally, unlike in the case of Watters et al. (2020), scripts are not provided for the analyses done by Krüger et al. (2021), and therefore we have not been able to recreate the original dataset, their analyses or test various aspects of data input, underlying assumptions and alternative model formulations. Over 50% of the gentoo penguin colonies examined have never been exposed to positive catch rates within the 30km radius. As such, our concerns lie in the underlying assumptions, and we would welcome the opportunity to collaborate openly on a) recreating these analyses and b) testing their sensitivity to the assumptions made.

- 246 3. The validity of linear interpolation across multiple years ( $>1$ ) has not been analysed.
- 247 4. No consideration of lagged recruitment (fledging to reproductive age) nor ability to detect lagged
- 248 recruitment with irregular surveying effort / lack of banding

249 **Problem 1: There's clearly some discrepancies in amounts of data here that we may  
250 need to approach the authors about.**

251 **Problem 2: How representative is this rate value for a specific year, in the cases where  
252 it has been calculated as a linear change over a period of several years between surveys?**

253 **Problem 3: Is it appropriate to use annually accumulated catch as an explanatory  
254 variable to explain number of breeding pairs observed in Nov-Dec?**

255 **Problem 4: In the case of gentoos, half of the sites never have positive catch rates  
256 within 30 km, while for chinstraps the situation is not so bad. How does this explain the  
257 model fits and conclusions of Kruger et al.?**

258 **Problem 5: If no other climate variables are included in the model, does their argument  
259 really make sense? Why exclude SAM during the breeding period?**

260       **Problem 6. According to the documentation ,this package only appears to have the**  
261       **capacity to fit a simple LMME, which does not allow for a binomial response - SEE**  
262       **ABOVE COMMENT - lmerTest loads in lmer4 which as binomialGLMM capability ?**

263       **Discussion**

264       Our preliminary review of the evidence supporting localised effects of fishing coupled with broad-  
265       scale climactic phenomena having an impact on the vital statistics of pygoscelid penguins (performance  
266       and demographic trends) are based on assumptions that potentially do not reflect current knowledge  
267       of penguin breeding phenology and movement.

268       Of greatest concern, however, is that the interpretation of model outputs from both approaches  
269       (either from both the original studies or the modified parameters we describe) are under boundary  
270       conditions that we feel are not appropriate. Both approaches consider only the fishery and broad-  
271       scale climate phenomena as the only two causes of krill abundance variability at geographic scales  
272       relevant to penguins. Neither study considers, for example, the impact of rebounding baleen whale  
273       populations or migratory male Antarctic fur seals beyond brief mentioning. Humpback whales have  
274       increased in abundance throughout the life of the krill fishery, and there are sufficient telemetry and  
275       distance sampling studies in the scientific literature to demonstrate the degree and significance of  
276       spatiotemporal overlap with breeding penguin populations (see Santora and Veit (2013), Lowther et  
277       al. (2020), Oosthuizen et al., Johannessen et al., Lowther et al. submitted to this meeting, and Figure  
278       S2 as examples). Importantly, the distribution of these and numerous other unconsidered competitors  
279       is not uniform in either space or time, and their impact on local availability of krill is likely to be  
280       considerable.

281       Similarly, the utilisation of broad-scale climatological phenomena to characterise impacts at scales  
282       that predators are dependent upon is problematic. The Amundsen Sea Low (ASL) is the dominant cli-  
283       mate feature for the western Antarctic Peninsula. The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) modulates  
284       the ASL, with El Niño (La Niña) shallowing (deepening) its pressure, causing more northwesterly  
285       (southeasterly) winds and upwelling (restricted influx) of Circumpolar Deep Water onto the shelf. The  
286       Southern Annular Mode also influences the pressure of the ASL, with the current trend of negative  
287       SAM constructively (destructively) interfering with ASL when in phase with El Niño (La Niña) events  
288       (e.g. Clem et al. (2016)). The result is a set of above-surface climate conditions that drive changes  
289       in water mass intrusion that is in turn dependent on *interactions* between two climate processes. The  
290       bathymetry of the Antarctic Peninsula which also influences the hydrographic conditions is complex  
291       (particularly at scales that are important to centrally-foraging predators such as penguins) and the  
292       structuring of krill aggregations in time and space in the WAP have been linked to mesoscale cir-  
293       culation processes (Santora et al., 2012), which are unlikely to be uniformly affected by macroscale  
294       processes.

295       Our work into the future will progress along three lines, and we welcome any and all offers of  
296       collaboration into this work. Firstly, we will progress this debate into the scientific literature in order  
297       to ensure a balanced discussion occurs in that forum. Secondly, we will be examining in further detail  
298       some of the additional predictors used and their efficacy, the modelling frameworks into which they are  
299       brought, and how their incorporation influences the interpretation of the responses. Finally, we shall  
300       also be exploring alternative modelling approaches that reflect more of the physical and biological  
301       complexity of the system in question. In all cases, our goal is to ensure that the best available  
302       objective scientific evidence is presented to our environmental managers and, where appropriate, flag  
303       that disagreement exists. Our paper should be viewed in this light to generate constructive dialogue  
304       that addresses our common concern of the potential for localised fishing to impact dependent aspects  
305       of the ecosystem.

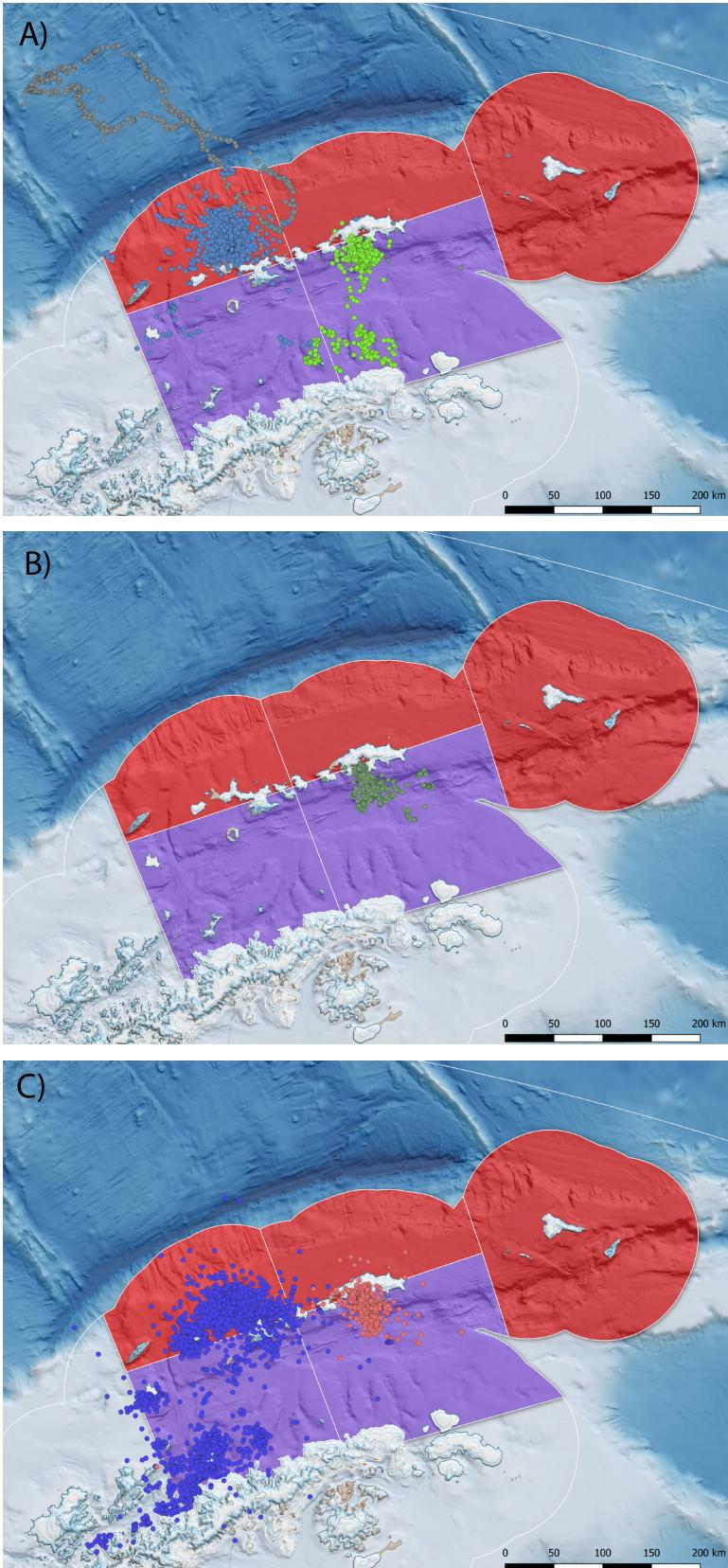


Figure 1: Penguin foraging behaviour during summer breeding, derived from available ARGOS-CLS PTT data presented in Hinke et al. 2017. A) Chinstrap penguins from Cape Shirreff (blue) and Copacabana (green) truncated at 10<sup>th</sup> March in line with known phenology (Black 2016; Lowther et al.(this meeting). Elongated grey track represents a single animal) B) Adélie penguins truncated to the end of January and C) Gentoo penguins until ~August, representing all available PTT data provided. The SSMU are combined and coloured according to gSSMU (red; gSSMU 2, purple; gSSMU 1) with Chinstrap and Adélie penguin 99% MCP home ranges occupying between 7-19% of the gSSMU to which they were assigned.

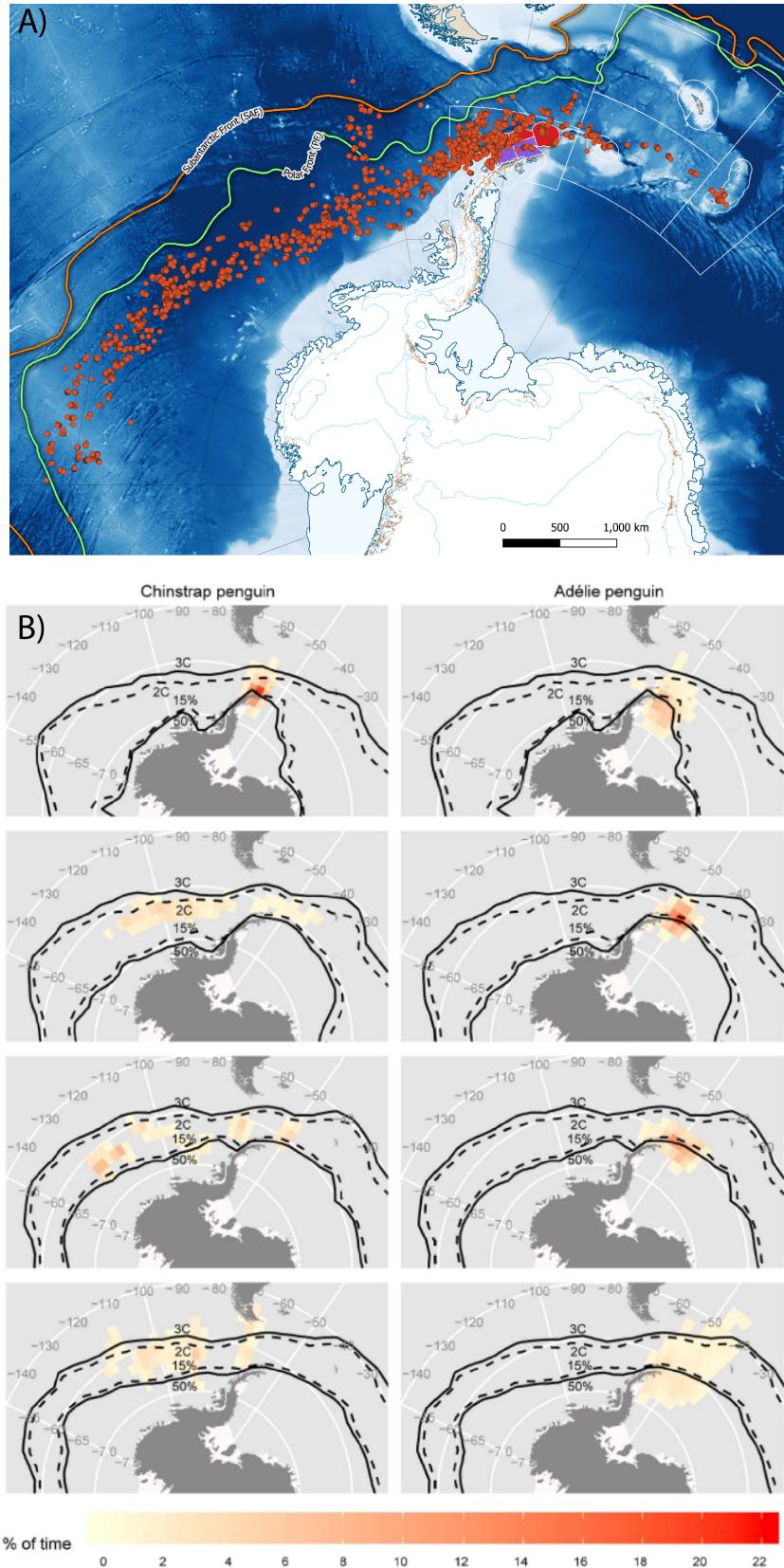


Figure 2: A) Distribution of overwinter movement for Chinstrap penguins, relative to the gSSMU's to which they were attributed, created from telemetry data available in Hinke et al. 2019. B) Adélie and Chinstrap penguin movement recorded by light geolocators, highlighting the large longitudinal range both species disperse through at the end of breeding (taken from Hinke et al. 2015). In the original model formulation by Watters et al. 2020, the performance indices for both species are matched to gSSMU-scale estimates of LKB and LHR and macroscale levels of ONI variability.

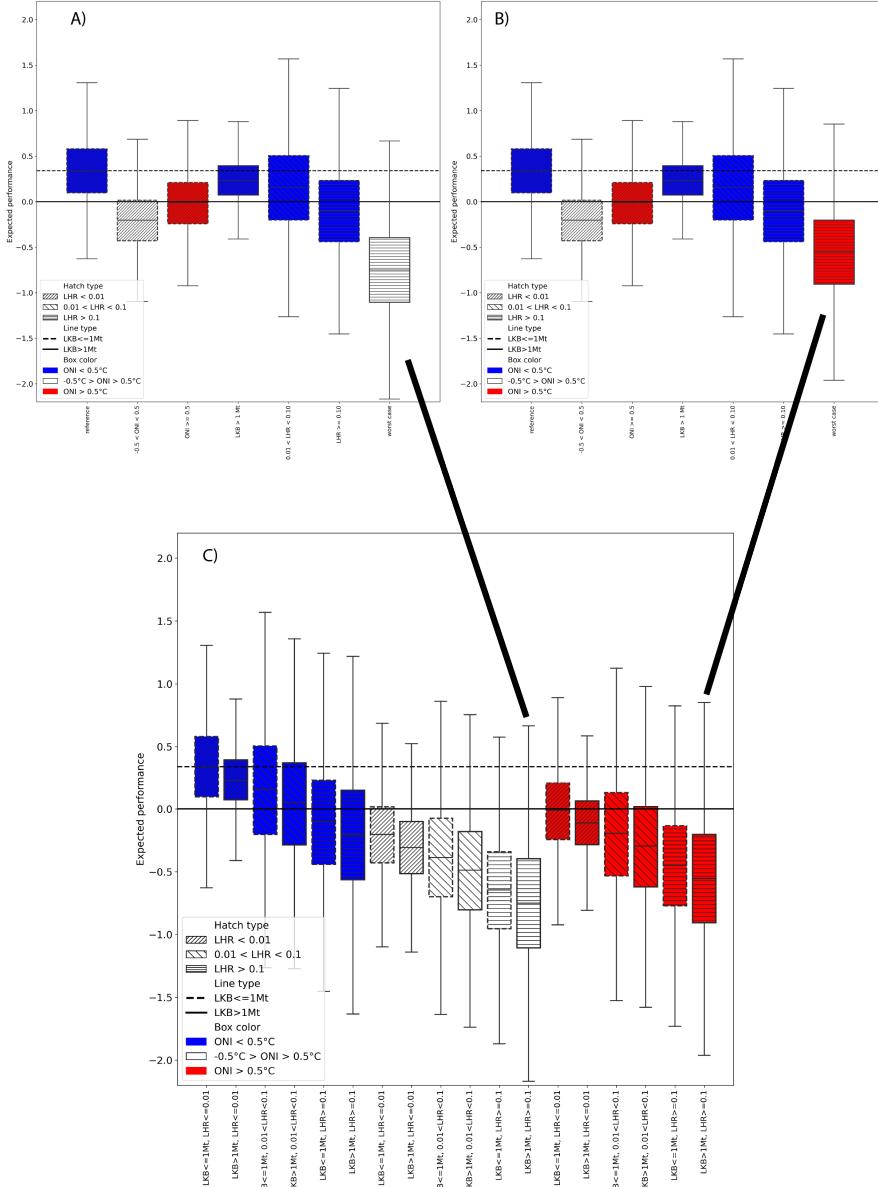


Figure 3: Original Figure 1 plot from Watters et al. 2020 with A) Neutral ONI and B) Warm ONI constituting the Worst Case selected. C) Displays the original case-by-case plots recreated from the paper, with Case 12 representing the intention while data from Case 18 was selected for rendering the boxplot. Henceforth, to facilitate comparison, we refer to the ONI Neutral plot however we consider this unrealistic if the intention is to portray a Worst Case of a continuing warming climate.

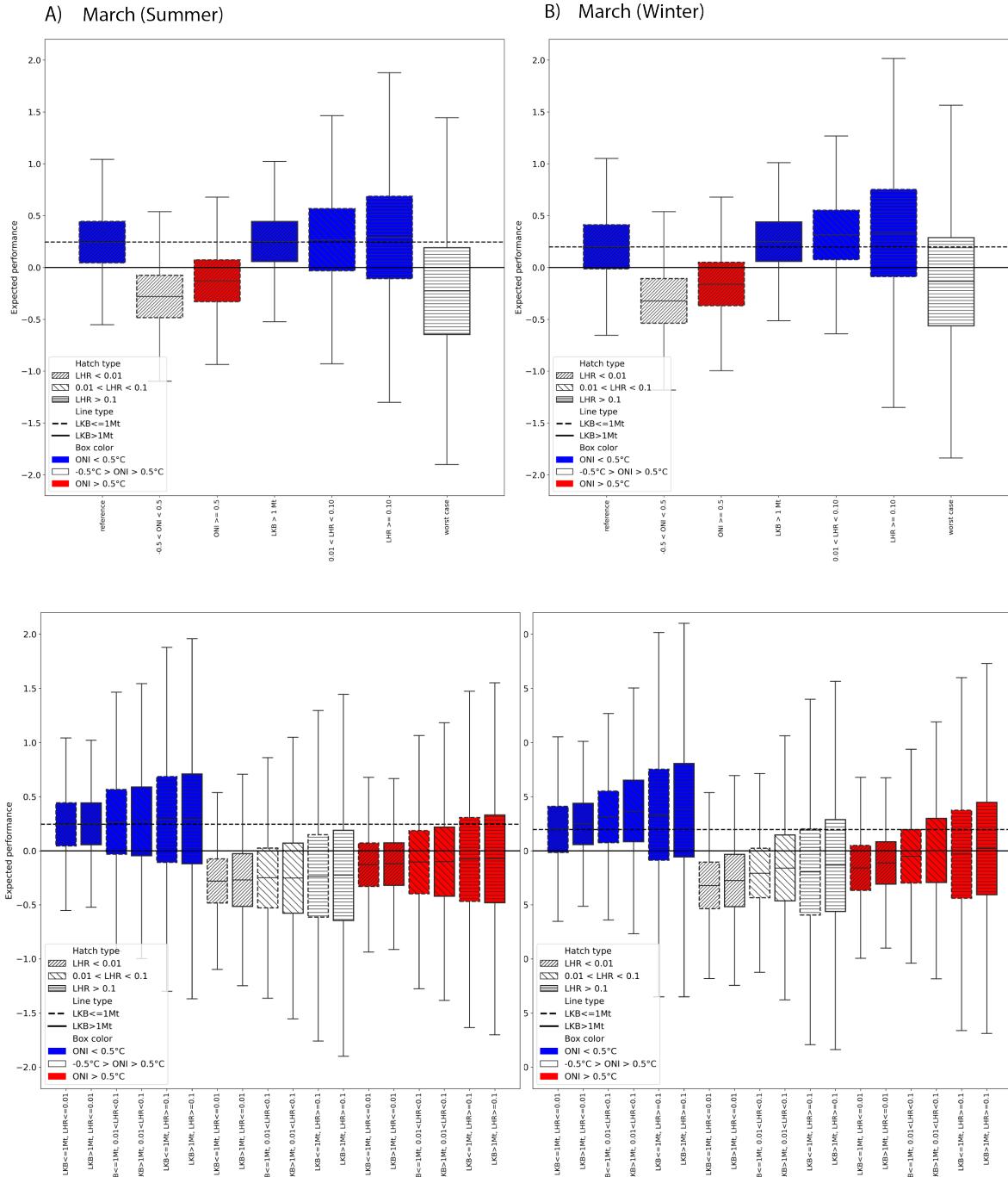


Figure 4: Model output for the alternative Watters et al. 2020 scenario outlined above (all species initially present, Adélie and Chinstrap penguins migrate out of the area after breeding, LKB and LHR rescaled to SSMU and March included in summer or winter). Selected cases as per Watters et al. 2020 for March in A) Summer and B) Winter are provided, with the corresponding case-by-case boxplots presented beneath. Boxplots are colour-coded by ONI state (red=warm, white=neutral, blue=cold). In all cases, the marginal effect of ONI dominated the expected performance of penguins against their long-term mean, irrespective of LKB or LHR.

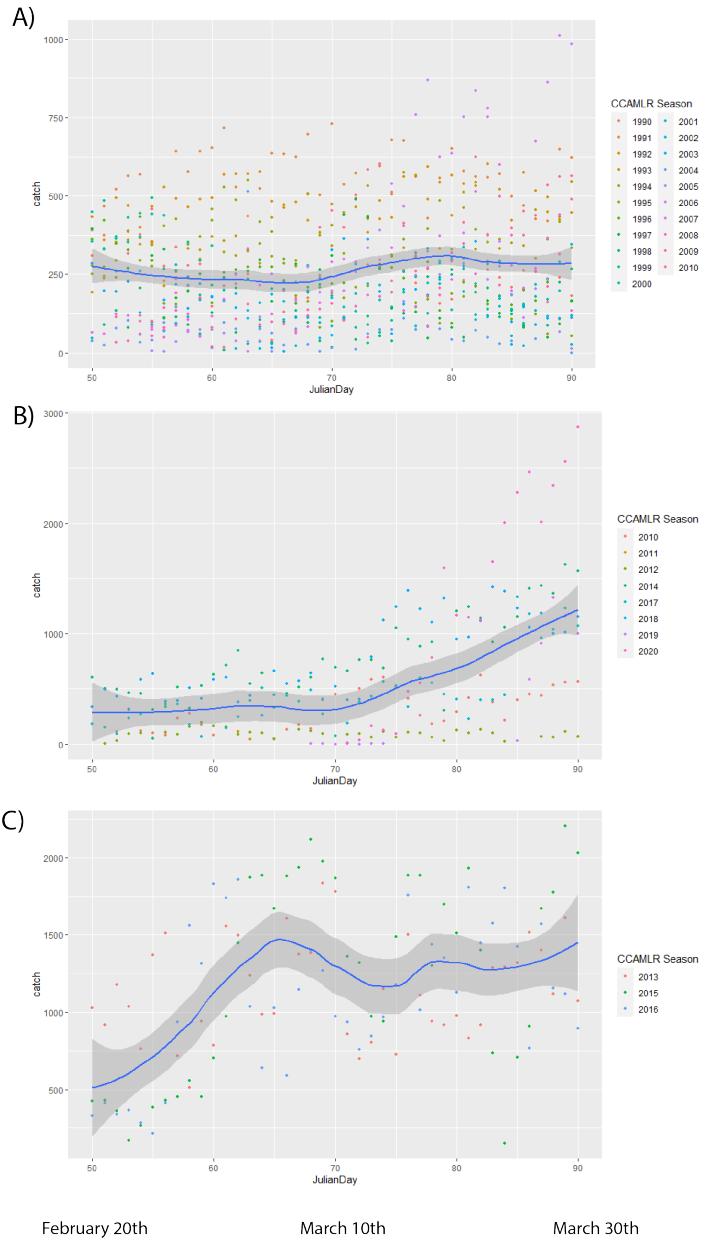


Figure 5: Daily accumulated catch (and fitted LOESS smooth curves) in Subarea 48.1 between 20<sup>th</sup> February and March 31<sup>st</sup> between A) 1990-2010 and B) 2010 to 2020. Catch in the Subarea was relatively consistent during the latter stages of penguin breeding at approximately 250tonnes/d (NOTE: different scaling of catch on y-axis between plots). However, since 2010 there has been a tendency for the fishery to increase its effort in the Subarea, starting around the middle of March. C) During this latter period, the fishery increased effort earlier on three occasions (2013, 2015 and 2016), starting before the beginning of March.

Table 1: Original table in Watters et al. 2020. In this and all subsequent tables below, the posterior and posterior predictive probabilities that the expected performance of penguins given the effects in the left hand column are less than the expected performance given the drivers in the column headings are provided. Worst Case is represented by neutral ONI; LHR  $\geq 0.1$ ; and LKB  $\geq 1\text{Mt}$ . The Best Case is represented by La Niña conditions, low LKB and low LHR.

Effects	Best Case	$-0.5^\circ\text{C} < \text{ONI} < +0.5^\circ\text{C}$	$\text{ONI} \geq +0.5$	Long-term $\mu$	Long-term predicted $\mu$
Best case				0.04	0.36
ONI Neutral	1.00			0.89	0.59
ONI warm	0.99			0.52	0.51
LKB High	0.71	0.02	0.12	0.01	0.41
LHR medium	0.75	0.16	0.31	0.32	0.44
LHR high	0.93	0.39	0.60	0.64	0.54
Worst case	0.99			0.99	0.78

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Table 2: Posterior and posterior predictive probabilities extracted from the model output for alternative Watters et al. 2020 scenario outlined above with March attributed to winter (Adélie and Chinstrap penguins migrate out of the area after breeding, LKB and LHR rescaled to SSMU). Under this scenario, performance against the long term mean is worst for neutral and warm ONI conditions.

Effects	Best Case	$-0.5^\circ\text{C} < \text{ONI} < +0.5^\circ\text{C}$	$\text{ONI} \geq +0.5$	Long-term $\mu$	Long-term predicted $\mu$
Best case				0.04	0.40
ONI Neutral	1.00			0.97	0.62
ONI warm	0.99			0.81	0.56
LKB High	0.49	0.01	0.05	0.03	0.40
LHR medium	0.46	0.04	0.09	0.14	0.39
LHR high	0.45	0.10	0.16	0.23	0.39
Worst case	0.84			0.71	0.59

Table 3: Posterior and posterior predictive probabilities extracted from the model output for alternative Watters et al. 2020 scenario outlined above with March attributed to summer (Adélie and Chinstrap penguins migrate out of the area after breeding, LKB and LHR rescaled to SSMU). Under this scenario performance against the long term mean is also worst for neutral and warm ONI conditions.

Effects	Best Case	$-0.5^{\circ}\text{C} < \text{ONI} < +0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$	$\text{ONI} \geq +0.5$	Long-term $\mu$	Long-term predicted $\mu$
Best case				0.10	0.42
ONI Neutral	1.00			0.98	0.63
ONI warm	0.99			0.86	0.56
LKB High	0.40	0.00	0.04	0.03	0.40
LHR medium	0.27	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.37
LHR high	0.37	0.08	0.13	0.21	0.38
Worst case	0.76			0.63	0.55

Table 4: Frequency distribution (percent) of intervals between consecutive breeding surveys for chinstrap and gentoo penguins used by Kruger et al 2021.

	Chinstrap	Gentoo
<b>1 year</b>	63.11	69.19
<b>&gt;1 year</b>	26.16	47.05
<b>&gt;2 years</b>	15.26	14.26
<b>&gt;3 years</b>	8.7	9.05
<b>&gt;4 years</b>	6.8	4.13
<b>&gt;5 years</b>	3.52	3.18
<b>&gt;6 years</b>	3.05	2.36
<b>&gt;7 years</b>	2.23	0.94
<b>&gt;8 years</b>	1.76	0.94
<b>&gt;9 years</b>	1.76	0.47
<b>&gt;14 years</b>	1.29	0.47
<b>&gt;15 years</b>	1.29	0
<b>&gt;19 years</b>	0.82	0

306 Supplementary material

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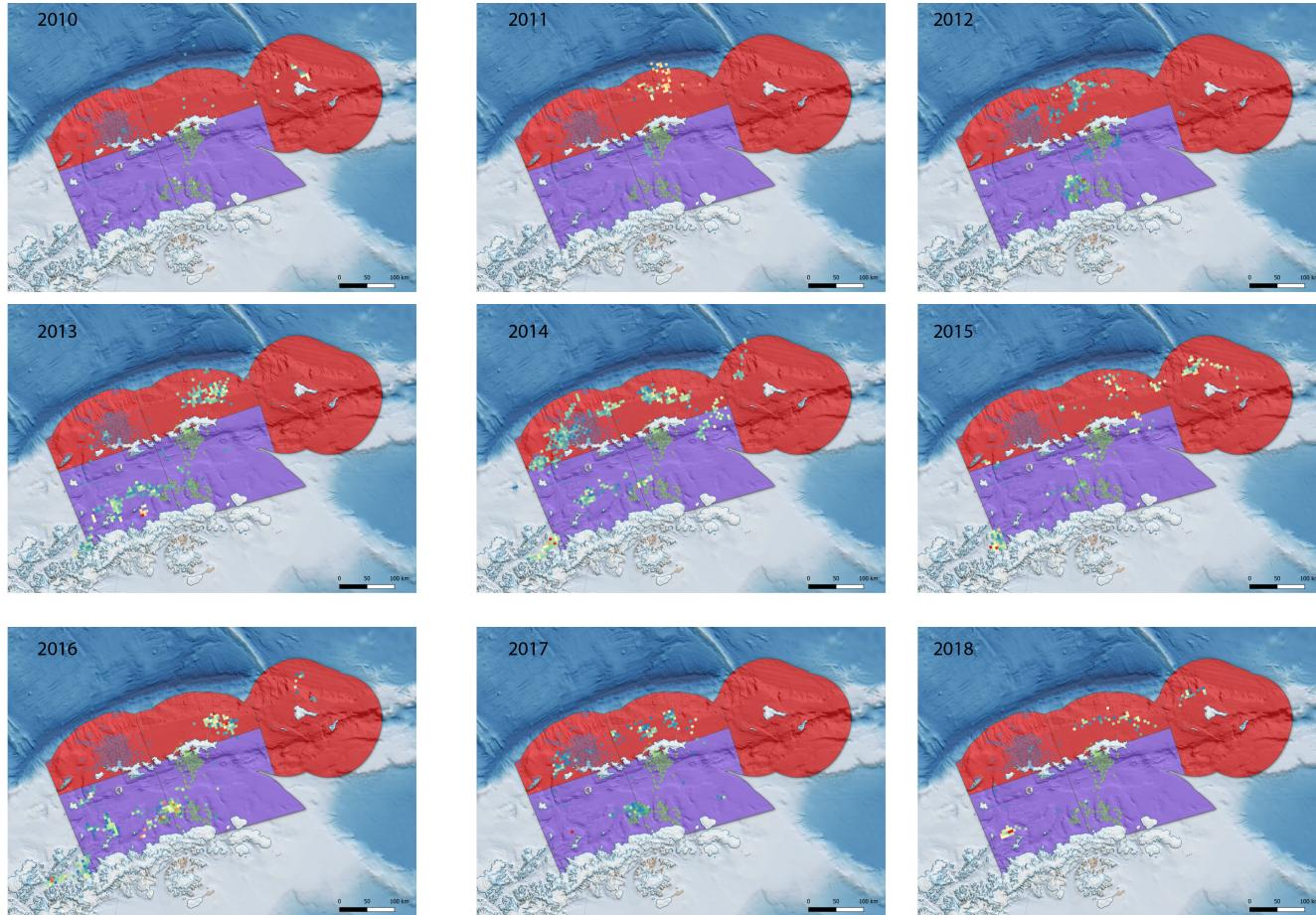


Figure S1: C1 Catch and Effort data for 2010 - 2018, for all catches during the period of the austral summer relating to Adélie and Chinstrap penguins in Subarea 48.1 (i.e. up to 10<sup>th</sup> March). The telemetry data presented in Hinke et al. 2017 for Chinstrap penguins at both Cape Shireff and Copacabana and the gSSMU used in the Watters et al. 2020 paper are superimposed to highlight the extreme variability in actual catch, relative to the scale of LHR used to reflect interactions with penguins. Our reanalysis re-scaled LHR to the SSMU level, though we contend that for the purposes of matching predator data at appropriate spatial scales even this is too coarse a resolution.

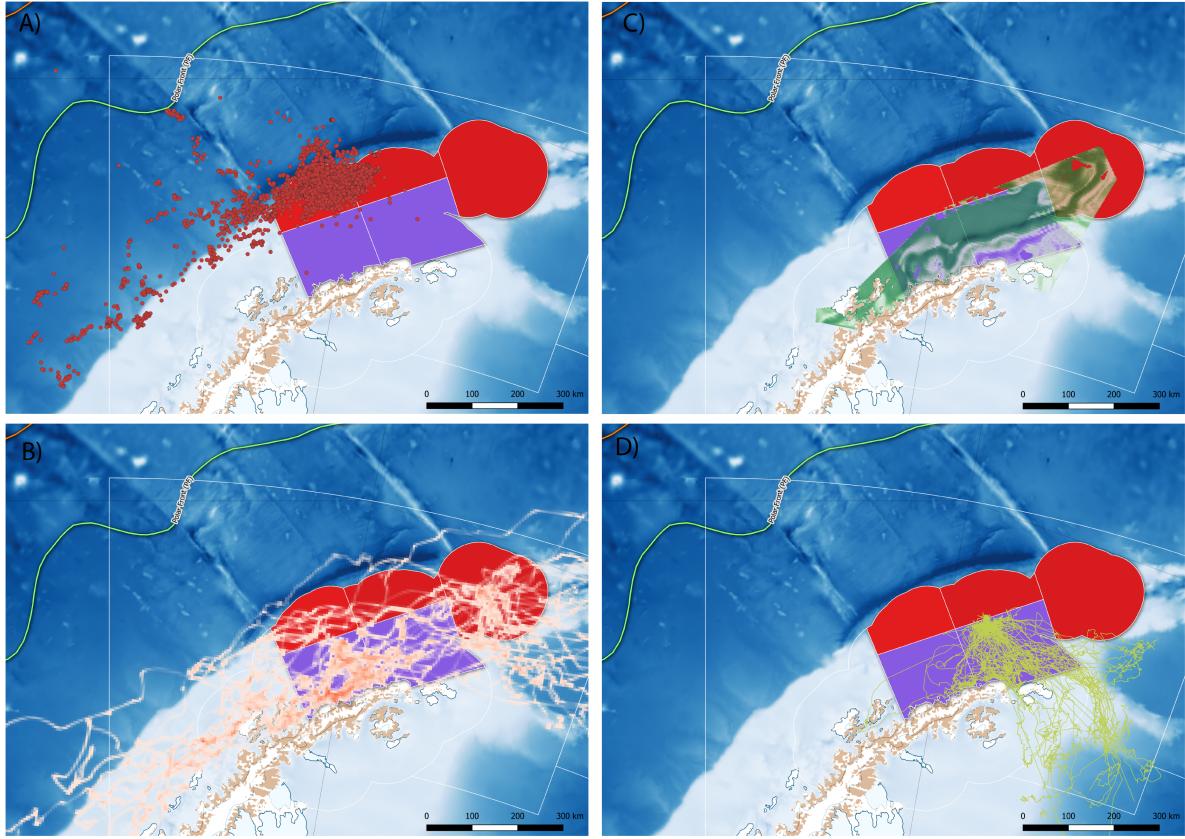


Figure S2: The summer distribution of foraging effort by A) adult female Antarctic fur seals (adapted from telemetry data available in Hinke et al. 2017), B) migratory adult male Antarctic fur seals (adapted from Lowther et al. 2020) C) humpback whales throughout December (adapted from Johannessen et al., this meeting) and D) nonbreeding adult Adélie penguins during the breeding season (adapted from data in Oosthuizen et al., this meeting). Potential effects of competitive overlap between pygoscelid penguins and other krill dependent predators, particularly those who have increased their abundance dramatically over the preceding 40 years, are excluded from both approaches, creating an unrealistic set of boundary conditions for interpreting the variance in penguin vital rates.

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