# Title of existing research project

Foraging ecology of recently weaned southern elephant seal pups on Macquarie Island

# Source of funding for existing project

Australian Antarctic Division, Environmental Research Council, European Economic Community

# Details of existing research project

The movements, foraging areas and foraging behaviour of naïve (recently weaned) southern elephant seal pups during their first trip to sea were investigated. Satellite-linked data loggers that recorded locations and dive metrics were deployed on a total of 72 pups at Macquarie Island during their post-weaning fast in December 1995,1996,1999 and 2000. These pups were also permanently marked for future identification as part of a long-term demographic study.

# Title of extended research project\*

How does the first foraging trip of naïve southern elephant seal pups influence their future sruvival?

# Details of extended research project

Since the seals from the existing project were tagged when they were pups, researchers have been doing resights every year at Macquarie Island. These resights provide important demographic and survival data which will be used to in this extended project. This extended project aims to investigate the relationship between the seals’ first foraging trips as pups (movement and dive behaviour) to their future survival ~ 20 years later.

# Budget\*

Accommodation and subsistence in Hobart (where the research lab is)

Rent = 300AUD/week

Food = 80AUD/week

Total weekly cost = 380 AUD

Total monthly cost = 1520 AUD

Estimated project duration = 6 months = 1520\*6 = 9120 AUD

**Total budget requested = 9120 AUD = 5160 pounds**