

Understanding the survival and recruitment of pakahā/fluttering shearwaters at the study colony on Kokomohua/Long Island, Tōtaranui/Queen Charlotte Sound.

Elizabeth (Biz) Bell¹, Samantha Ray¹, and Patrick Crowe^{2,3}

1. Wildlife Management International Limited, 96b Middle Renwick Road, Blenheim, Marlborough, biz@wml.co.nz
2. Department of Conservation, Renwick Office, Marlborough.
3. Marlborough Regional Representative, Birds New Zealand

Building on previous work at the Kokomohua/Long Island colony, and as an extension to a number of translocation projects using Kokomohua as a source population, this project aims to understand the survival and recruitment of pakahā/fluttering shearwaters (*Puffinus gavia*) into the colony, including identification of returned translocated chicks back to the natal colony. This project will focus on searches of the artificial burrows within the study colony during daytime surveys and surface captures of birds at the colony during nocturnal surveys over a multiple night visit to the colony during the 2024/2025 breeding season. All birds handled at the colony will be identified by reading bands if banded or applying new bands to unbanded birds.

Marlborough Birds New Zealand members, mana whenua and the Department of Conservation will all work collaboratively on this project with the aim to understand survival of pakahā, recruitment into the Kokomohua population, and site fidelity by identifying any returned translocated birds. A longer-term aim will be to understand the population status and trend of Kokomohua pakahā using data collected during this and previous site visits as well as future visits planned as part of the long-term research project. Under the supervision of New Zealand National Banding Scheme Level 3 Seabird Trainers, banding training will be provided to personnel, focusing particularly on junior Birds New Zealand members and mana whenua, involved in each of the field visits.

Funding supplied by Birds New Zealand through the Project Assistance Fund will allow Marlborough Birds New Zealand members to travel to Kokomohua this season building on previous work at the colony. We are all excited to be getting back to the colony to monitor the birds and their breeding attempts this season.

