



**PENGUIN
WATCH**

PENGUINWATCH.ORG

NEWSLETTER
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PENGUINING AROUND THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

We have returned from a successful season in the Southern Ocean servicing a network of cameras and counting colonies.

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WELCOMING NEW TEAM MEMBERS

We are excited to announce the addition of two new members to the Penguin Watch team! Nacho and Laure have joined the team as Doctoral Researcher and Project Coordinator respectively.

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KEY MARKING RULE UPDATE

We are setting up a new set of guidelines regarding the marking of foreground versus background penguin colonies.

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IN OTHER NEWS



Do you love puffins? Do you want to get to know kittiwakes? Wonder no more and join us on our sister platform, **Seabird Watch**, to help us better understand the life and struggles of some of the most endangered birds in the world:
<http://seabirdwatch.org>

ZOONIVERSE

PENGUINING AROUND THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

We have returned from a successful season in the Southern Ocean servicing a network of cameras and counting colonies. We started on the Kapitan Khlebnikov -- a Russian icebreaker chartered by [Quark Expeditions](#) -- to visit the [Snow Hill Island](#) Emperor penguin colony. We then moved on to camp at [George's Point](#) on the Antarctic Peninsula, where we studied Chinstrap and Gentoo penguins. Finally, there was an extended period hitch-hiking on the Quark Ocean Endeavour ship, that took us all around the Southern Ocean.

While we were away, we were delighted that the Government of [South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands](#) announced additional protection for its Marine Protected Area (MPA). We gave scientific evidence to the government about numbers and foraging areas which have largely been adopted. The South Sandwich Islands are one of the most abundant seabird sites in the whole world, with Zavodovski Island hosting 1.3 million pairs of Chinstrap penguins. Numbers are uncertain as this volcanic island has erupted and we hope to visit next year to survey all the islands post-eruption. Currently, they are allocated a krill quota by the Commission on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, although no krill fishing takes place. The MPA will ensure protection going forward, while at the same time not releasing a quota that might be fished on the Antarctic Peninsula. We know that fisheries closures [displace fishing effort](#) so this cautious approach is welcomed. In contrast, the Antarctic Peninsula is increasingly fished with only a partial, voluntary buffer around penguin foraging areas, so measuring fishing impact on penguins will be our priority going forward.



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Ignacio (Nacho) Juarez

Nacho started his D.Phil (a PhD, Oxford-style) at the University of Oxford as well as his collaboration with *Penguin Watch*, in September 2018.

His aim is to use the data generated by *Penguin Watch* to compare at-colony behaviour with at-sea conditions and events. Hopefully, this can give us clues as to how penguins are going to respond to climate change or other human-induced impacts.

When not coding, Nacho can be found taking wildlife pictures (IG: [@leeburro](#)), playing boardgames, learning how to play the guitar and/or at the pub.

[More about Nacho](#)



Laure Cugnière

Laure has been *Penguin Watch's* new Project Coordinator, at the University of Oxford, since October 2018. With the project growing in size and ambition, Laure will be assisting the team in logistics, engagement, fundraising and so much more.

French native speaker, she has expertise in project management, public engagement, event planning and communications as well as experience on and a passion for conservation science and practice.

When Laure is not assisting the team, she can be found cooking, hiking the world's national parks or at her favourite pilates classes.

[More about Laure](#)



KEY MARKING RULE UPDATE

Our great moderators have informed us that many of you have reported new images where penguin colonies were only present in the background, distant from the camera, and that the marking guidelines in this scenario were not clear. To help clarify this, we have been working with the moderators in the last few weeks to come up with clearer guidelines (to apply to penguins only, continue as usual for 'other', see '5. Other objects, unlisted animals' in the FAQ for more details):

Scenario 1: The penguin colony is present in the foreground. If so, mark all of the penguins or, if there are too many, mark as many as possible and then click 'Next' and select 'There were too many to count'.

Scenario 2: Same as scenario 1, but there are also tiny penguins in the background. If so, mark as many penguins as possible in the foreground and ignore the small ones in background. Then click 'Next' and select 'There were too many to count'.

Scenario 3: Penguins are only present in the background. If so, mark a few, click 'Next' and select 'There were too many to count' again.

Scenario 4: No penguins. If so, click 'Next' and select 'Yes' (you have marked all the animals).

Note that distant colonies can be classified using computer vision which is why you do not need to focus your efforts on them. We hope that this clarifies the issue. Note that these updated guidelines are already available on the [Penguin Watch FAQ](#) (see under 3. Close versus distant objects, and zoom options).



SCENARIO 3

Penguins are only present in the background. If so, mark a few, click 'Next' and select 'There were too many to count'.

SCENARIO 2

Penguins are present in the foreground with small distant ones in the background. Mark as many penguins in the foreground as you can, and ignore the small ones in background.

