

Project Update: May 2013

The end of the field season in the Falklands concluded with a public talk. It was an excellent opportunity to discuss the importance of ecological studies for management and conservation initiatives. Further, it provided a wonderful chance to discuss the project with a greater audience. Stomach sample data has now been analysed for the collections during the 2011/12 and 2012/13 seasons. The most important items in the diet based on percentage index of relative importance (%IRI) were: fish species - rock cod (*Patagonotothen* spp.), Falkland herring (*Sprattus fugensis*); cephalopods - Loligo squid (*Loligo gahi*); and crustaceans - lobster krill (*Munida gregaria*). Preparation of material for isotope analysis will begin shortly. This preparation will coincide with school and university holidays. We hope to advertise the opportunity for students to assist with lab procedures. This will serve as an introductory lesson to lab/ecology work for school learners and a potential introduction to stable isotope analysis for university students.



Loligo squid (*Loligo gahi*) removed from stomach contents. ©Jonathan Handley



Collage of volunteers over the field season. ©Jonathan Handley