A state dependent life-history model of provisioning in penguins

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Abstract

There is a wealth of information detailing the behavior of penguins in the Southern Ocean 10 during breeding. However, we have less of an idea how their behavior is affected by changes 11 in prey availability. The aim of management models in this region is to allocate catch 12 limits for one of the main prev species for penguins, Antarctic krill (Euphausia superba), 13 in defined units around major breeding colonies. Our main goal is to estimate the shape 14 of the functional response of penguins and krill, key information that is currently missing 15 from management. We use data from field studies on penguins and acoustic readings 16 of krill swarms to characterize a state-dependent life-history model where two penguin 17 parents forage to provision a chick to fledging. Each individual parent makes decisions 18 based on quantified estimates of state dynamics, a probabilistic distribution of how their 19 partner is behaving, and a need to maximize fitness. We predict that the shape of the 20 curve describing total amount of krill eaten versus krill available around a breeding colony 21 approximates a Holling Type III functional response. Our broader prediction is that the 22 age of parents can influence chick survival, but only at medium food levels. 23

25 Introduction

Penguins can provide valuable information about the marine environment they inhabit, and are good subjects for investigations of parental care in monogamous, long-lived species. This is because they are abundant and colonial, generally return to the same place to breed (Lewis et al., 2006), and the adults are are easy to individually mark and observe (Chappell et al., 1993*a*), being large enough to carry technological instruments (Jouventin et al., 1994). In addition, many aspects of their energetics, life history and behavior have been described (Chappell et al., 1993*a*).

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Many species of penguin in the Southern Ocean rely on krill, Euphausia superba, for 34 their breeding success each summer. Krill biomass on a scale relevant to predators fluc-35 tuates widely from year to year (Mackintosh, 1972, 1973; Murphy et al., 1998), with 36 predator populations often linked to krill abundance on a local scale (Croxall et al., 37 1988, 1999; Atkinson et al., 2001; Reid and Croxall, 2001; Reid et al., 2002). Fluctuations 38 in krill are due to changes in environment, with current strength, ice cover, and water 39 tempperature being linked to krill recruitment and abundance in particular regions of the 40 Southern Ocean. 41

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Krill have also been targeted over the last 40 years by a fishery that is managed by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) (SC-CCAMLR, 2001; Everson and Goss, 1991; Nicol and Endo, 1997; Kawaguchi and Nicol, 2006). The fishery has had a consistent low-level of exploitation to date, but it is set to expand (Nicol et al., 2000), due to increased demand from aquaculture and massive improvements in the way that krill is harvested from the ocean. The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) has recently certified the Southern Ocean krill fishery but there is some controversy over this certification because of the issue of indirect effects of the fishery on
 predators (www.nytimes.com/2010/06/23/science/earth/23krill.html)

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The CCAMLR is moving towards management in Small Scale Management Units (SS-53 MUs, Constable and Nicol, 2002; Hewitt et al., 2004), because of the potential for com-54 petition between the fishery and krill predators at a local scale around predator breeding 55 colonies. The management units are located within key areas in the Southern Ocean where 56 krill are abundant around predator breeding colonies and the fishery is present. Among 57 the questions related to management in small scale units are: a) how should the overall 58 catch limit for an area be subdivided among the SSMUs, b) how should the development 59 of the fishery be limited until this decision is made, and c) which of predator demand, 60 krill biomass, or demand minus biomass are most important in effective management of 61 krill? There are a number of models used to explore the question of how to allocate catch 62 among the SSMUs (KPFM, Hill et al., 2007a, b). One of the goals of our work is to qualify 63 the component of mortality relating to predation from land-based predators, so that this 64 information may be used in a management model, with our focus on two questions: 1) 65 What is the relationship between the abundance of krill and the consumption of krill by 66 predators (the predator functional responses) and 2) what is the relationship between the 67 abundance of krill and the reproductive success of predators (the predator reproductive 68 response) 69

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There are various studies on penguin abundance and population dynamics in different regions of the Southern Ocean. However, there is little understanding of how these dynamics are linked to changes in local prey availability. One way to examine this linkage is through penguin behavior and breeding ecology. Penguins are an altricial species,

meaning that the young needs nourishment and protection directly after hatching. In a 75 challenging environment, such as the Southern Ocean, breeding success for penguins re-76 quires a contribution from both parents to ensure that the chick can reach independence 77 within limited time and resources, for example reaching independence before the onset of 78 winter (Davis et al., 1989), or before parental reserves reach a critical low. Mass loss in 79 altricial species may be necessary, even adaptive (Barlow and Croxall, 2002; Cresswell 80 et al., 2007; Green et al., 2007) down to a threshold point (Robin et al., 1998), to maintain 81 the brooding parent through a period when nestlings require heat, insulation and food 82 (Moreno, 1989). However, many questions arise in relation to how much each parent 83 contributes to rearing the chick, how much weight loss each parent incurs as a cost, and 84 whether the two sexes respond to the provisioning behavior of the other. In considering 85 the behavior of both the male and the female during chick rearing, and looking at how 86 this is affected by changes in local prey availability, we are therefore able to better predict 87 how these animals may be affected by a changing prevenvironment, and we can examine 88 fundamental questions about provisioning behavior and parental conflict in a putatively 89 monogamous species. 90

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Conflict between parents over care of young arises because the success of the young 92 generally depends on the care from both parents, whereas the cost to a parent depends on 93 its own effort (Trivers, 1972; Parker et al., 2002; Houston et al., 2005). For each parent ۵ı there is a trade-off between the amount of resources invested in current offspring versus 95 the amount that remains for their survival and future reproductive investment (Williams, 96 1966; Clutton-Brock, 1991). An inverse relationship between current reproductive success 97 and future parental survival has been a key assumption in life-history theory (Fisher, 98 1930; Williams, 1966); however, this is not necessarily the case (Bryant, 1979). In many 99

species, individuals show flexibility in the pattern of parental investment in response to both natural and experimental changes in conditions (Wright, 1990). Allocation of investment may also change as the demands of the growing chick change (Tinbergen, 2000), and may be fundamentally different for the male and female parent because of divergent interests in reproduction where traits favored by one sex might be costly to the other (Chapman et al., 2003).

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In theory, each sex should generally gain if the other works harder because the evo-107 lution of increased care by one sex will enable reduced care in the other (Westneat and 108 Sargent, 1996; Wachtmeister and Enquist, 2000; Royle et al., 2002). This raises questions 109 about how the parents negotiate with each other, such as whether one parent compensates 110 for another with a lower provisioning rate and if there are particular rules for negotiation 111 between the parents (Houston and Davies, 1985; Houston and McNamara, 1999; Houston 112 et al., 2005). Barta et al. (2002) theorized that the female may handicap herself to get 113 the male to care, even to the extent that she would desert the nest to trigger a response 114 in the male. Thus, in some circumstances it is possible that the young would have had 115 better care with only a single parent providing for it (McNamara et al., 2003). 116

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Experimental manipulation of breeding birds has been used to answer some of the questions relating to parental conflict. Experiments have consisted of: (A) increasing the costs of rearing, for example by placing small weights on the legs of Antarctic petrel (Sæther et al., 1993) or European starlings, or; (B) decreasing the costs of rearing, by removing eggs from breeding kittiwakes (Golet and Irons, 1999) to see how chick rearing affects body condition, or; (C) increasing costs and reducing brood at the same time (Wright and Cuthill, 1989). Less manipulative observations, such as assessing female con-

dition of great tits at different stages of chick rearing (Tinbergen, 2000), can also provide 125 us with key information about parental provisioning. Adélie, penguins show consistent 126 sex differences in foraging trip duration, feeding locality and diet at different locations 127 and breeding seasons (Clarke et al., 1998). Volkman et al. (1980) demonstrated that 128 male gentoo penguins consumed 23 percent more fish than females, despite a lack of sex 129 difference in foraging trip duration. Differences between the behavior of the sexes may 130 also depend on the phase of chick rearing, with female Adélie penguins having longer 131 trips and delivering larger meals than males during the guard stage of breeding (Clarke 132 et al., 1998). These experimental studies are vital, providing us with valuable information 133 about the respective breeding systems that they describe. Further, when used in combi-134 nation with modeling, it is possible to explore the mechanisms behind these observations 135 in greater detail, and to associate different patterns in behavior with different outcomes 136 in breeding. Thus, it may be possible to predict the likely breeding success of a given 137 species in a particular location based on a satellite track of its movements. 138

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Models have greatly enhanced our understanding of reproductive behavior, including 140 mechanisms underlying the evolution of parental conflict (Alonzo and Warner, 2000; Dall 141 and Boyd, 2002; Houston et al., 2005). Many of these models are purely theoretical, not 142 relating to any particular species (Winkler, 1987; Székely et al., 2000), or considering 143 reproductive success in terms of the total number of offspring in a population (Davis 144 et al., 1999), rather than at the individual level. Winkler and Adler (1996) investigate 145 chick demands in detail using a state-dependent life-history model, but do not examine 146 parental foraging trips. An individual-based model by Salihoglu et al. (2001) examines 147 mechanisms that potentially underlie observed constancy in fledging weight in Adélie pen-148 guin chicks in spite of large variability in Antarctic krill availability. The aim of our work 149

¹⁵⁰ is to create a state-dependent life-history model, using energy as currency, that could be ¹⁵¹ applied to a number of different krill-reliant penguin species in the Southern Ocean; we ¹⁵² apply it to the Adélie penguin, for which we can reference a large amount of data from ¹⁵³ many different studies.

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There are 17 different penguin species in the world, and all go through three differ-155 ent stages of breeding. The first stage is incubation, when parents must guard the egg 156 and keep it warm. The second is the guard stage, when the rapidly growing chick needs 157 protection, food and warmth. The final is the creching stage, when chicks from different 158 parents gather together for protection against predators, while being fed intermittently 159 by the parents. During these distinct stages of breeding, the parents undertake behavioral 160 roles that vary according to sex and species. Out of the combination of tasks that the 161 male and female undertake during breeding, there are three different strategies for all 162 penguins (Table 3), but we focus on the third because it is the Adélie penguin strategy. 163 We do not predict penguin behavior during incubation, because in strategy 3 the male 164 sits alone at the nest for the entire incubation stage while the female forages at sea and 165 does not return to the nest. In addition, we assume that the parents are only raising one 166 chick. An Adélie female penguin raises on average 1.3 (Chappell et al., 1993a) to 1.6 167 +-0.5 eggs to créche, with the majority of egg loss occurring during the incubation stage 168 (Ainley et al. 1983). We assume that the parents are only raising one chick because the 169 majority of other penguin species only raise one chick to independence, making it easier 170 to compare between the case study and other species. 171

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¹⁷³ In summary, the main motivation for this work is to use life history theory to gain ¹⁷⁴ a better understanding of how a fishery for krill near a penguin colony may affect the

survival of the chick and of both parents. In particular we aim to examine how small 175 changes in the timing of fishing, the amount of krill taken, and the distance of the fishery 176 from a colony can affect breeding success. Previous models in this area have addressed 177 this problem, but from different angles. Cresswell et al. (2007) consider the effects of krill 178 depletion, but only during the guard stage and did not consider chick death or parental 179 abandonment. Similarly, a model by Mangel and Switzer (1998) examined the effects of 180 the krill fishery on expected reproductive success and parental survival, but did not con-181 sider the foraging behavior of the parents. Using a higher level of detail in the behavior 182 of the parents will allow us to tease out any patterns in behavior that consistently lead to 183 scenarios of nest abandonment or death. We can also begin to define rules about how krill 184 depletion affects penguin behavior. For example, are parents likely to work harder when 185 prev is harder to find (invest in current reproductive success), or put in the same amount 186 of foraging effort and feed the chick less (invest in future reproductive success)? These 187 rules allow us to make better predictions about how potential krill depletion will affect 188 breeding success for a particular species of penguin. Through the model we also hope to 189 address some of the broader theoretical questions, such as do parents compensate, and 190 what affects the relative contribution to future versus current reproduction for the parent. 191 192

193 Methods

The model is a game using consecutive runs of a state-dependent life-history model to predict the behavior of one of the parents during two stages of breeding. We call the decision-making parent the 'focal individual', and the other parent the 'partner'. The focal individual makes decisions based on a need to maximize fitness, given a probabilistic distribution of how the partner is behaving. The focal individual always forages in a

prey environment where likely time spent foraging and amount of food brought back is 199 predetermined by a separate 'single-trip' foraging model. In the first run of the model, 200 the probabilistic distribution of the partner is random. The focal individual behaves in 201 response to the probabilistic distribution of the partner. At the end of this run, the be-202 havior of the focal individual is recorded and used to parameterize the next run of the 203 model, in which the partner makes decisions based on the probabilistic distribution of 204 the focal individual. We repeat this process until the model finds an evolutionary stable 205 solution (Figure 1 A). 206

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In this section, we first describe the 'single trip' foraging model and then the game model, detailing the behavioral decisions chosen by the focal individual each time step, the state variables that determine and are affected by these decisions, all other parameters in the model, and show how we calculate fitness with the dynamic programming algorithm. The time step of the model is 4 hours.

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²¹⁴ Single trip foraging model

In the single trip foraging model, the focal individual chooses from one of three behavioral decisions each time step. Decisions occur at sea, and we assume that a penguin still making decisions has not yet foraged from a patch of food, i.e. a swarm of krill. If a patch is encountered, the penguin forages to maximize the gain and then returns to the nest. Decisions are to travel further from the nest, to travel back towards the nest, or to hunt for food at the current radius from the nest. We assume that the individual only forages from one patch of food during a foraging trip.

Each unit of time t represents 8 minutes, in which the penguin can travel 1 km at 223 7.5 km h^{-1} (either towards or away from the nest) based on a range of swimming speeds 224 recorded for Adélie penguins of 2 m s⁻¹ (or 7.2 km h-1) (Culik and Wilson, 1991; Culik 225 et al., 1994) to 3.7 m s⁻¹ (or 13.3 km h-1) (Hui, 1987). We vary the final time T from 6 226 to 36 hours, so that the result is a representation of how much food a foraging individual 227 can collect, and how long it forages for, given the maximum time T at sea. This result 228 is used in the game model, where the decision-making individual chooses a time T at sea 229 that maximizes fitness. At elapsed time t, the amount of time that the penguin can stay 230 in a patch of prey is at most $T - t_c(r) - t$, where $t_c(r)$ is the commute time back to the 231 nest from radius r. 232

233

We separate the foraging process into two steps: the probability of encountering a patch of prey in one period of time $P_f(r)$; and the probability that once located, the rate of gain from a given patch is ϵ , specified by $P_g(\epsilon)$. There is very little data on patch quality, in terms of rate of gain, so we choose to parameterize the model in the simplest way, with the penguin either encountering a low quality patch, $\epsilon = 0.002$, or a high quality patch , $\epsilon = 0.02$. We run the model for different levels of food

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 $P_g(z,\epsilon) = \Pr(\text{patch at radius } r \text{ has rate of gain } \epsilon \text{ depending on food level } z)$ (1)

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We vary the probability that once located, a patch is low quality $\epsilon = 0.002$, according to level of food in the environment z (for 20 levels of food) by the following.

$$P_g(z, 0.002) = 1 - .0025(z - 1) \tag{2}$$

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The probability of finding a high quality patch $P_g(z, 0.02)$ is $1 - P_g(z, 0.002)$.

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The gain from a patch of prey $G(\epsilon, t_p)$ depends on the rate of gain from a patch ϵ , the amount of time spent in the patch t_p , and the maximum possible gain. We set $G_{\text{max}} = 2000$, based on recorded stomach contents delivered to chicks for Adélie penguins of up to 1000g (Trivelpiece et al., 1987), which does not include digestion at sea. Gain varies according to the following

$$G(\epsilon, t_p) = G_{\max}(1 - e^{-\epsilon t_p}) \tag{3}$$

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The probability of finding a patch of prey in one time step $P_f(r)$ varies with radial distance from the nest r and the rate of the mean number of patches per time step $\lambda(r)$.

$$P_f(r) = 1 - e^{-\lambda(r)} \tag{4}$$

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Time to a new patch varies depending on $\lambda(r)$. We estimate the density of patches

²⁶³ in the environment from Tarling et al. (In Press), who measured prey density at three ²⁶⁴ radial distances from shore (we assume the fourth value of near zero prey at nest) (Figure ²⁶⁵ 2). From the data, we approximate how the rate of patches encountered per unit time ²⁶⁶ changes with radial distance from the nest (Figure 3). We convert the swarm encounter ²⁶⁷ rate from the data into the mean number of patches per time step $\lambda(r)$ using a penguin ²⁶⁸ swimming speed of 7.5 km h⁻¹.

270 We now set

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 $\Psi(r,t) =$ maximum return of krill from one foraging trip, given the

current radial distance from the nest r and total time at sea so far t

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If the individual chooses to travel further from the nest, the probability of finding a patch is reduced to $P'_f(r) = 0.6P_f(r)$ because the individual is less effective at searching during travel, and the fitness value of this decision $V_{out}(r, t)$ is

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$$V_{out}(r,t) = \left(1 - P'_f(r)\right)\Psi(r+1,t+1) + P'_f(r)E_\epsilon \left[\max_{t_p} P_g(r,\epsilon)G(\epsilon,t_p)\right]$$
(6)

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where E_{ϵ} denotes the expectation over the distribution on ϵ . If the individual encounters a patch of prey, the penguin is still considered to be within the radial distance rrather than r + 1, and the rate of gain in this patch is drawn accordingly.

If the individual decides to travel back towards the nest, the probability of finding a patch is also reduced to $P'_f(r) = 0.6P_f(r)$ because the individual is traveling not searching, and the value of this decision $V_{in}(r,t)$ is the same as that for traveling away from the nest, except the radius r decreases by 1 unit if food is not encountered

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$$V_{in}(r,t) = \left(1 - P'_f(r)\right)\Psi(r-1,t+1) + P'_f(r)E_\epsilon \left[\max_{t_p} P_g(r,\epsilon)G(\epsilon,t_p)\right]$$
(7)

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If the individual decides to hunt for food at the current radius from the nest, the probability of finding a patch is $P_f(r) = 0.6$, and the fitness value $V_{hunt}(r, t)$ is

$$V_{hunt}(r,t) = \left(1 - P_f(r)\right)\Psi(r,t+1) + P_f(r)E_\epsilon \left[\max_{t_p} P_g(r,\epsilon)G'(\epsilon,t_p)\right]$$
(8)

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²⁹⁷ The optimal decision at each time t and radius r is that which gives maximum fitness ²⁹⁸

$$\Psi(r,t) = \max\left[V_{out}(r,t); V_{in}(r,t); V_{hunt}(r,t)\right]$$
(9)

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We ran this model for 20 different levels of food availability, and for 6 total foraging 301 trip times ranging from a maximum 6 h trip to a maximum 36 h trip. To test food 302 availability we adjusted the quality of food encountered in each patch, not the probability 303 of finding a patch. This resulted in a distribution of probable food brought back and 304 foraging trip time depending on the maximum time that the model ran and the level of 305 food in the environment. we used this information in the game model, where the foraging 306 parent chooses a maximum trip time S that maximizes fitness according to the probable 307 amount of food brought back and time away. Here, we show an example of how foraging 308 reward and trip time change with S for food level 6 (Figure 4). We converted these 309 numbers into probabilities for each of the 20 food levels, and used these probabilities to 310 represent the foraging grounds in the game model. 311

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313 The main model

314 Breeding strategies

We now explain the how the game model operates, first outlining the decisions that the focal individual can choose at any time, then the state dynamics in the model, detailing how chick abandonment and death occurs, we explain how we estimated values for parameters and finally how fitness is calculated.

320 Decisions

All decisions are made at the nest. During the guard stage, each time unit the focal 321 individual must choose to either forage at sea and return with a meal to feed the chick, or 322 to abandon the chick and spend the rest of the time at sea. If the focal individual decides 323 to forage, it must decide the optimal maximum time to forage at sea S and the optimal 324 amount of krill to feed to the chick γ . At sea, the distribution of possible foraging trip 325 times and meal sizes is determined by the single trip foraging model (described above). 326 After foraging, the focal individual will wait up to 36 h at the nest for the partner to 327 return, after which time it will abandon (Figure 5). If either parent abandons during the 328 guard stage, the chick dies. 329

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During the creche stage, the focal individual has the same choice: to forage and feed the chick, or to abandon the chick. The difference is that the focal individual does not have to wait for the partner to return, so only stays at the nest for one time unit to feed the chick. Also, if the focal individual chooses to abandon during the creche stage, the chick will not necessarily die (see Table 4).

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Given a particular maximum time at sea S, we compute the probability that the focal individual will bring back a meal of size k_f after a time at sea of s time units. This probability is $P_{k_f}(S, s, k_f)$

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 $P_{k_f}(S, s, k_f) = \Pr(\text{focal individual returns after } s \text{ hours with } k_f \text{ g krill, given max time at sea } S)$

(10)

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Likewise, there is some probability $P_{k_p}(t_n, k_p)$ during the guard stage or $P_{k_p}((s+t_n), k_p)$ during the créche stage that the partner will return after a particular time t_n or $(s + t_n)$ respectively with k_p g krill to feed the chick. Initially, there is an equal probability of close to zero for every possible value of $P_{k_p}((s + t_n), k_p)$. On subsequent runs of the model, we use the results from the forward iteration of the model (the behavior of the focal individual) to parameterize the backward iteration for the next run of the model.

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350 State dynamics

First, we describe the total metabolic costs x_f for the focal individual for time s hours at sea and t_n hours at the nest

$$x_f = m_f(1)s + m_f(0)t_n (11)$$

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where $m_f(1)$ are hourly metabolic costs at sea and $m_f(0)$ are metabolic costs at the nest.

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The size of the focal individual will increase or decrease depending on whether the amount of krill left in its stomach after feeding the chick $k_f - \gamma$) is enough to cover metabolic costs x_f as described in the previous equation (Figure 1 B).

Metabolic costs for the chick change depending on the chick's size and the time considered.

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$$x_c(c, (s+t_n)) = 8.043c^{0.947}(s+t_n)$$
(12)

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We demonstrate the dynamics of chick energetics using the following scenario, where chick stomach contents and size change according to the size of meal from focal individual and potential meal from the partner (Figure 1 C).

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³⁷¹ Chick mortality/fledging and abandonment

When the focal individual chooses to abandon, there is some probability that the chick will survive to fledging (e.g. alive at the final time T) based on its current size, time to the final time (T-t) and how often and how much the partner feeds the chick during this time.

At any time, even if the focal individual is still foraging, a chick of energy reserves cmay die after time $(s + t_n)$ from starvation depending on its metabolic rate $m_c(s + t_n)$.

In the first run of the model, if the focal individual abandons at time t, we assume that the probability $P_{k_p}((T-t), k_p)$ that the partner brings back a total meal size of k_p g krill over the time (T-t) is zero.

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In subsequent runs of the model, we adjust this probability based on how the focal

individual behaves (as described previously). If the focal individual chooses to abandon
in the guard stage, the chick dies. In the creche stage, the may die of starvation, but does
not die because of abandonment (see Table 4).

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The probability that the partner abandons at time t is $P_{pabandon}(t)$. For the first run of the model, we put in arbitrary values ($P_{pabandon}(t) = 0.0001$ for all t). We then record when the focal individual abandons and create a probable abandonment from 1000 forward runs of the model. These values make $P_{pabandon}(t)$ for the following run of the model, when the partner is making decisions.

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³⁹⁴ Parameter estimation

Total time of the model is based on the combined time for the guard and creche stages, or approximately 21 and 25 days respectively for guard and creche (Ainley and Sladen, 1983).

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The main prey of Adélie penguins is krill (Trivelpiece et al., 1987; Lishman, 2009) with a mean energy content of 4.35 kJ g⁻¹ (Croxall et al., 1984). The assimilation efficiency of penguins eating krill is 0.75 to 0.8 (Wiens, 1984) for each gram of krill ingested (Kooyman et al., 1982). Adult Adélie penguins (4.2 kg) need 17.4 g krill h⁻¹ on land, an extra 21.5 g krill h⁻¹ for resting in water and an extra 31.5 g krill h⁻¹ when traveling at sea (Culik and Wilson, 1991). If Adélie penguins spend 35% of time resting at surface (Wilson et al., 1989) this equates to 28 g krill h⁻¹ at sea, 17.4 g krill h⁻¹ on land.

407 We separate the daily energy requirements of the chick into requirements for growth

and maintenance. During the growth phase, we parameterize energy requirements based on Croll and Tershy (1998). The requirement in g krill⁻¹ for a chick of mass c per model time step of 4 h is.

$$x_c(c) = 32.17c^{0.947} \tag{13}$$

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Energy requirements for growth depend on the size change, where growth = [(new chick mass) - (old chick mass)]*(% dry tissue 25%)* (energy content of dry tissue 23.4 kJ dry mass-1) (Croll and Tershy, 1998). The maximum size change possible is

$$\Delta c_{\max} = c_{\max}(t) - c \tag{14}$$

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⁴¹⁹ The cost of the size change is

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$$y_g = 0.25\Delta c^{23.4}/4.35 = 1.34 * \Delta c \tag{15}$$

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423 Conversely, if there is not enough krill to grow the chick to maximum size, we calculate424 the size change

$$\Delta c = \lambda_c (\gamma - y_m(c)) / 0.25 * 4.35 / 23.4 \tag{16}$$

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or if there is not enough krill to even cover metabolic costs, the chick can use its stores

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We set the maximum distance from the nest to be 100 km, which is based on median maximum distances from the colony reached by foraging birds of 60 and 125 km from the nest for guard and creche stages of breeding respectively for all years (Clarke et al., 2006).

By the time chicks are 2-3 weeks old they can rapidly consume a parent's entire stom-434 ach contents and consumption rates are limited by parental delivery rates (Chappell et al., 435 1993b), with stomach content average around 600g (Trivelpiece et al., 1987). Parents 436 must be able to hold more than this amount to cover their own metabolic needs. Other 437 studies show seabirds may swallow single prey items in excess of 10% of their own body 438 mass (Wilson et al., 1995), with max stomach capacity around 20% body mass (Trivel-439 piece et al., 1987) and that maximum stomach volume during chick rearing 800-1200mL 440 for medium sized Pygoscelid penguin (Peters, 1997). During the period of highest de-441 mand, adults have to catch up to 2.0-2.5 kg krill per foraging trip in order to meet the 442 energetic needs of themselves and their brood - 50-60% of their body mass which must 443 be assimilated or stored within a 24h period (Culik and Wilson, 1991). 444

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Maximum size of chicks is based on chick weights in the field, where Adélie chicks from single broods attain 90-108 percent adult minimum weight around day 42 (t_{peak}) and then fall to 75–89 percent at fledging (Ainley and Schlatter, 1972). Thus, chicks reach about ⁴⁴⁹ 80% of adult size, around 3940 g asymptotic size 39-45 days after hatching (Volkman
⁴⁵⁰ and Trivelpiece, 1980). Thus we set

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$$c_{\max}(t) = \begin{cases} t/t_{peak} * 3500 & t <= t_{peak} \\ 3500 & t > t_{peak} \end{cases}$$
(17)

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⁴⁵⁴ Fitness for creche and guard stages

⁴⁵⁵ We define fitness during the creching and guard stages by

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$$\Phi(f, c, a, t) = \begin{cases} \text{maximum expected value of current and expected future} \\ \text{reproductive success for the focal individual, given } F(t) = f, \\ C(t) = c \text{ and } A(t) = a \end{cases}$$
(18)

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The final time T specifies the time at which the chick fledges. We define the fitness at the final time T to be a combination of current $\psi(c)$ and expected future $\rho(f)$ reproductive success for chick size c and reserves of the focal individual f as follows

$$\Phi(f, c, a, T) = \psi(c/c_{\max}) + \rho(f/f_{\max})$$
(19)

We adjust the above values to represent an old versus a young parent, with old parent 464 $\rho = \psi$ and test younger parents with $\rho = 4\psi$ and $\rho = 8\psi$.

There are two decisions, to abandon or to continue foraging, with the latter being broken into three other decisions of how long to be at sea and at the nest, and what fraction of meal to feed the chick.

468

We then determine the maximum value of fitness for the current set of state variables by comparing the fitness values of foraging or abandoning:

471

$$\Phi(f, c, a, t) = \max\left(V_{forage}; V_{abandon}\right)$$
(20)

472

 $V_{forage}(f, c, a, t)$ is the value of foraging during the guard stage given that the partner has not abandoned yet for time *s* with return k_f , returning to the nest, feeding the chick γ . The focal individual waits at the nest for a maximum time of 36 hours, after which, if the partner does not return the focal individual will abandon. The fitness value resulting from this decision depends on how much food is brought back given max time away, whether or not the partner also returns with a meal in this time, and whether the chick survives to the following time.

$$\begin{split} V_{forage}(f,c,0,t) &= \\ \max_{S} \sum_{s=1}^{S} \sum_{k_{f}=1}^{k_{\max}} P_{k_{f}}(S,s,k_{f}) \max_{t_{n}} * \\ & \left(P_{a}(t,s+t_{n}) \Big[(1-\beta_{c}(1)) \Big(\max_{\gamma} \Phi(f',c',1,t+s+t_{n}) \Big) + \beta_{c}(1) \Big(\Phi(f',0,1,t+s+t_{n}) \Big) \Big] + \\ & (1-P_{a}(t,s+t_{n})) \Big[(1-\beta_{c}(0)) \Big(\max_{\gamma} \sum_{k_{p}=1}^{k_{\max}} P_{k_{p}}(t_{n},k_{p}) \Phi(f',c',0,t+s+t_{n}) \Big) + \beta_{c}(0) \Big(\Phi(f',0,0,t+s+t_{n}) \Big) \end{split}$$

481

(21)

482

If the partner abandons during the guard stage, the chick dies and therefore the focalindividual must abandon.

485

Next, we define the value of foraging during the creche stage given that the partner has not abandoned yet (a = 0) for time *s* with return k_f , returning to the nest, feeding the chick γ g krill, resting for just one time step $V_{forage}(f, c, a, t)$. The fitness value resulting from this decision depends on how much food is brought back given max time away, whether or not the partner also returns with a meal in this time, and whether the chick survives to the following time.

$$\begin{split} V_{forage}(f,c,0,t) &= \\ \max_{S} \sum_{s=1}^{S} \sum_{k_{f}=1}^{k_{\max}} P_{k_{f}}(S,s,k_{f}) * \\ & \left(P_{a}(t,s+1) \Big[(1-\beta_{c}(1)) \Big(\max_{\gamma} \Phi(f',c',1,t+s+1) \Big) + \beta_{c}(1) \Big(\Phi(f',0,1,t+s+1) \Big) \Big] + \\ & (1-P_{a}(t,s+1)) \Big[(1-\beta_{c}(0)) \Big(\max_{\gamma} \sum_{k_{p}=1}^{k_{\max}} P_{k_{p}}(s+1,k_{p}) \Phi(f',c',0,t+s+1) \Big) + \beta_{c}(0) \Big(\Phi(f',0,0,t+s+1) \Big) \end{split}$$

493

(22)

494

⁴⁹⁵ Next, we define the value of foraging during the creche stage given that the partner has ⁴⁹⁶ abandoned (a = 1) for time *s* with return k_f , returning to the nest, feeding the chick γ g ⁴⁹⁷ krill, resting for just one time step $V_{forage}(f, c, a, t)$. The fitness value resulting from this ⁴⁹⁸ decision depends on how much food is brought back given max time away. The partner ⁴⁹⁹ has abandoned and so there is no chance that it will return to feed the chick.

500

$$\begin{aligned} V_{forage}(f, c, 1, t) &= \\ \max_{S} \sum_{s=1}^{S} \sum_{k_{f}=1}^{k_{\max}} P_{k_{f}}(S, s, k_{f}) * \\ &\left((1 - \beta_{c}(0)) \left[\max_{\gamma} \Phi(f', c', 1, t + s + 1) \right] + \beta_{c}(1) \left[\Phi(f', 0, 1, t + s + 1) \right] \right) \end{aligned}$$

501

(23)

The value of abandoning the chick given that the partner is still foraging (a = 0).

$$\begin{aligned} V_{abandon}(f,c,0,t) &= \\ P_a(t,T-t) \left((1-\beta_c(1)) \left[\Phi(f',c',1,T) \right] + \beta_c(1) \left[\Phi(f',0,1,T) \right] \right) + \\ (1-P_a(t,T-t)) \left((1-\beta_c(1)) \left[\sum_{k_p=1}^{k_{\max}} P_{k_p}(T-t,k_p) \Phi(f',c',1,T) \right] + \beta_c(1) \left[\Phi(f',0,1,T) \right] \right) \end{aligned}$$

505

(24)

506

Finally, the value of abandoning the chick given that the partner has already abandoned (a = 1) is

509

$$V_{abandon}(f,c,1,t) = (1 - \beta_c(1)) \left(\Phi(f',c',2,T) \right) + \beta_c(1) \left(\Phi(f',0,1,T) \right)$$
(25)

510

511 Model runs

⁵¹² We run the model through 20 different levels of food availability, and record number of ⁵¹³ chicks fledging, fledging weight, parent weight and survival, abandonment, and total krill ⁵¹⁴ consumed by one parent. We also run a sensitivity analysis to test the robustness of ⁵¹⁵ the model and sensitivity to any parameters. Finally, we test different terminal rewards, ⁵¹⁶ which serves to approximate how younger and older parents value relative future and ⁵¹⁷ current fitness differently.

518

519 **Results**

We show the cumulative probability that the focal individual will abandon at any time, given 20 different food level runs of the model, and the créche stage starts at day 22 (Figure 6). As the quality of patches in the environment increases, the probability that the parent will abandon is delayed through time, so that by food level 12 and higher there is little chance of abandonment.

525

The proportion of chicks that survive to fledging as a function of food availability approximates a sigmoid curve. We predict that all chicks die before fledging when the probability of finding a high quality patch of food is below 0.01, and around 100% chicks survive to fledge when the same probability is above 0.03 (Figure 7). In addition, chick fledging weight is constant at maximum size (3500 g) for probability of high quality food at 0.02 and above, but is more variable and decreases to around 2500 g as food availability decreases.

533

Final size of the focal individual starts low with high variability and increases, also similar to a sigmoid shape, reaching maximum size when probability of finding a high quality patch of prey is around 0.02, above which size is around the maximum of 4000 g and variability is low (Figure 8).

538

⁵³⁹ The amount of krill eaten is low at low food availability, and increases rapidly to a

maximum value with increasing food availability in the ocean (Figure 9). Variability is
high in mid level food simulations.

542

The effect of age of the parent on chick survival has a larger effect in medium levels of food availability, where older parents have fewer chicks (Figure 10), however the relative size of the difference in terminal reward does not matter after the value of the parent is more than that of the chick.

547

548 Discussion

One of the main goals of this model was to estimate the response of penguin breeding 549 success to changes in krill availability. At low krill availability, no chicks survive to fledg-550 ing. However there is a threshold amount of prey availability above which the survival 551 of chicks to fledging rapidly increases until 100% of chicks survive to fledging. In obser-552 vational studies of Adélie penguins, Watanuki et al. (1993) found that chicks had poor 553 survival in years of low food availability compared to years of high food availability. Evi-554 dence of a threshold in food availability is found in other studies that report consistencies 555 in Adélie chick and adult weight despite large differences in krill availability (Salihoglu 556 et al., 2001; Prévost and Sapin-Jaloustre, 1965; Culik and Wilson, 1991), perhaps indi-557 cating a foraging environment during the study years where prey availability was above 558 the threshold. 559

560

The other main goal of our work was to estimate the shape of the curve describing total amount of krill eaten versus krill available around a penguin predator colony. We estimate this curve by summing the total prey eaten by 1000 individuals simulated during the guard and créche stage, and we find that the shape of the curve approximates a Holling Type III functional response. However, this does not occur in the current model due to prey switching or because of a higher predator density due to increased prey density. Rather, the shape of the curve is because at low krill densities, the chick dies, in contrast to high krill densities where the chick is alive and therefore the parent must eat enough krill to cover its own daily energy requirements along with the energy requirements for maintenance and growth of a chick (Culik and Wilson, 1991).

571

We estimate that the average weight of the adult penguin at chick fledging is posi-572 tively correlated with krill availability, with parents staying at their maximum sizes for 573 very high krill availability, but dropping to a variable weight around the minimum allowed 574 in the model below a threshold level of krill availability. Some studies indicate the adult 575 Adélie penguins are quite robust to changes in their prey environment while breeding 576 (Salihoglu et al., 2001; Prévost and Sapin-Jaloustre, 1965; Culik and Wilson, 1991), with 577 other studies suggest that the parents keep up the same level of meal delivery to the chick, 578 at their own cost (Takahashi et al., 2003) particularly as chick demands increase through 579 the breeding cycle (Chappell et al., 1993a, b). Similarly, this is the case for other species, 580 with the condition of female fur seals at parturition and average foraging trip duration 581 reflecting prey availability (Costa et al., 1989). 582

583

The ability of the focal individual to choose abandonment at any time has not been included previously in a predator/prey model with this level of foraging detail. By including the decision to abandon, we were able to examine the mechanism by which a parent may invest relatively in future versus current fitness. We predict that the timing of abandonment is not related to breeding stage, i.e. guard versus creche stage, but more

related to the total time since the chick hatched. No parent abandoned earlier than 8 days 589 after hatching in the model. Our results are partly contradictory to studies that suggest 590 that unless eggs or chicks are lost to predation, nest abandonment occurs only when a 591 fasting bird runs out of energy before its mate returns (Ainley and Sladen, 1983; Davis 592 and McCaffrey, 1986; Trivelpiece and Trivelpiece, 1990; Watanuki et al., 1993; Vleck et al., 593 1980), because in our model, the focal individual also chose to abandon during the créche 594 stage, when it is not necessary to wait for the partner to return to the nest. Spurr (1975) 595 noted the tendency for Adélie parents to abandon around 2 weeks prior to fledging, which 596 may possibly due to this being the period of highest demand. Around this time, chicks 597 are growing rapidly but it is still within the guard stage, so parents must spend a lot of 598 time at the nest rather than foraging for their own requirements (Culik and Wilson, 1991). 599 600

There is evidence, for many species of central place forager, that it is optimal to al-601 ternate short and long trips during breeding; such breeding is seen in Adélie penguins 602 (Ropert-Coudert et al., 2001), and many other breeding seabird, such as sooty shearwa-603 ters (Weimerskirch, 1998). The reason often cited is that longer trips account for the 604 body condition of the parent, while shorter trips provide meals for the chick at a maximal 605 rate (Weimerskirch, 1998), but the reason may also be different foraging sites. Weimer-606 skirch (1998) found the probability of a sooty shearwater starting a short trip depends 607 on adult body weight, with probability increasing in a sigmoidal shape with increasing 608 adult body weight. Other studies support that the duration of trips, i.e. adult petrels, 609 could be related to the energy reserves of the adult and not the nutritional state of the 610 chick (Chaurand and Weimerskirch, 1994; Ricklefs and Schew, 1994; Weimerskirch, 1998). 611 Mangel and Switzer (1998) tested a model that showed degree of self-feeding compared to 612 chick provisioning was ultimately related to krill availability near the colony and whether 613

or not krill biomass was sufficient to cover the energy requirements of both the adult and chick. Our results suggest that the duration of trip may depend on the energy reserves of either the adult or chick, depending on stage of growth, and may be affected by what we represent as "age" of the adult.

618

Long-lived seabirds and marine mammals may modify their reproductive investment in 619 a given year according to their future reproductive potential, which is correlated with their 620 age and condition (Drent and Daan, 1980; Pugesek, 1987; Costa et al., 1989; Watanuki 621 et al., 1993; Stearns, 1992). Younger adults may invest more in themselves at the cost 622 of their offspring, e.g. arctic terns (Monaghan et al., 1989) and puffins (Barrett and 623 Rikardsen, 1992), compared to older adults that may work harder to ensure the survival 624 of a chick (Burger and Piatt, 1990). Breeding is a stressful time energetically, with many 625 species losing weight that must be regained after breeding, and yet other species having 626 maximum mortality rates around the end of breeding (Coulson et al., 1983). According 627 to life history theory, we would expect abandonment if risks to survival are too great 628 (Drent and Daan, 1980). In the current study, we found a difference in chick survival due 629 to optimization of reproductive effort, but only for medium levels of food availability. 630

631

Reproductive performance improves with age in birds (Forslund, 1995). The many hypotheses on why this may occur can be divided into three main groups: the progressive appearance of a phenotype; age-related improvement in competence; and optimization of reproductive effort (Forslund, 1995). Our current model allows us to test the latter two of these hypotheses. We tested the improvement in competence by increasing by a percentage both the probability of finding a patch of prey and the gain from a patch of prey once located, representing increased competence in older birds. We tested optimization of reproductive effort by varying the terminal reward, and the relative contribution to fitness for adult versus chick survival and size, with increased weight given to chick survival representing an older bird and vice versa for a younger bird. We found a small difference in chick survival due to optimization of reproductive effort, suggesting that larger observational correlations in age and chick survival may be due to other reasons, such as increased competance.

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886 Tables

	Table 1.	Parameters	used	in	the	single	trip	foraging	model
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Symbol	Parameter	Value	Unit
$\Phi(r,t)$	Fitness is the maximum gain from one foraging trip given radial	-	-
	distance from nest \boldsymbol{r} and time since for aging individual left the		
	nest t		
N	Number of individuals in the forward iteration	1000	-
t	Time step of the model	8	\min
T	Final time (equal to S in other model)	24	h
t_p	Optimal time in patch	0 to (T-t)	
r	Radial distance from nest	0 (nest) to $r_{\rm max}$	$\rm km$
$r_{\rm max}$	Maximum possible distance from nest	300	$\rm km$
r_{int}	Travelling/swimming speed	10	${\rm km}~{\rm h}^{-1}$
ϵ	Rate of gain from patch	0.0016 to 0.018	-
G_{\max}	Maximum gain (max stomach fullness of penguin)	2000	g
$G(\epsilon, t_p)$	Gain from foraging in a patch of quality ϵ for time t_p	0 to $x_{\rm max}$	g

Symbol	Parameter	Value	Unit
$\Phi(f,c,a,t)$	Fitness is the maximum expected size of chick and focal in-	-	-
	dividual (FI) given current FI size f , chick size c , state of		
	abandonment a and time since hatching t		
N	Number of individuals in the forward iteration	1000	-
t	Time step of the model	2	h
T	Final time	60	d
f	Size of focal individual	0 to $f_{\rm max}$	g
f_{\max}	Maximum size of focal individual	4000	g
f_{min}	Minimum size of focal individual	2400	g
с	Size of chick	0 to $c_{\max}(t)$	g
$c_{\max}(t)$	Maximum size of chick, depends on age	see text	g
$c_{min}(t)$	Minimum size of chick, below which death is likely	see Figure	g
a	State of abandonment	see Table 4	-
s	Foraging trip time	1 to S	h
S	Maximum time at sea for one foraging trip, otherwise abandon	24	h
t_n	Wait time at nest (guard stage)	0 to S	h
l	Location, used to calculate metabolic costs	1 (at sea) 0 (at nest)	-
$m_f(l)$	Metabolic costs for FI each time step, for location l	$m_f(0) = 16.8, m_f(1) = 28$	${\rm g} \ {\rm h}^{-1}$
$m_c(t)$	Metabolic costs for chick each time step	see text	${\rm g} \ {\rm h}^{-1}$
k_{f}	Size of foraging reward for focal individual	0 to 2000	g
γ	Amount of krill delivered to chick by FI	100 to 1000	g
k_p	Size of meal delivered to chick by partner	100 to 1000	g
λ_{f}	Fraction of energy stored, rest is wasted, for FI	0.8	-
λ_c	Fraction of energy stored, rest is wasted, for chick	0.8	-
λ_{f}	Fraction converted from fat to energy, for FI	0.7	-
λ_c	Fraction converted from fat to energy, for chick	0.7	-

 Table 2. Parameters used in the model

Strategy	Incubation	Guard	Creche
1	M and F alternate	M fasts, F forages	M and F alternate
2	M and F alternate	M and F alternate	M and F alternate
3	M fasts, F forages	M and F alternate	M and F alternate

Table 3. Behavior for each stage of breeding

Note: We show the behavior for the male (M) and female (F) parent. The behavior 'alternate' means that the two parents alternate the takes of guarding the egg/chick at the nest with foraging at sea. This is distinct from when the male stays fasting at the nest for an entire stage of breeding 'M fasts' while the female forages to feed the chick or build her own reserves 'F forages'

Table 4. Explanation of state of abandonment a, with implications chang-ing depending on the stage of the model.

Value	Abandoned	Consequence: guard stage	Consequence: creche stage
0	Neither	No effect on chick survival	No direct effect on chick survival
1	Partner only	Chick dies	No direct effect on chick survival
2	Focal individual only	Chick dies	No direct effect on chick survival
3	Both parents	Chick dies	No direct effect on chick survival

⁸⁹² Captions for Figures

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Figure 1. Explanation of flow of events in game model and state dynamics, with: (A) how focal individual makes decisions based on behavior of partner; (B) how state of focal individual changes depending on how much krill is eaten and how this is apportioned to self and chick; and (C) state of chick depending on meals from partner and focal individual.

Figure 2. Densities of swarms - bars show average number of swarms encountered per kilometer track during daytime in the different areas, error bars are 1 standard deviation - from Klevjer and Tarling (In Press).

902

Figure 3. The rate of patches encountered per time 8 minute step with radial distance from the nest r (km), approximated from unpublished data in Figure 2.

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Figure 4. Result, amount of krill caught (g) in one foraging trip vs time at sea (h), for 12 separate runs of the 'single-trip' foraging model, where each color represents a different final time T, which correlates to a choice of maximum foraging trip time S in the game model.

910

Figure 5. Example of the decision-making process and conceptual explanation of distance and time. Black line shows in theory where focal individual (FI) is, value zero is at nest. Blue line shows conceptual representation of where partner would be depending on location of FI, i.e. one is at the nest while the other is at sea during the guard stage. Time s is the length of a foraging trip for the FI same as time partner waits at ⁹¹⁶ nest) and time t_n is time that FI waits at nest for partner (while partner is foraging at sea).

Figure 6. Cumulative proportion of 1000 parents abandoning over time, where the creche stage starts at time 151, for different levels of food availability, where food availability is described in equation 2.

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Figure 7. Proportion of chicks reaching fledging alive (circles) and average fledging weight in g (\pm SD) of these surviving chicks (triangles) for different levels of food availability, characterized by the probability of encountering a high quality patch while foraging.

Figure 8. Final weight of the parent at the end of the creche stage, or at time of chick fledging, in g (\pm SD) for different levels of food availability, characterized by the probability of encountering a high quality patch while foraging.

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Figure 9. Total amount of krill consumed in g (\pm SD) by one parent over the guard and creche stage compared to level of food availability, characterized by the probability of encountering a high quality patch while foraging.

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Figure 10. Difference in chick survival as the relative value for future fitness is increased (from TR 2 to TR 16) where TR 16, the final fitness per gram of parent weight is 8 times the fitness per gram of chick weight for different levels of food availability, characterized by the probability of encountering a high quality patch while foraging.

⁹³⁹ Figures









Figure A:

Densities of swarms. Bars show average number of swarms encountered per kilometer track during daytime in the different areas, error bars are 1 standard deviation.













- See how much partner has fed chick while at sea for time s 1.
- Feed chick and stay at nest for time t_n 2.

(if no parent present at nest for any time step, abandon a = 1)



Figure 6









Figure 9



