
No detrimental effects of wing-harnessed GPS devices on the breeding performance of Yellow-legged Gulls (*Larus michahellis*): a multi-colony evaluation

Charly Souc*¹, Carole Leray², Thomas Blanchon³, Thomas Dagonet³, Marion Vittecoq², Raül Ramos⁴, and Karen D. McCoy⁵

¹MIVEGEC – Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique - CNRS – France

²Tour du Valat – La tour du Valat – France

³Institut de recherche de la Tour du Valat – Institut de recherche de la Tour du Valat, Institut de recherche de la Tour du Valat – France

⁴Institut de Recerca de la Biodiversitat - Biodiversity Research Institute [Barcelona, Spain] – Espagne

⁵MIVEGEC – Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique - CNRS – France

Résumé

A recent study revealed that wing-harnessed tracking devices negatively affected reproductive success of Great Black-backed Gulls (*Larus marinus*; Langlois et al., 2023). To evaluate the generality of this effect in large gulls, we investigated the reproductive performance associated with the same type of GPS mounted system in four Mediterranean breeding colonies of the Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*) in 2022. We found no significant difference in reproductive parameters among the three studied nest types (i.e., adult handled with mounted device, adult handled with no device, and control) and no interaction with colony of origin. The impact of the GPS harness system on short-term reproduction is therefore not generalizable among larid species, and thus should be tested and reported whenever a new tracking program is employed.

Mots-Clés: seabird tracking, reproductive success, bio, logging, thoracic harness, animal welfare

*Intervenant