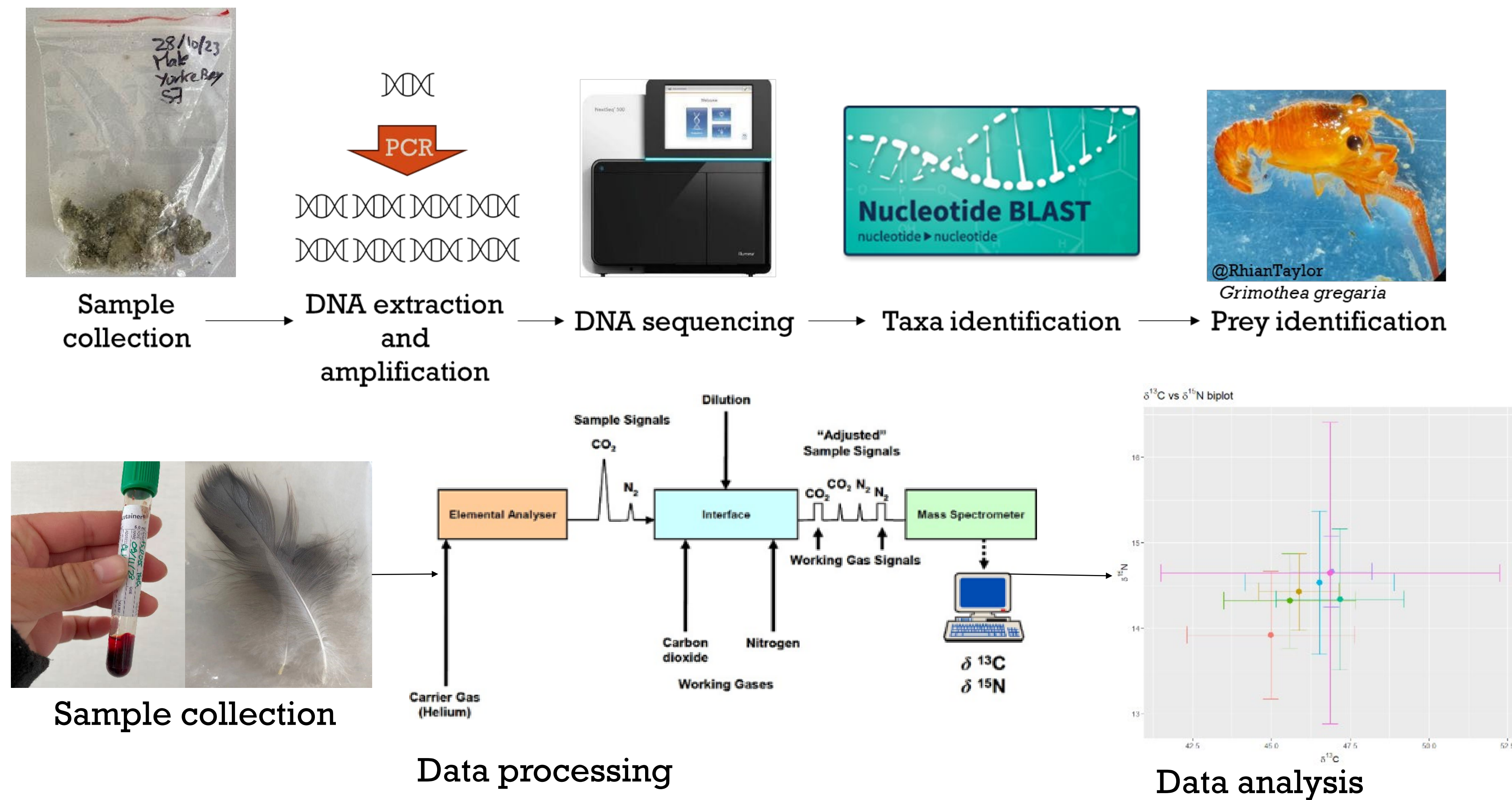


Determining diet using metabarcoding and stable isotopes



The diet of the Falkland Steamer Duck has been poorly studied. In the context of changing environment, this could impact its survival and its capacity to cope with new conditions. The goal is to determine food items and assess any variation between locations (Bleaker Isl. vs. Stanley Harbour) and throughout the breeding season.

Scat samples were opportunistically collected around Stanley Harbour and Bleaker Island while blood and feathers were collected on 41 birds. Scat analysis will identify the type of prey items. Blood provides an information on what has been eaten in the previous week while feathers reflect diet at time of formation.

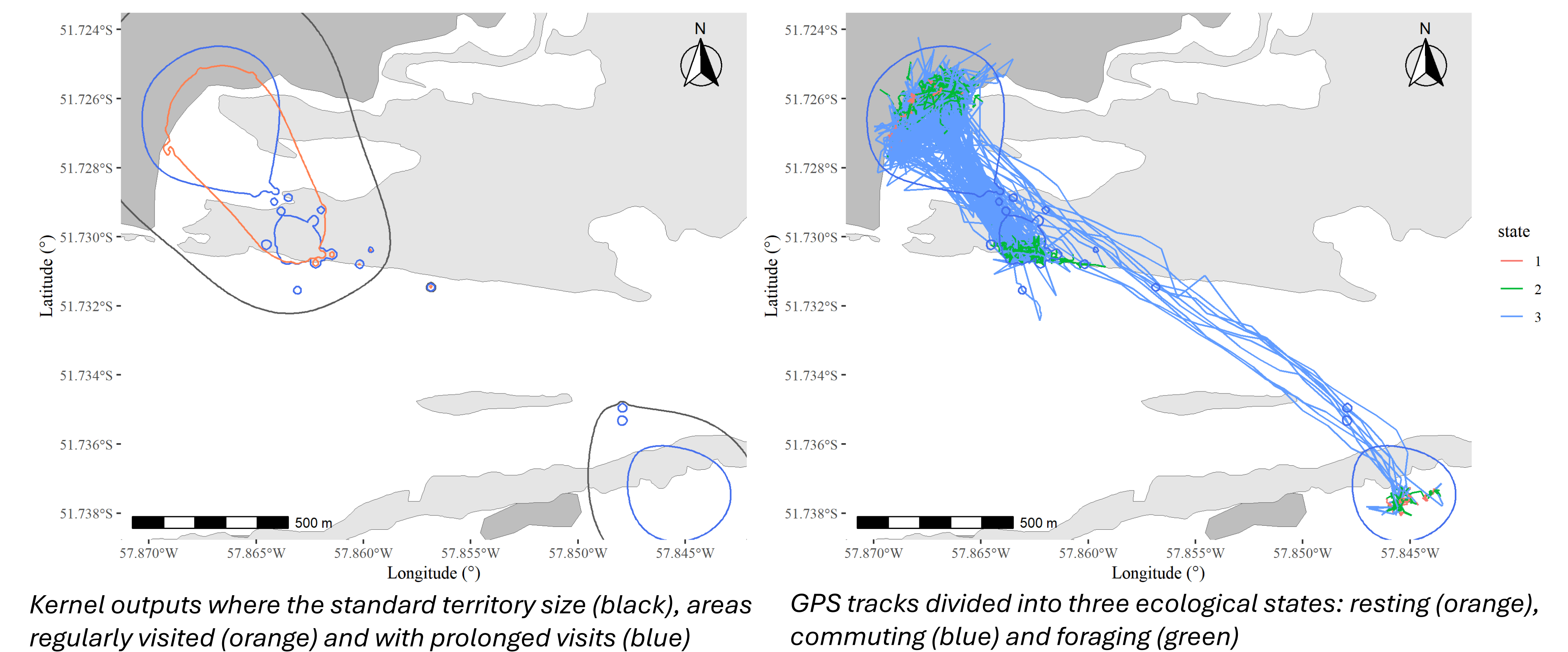
Linking habitat quality and breeding success



Logger ducks hold their territory year-round. Therefore, their breeding success is probably linked to its habitat quality. The goal of this chapter is thus to understand the link between breeding success and location, vegetation type, level of disturbance and availability to key resources such as kelp bed and access to freshwater.

Counts and phenology monitoring were carried out around Stanley Harbour and Bleaker Island during summer 2023/2024. Each pair were given a unique identification number, and their breeding status was updated at each visit. Breeding success will be derived from those observations and a model will be designed to explore the relationship between breeding success and habitat quality.

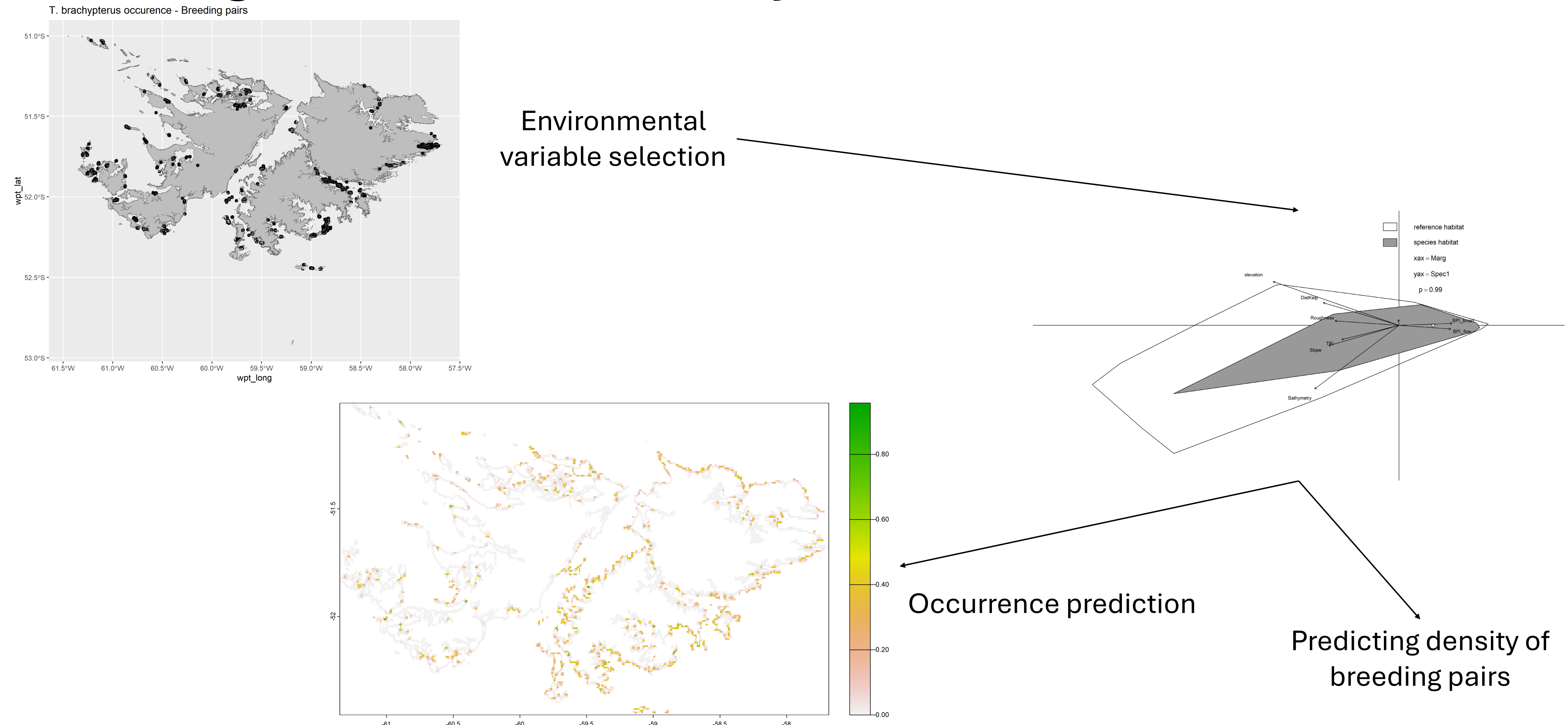
Characterising the territory size and use



The Falkland Steamer Ducks have been described to hold territories at 300-yard distance of each other. This chapter relies on GPS deployments on this species, a first for this tribe. From the collected tracks, home range was computed and from its, areas regularly visited and areas with prolonged visits were derived. The tracks were also broken down following a behavioural approach. Based on field observations, three states (*i.e.* resting, foraging, commuting) were identified as shown on the top right figure.

Preliminary results seem to show a link between the edge of kelp forests and foraging sites for this species.

Predicting occurrence and density



Knowing population numbers is key for conservation purposes. Using remote environmental data and presence data collected between 2008 and 2023, this chapter aims to give an updated population estimate from Wood 1999 and identify areas more suitable to the species.

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