

The potential life span of the island fox (*Urocyon littoralis*), a threatened species in California, has been documented for the first time during the past two years through terrestrial monitoring at Channel Islands National Park. During pilot studies in the mid-1980s designed to test mark-recapture techniques, scientists on San Miguel Island collared these small relatives of the mainland gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) with individually numbered steel cable collars. Surprisingly, they recaptured several of the animals during the summers of 1993 and 1994.

After examining the original data, which included the estimated ages of the animals at initial capture, the researchers were able to determine that several are currently at least nine years old. Previously, the life span of island fox had been estimated to be only five or six years and was based on tooth wear models from gray fox research.

This discovery demonstrates the importance of monitoring not only for tracking species abundance, but also for acquiring basic information regarding the natural history of long-lived species. Staff are currently marking

the island fox on San Miguel Island with passive integrated transponders for continued long-term monitoring.

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Mary Ann Madej of the National Biological Survey, and Vicki Ozaki, Redwood National Park, presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America in Seattle, Washington, in October 1994. Entitled, "Changes in channel morphology following passage of a sediment wave," the paper was part of the special session On the Geological Basis of Wild Salmon Ecology. The talk described the decline and partial recovery of pool habitat in Redwood Creek, northern California, following a large flood and associated high erosion, and the subsequent effects of these habitat changes on the distribution of steelhead populations.