

MAGELLANIC PENGUIN

Spheniscus magellanicus

Order: Spheniciformes Family: Sphenicidae

Facts

Range: coastal Argentina, Chile, Falkland Islands. Migrating north to Brazil.

Size: 61-74cm (24-30in)

Weight: 2.7-6.5kg (5.9-14.3lb)

Diet: krill, cuttlefish, sardines

No. of eggs: 2

Incubation: 39-42 days

Caregiver: both parents incubate and care for young

Sexual maturity: male 5 yrs, female 4 yrs

Breeding: monogamous

Life span: 30 years

IUCN: near threatened

Due to the significant decline in population

the IUCN has classified the Magellanic Penguin as Near Threatened. This trend has occurred over three generations and is expected to continue if the situation remains the same.

The most significant threats include climate change, overfishing, and oil spills. Anchovy fisheries off the coast of Chile and Argentina threaten the penguins' food supply. This situation is made worse by climate change. However, oil pollution is still the number one threat to Magellanic penguins. It is estimated that 44,000 Magellanic penguins die each year due to oil pollution.

