

FIRTH OF FORTH

Isle of May study findings could influence animal conservation

Research on the Isle of May has found that disease in wild animals can have a worse impact on their relatives.

Scientists studying seabirds on the Forth island found that worm infection in parent birds or nestlings affected the health of others in their family group more.

The discovery could have important implications for the conservation of wild animals under threat.

Researchers from Edinburgh University reckon the observation may be due to adults' ability to nurture their young or that infected chicks may need more care.

In experiments, treatment of parents gave chicks a better chance of survival and treatment of chicks saw parents gain weight.

