

Tasmanian devil populations have been devastated by Devil facial tumor disease since its first appearance in 1996. The devil's average lifespan has decreased from six years to three and here we present an age based model to represent how the disease has affected the age and breeding structure of the population. We show that with the recent documentation of increased breeding of juvenile devils, the overall devil population will increase, but not nearly to pre-DFTD levels. The basic reproductive ratio may be increased with the influx of young breeding devils. In addition, following recent advancements in DFTD vaccine development, release of a small number captive bred vaccinated devils into infected wild populations may also help populations recover.