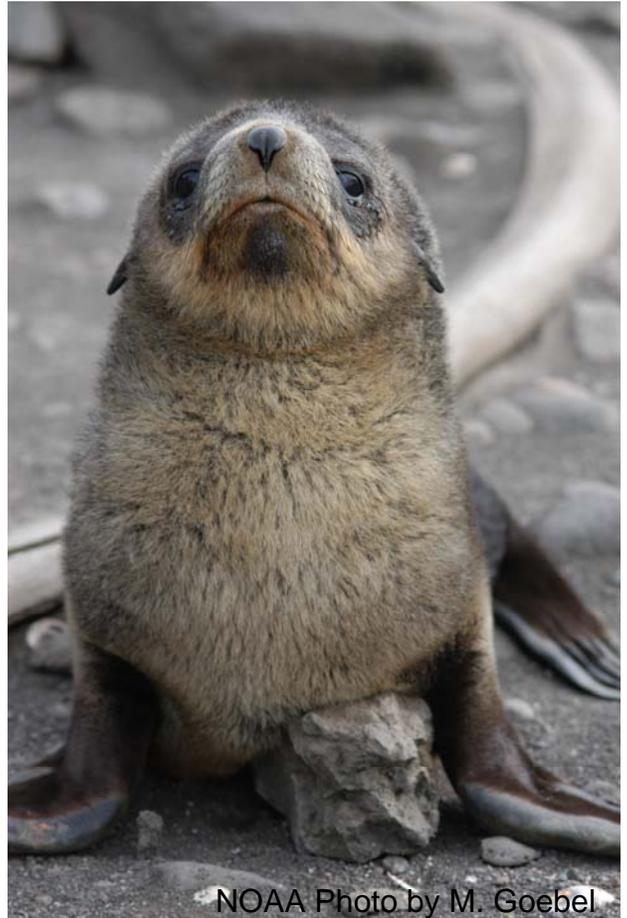


**Sit. Rep. #15**  
**US AMLR Field Station**  
**Cape Shirreff, Livingston Island, Antarctica**  
**12 February 2007**

**Seabirds:**

1. On February 9, we banded 500 chinstrap chicks with the help of our Chilean colleagues. In the future, resights of these birds will be used to determine cohort survival.
2. We completed our last round of diet sampling on February 11. We collected samples from 5 adult chinstrap penguins.
3. On February 2-5, we retrieved the satellite transmitters and time-depth recorders deployed on adult chinstrap and gentoos for the duration of the AMLR inshore survey. We will continue to collect data on foraging trip duration from adult chinstraps with radio transmitters until the chicks fledge.
4. This week we will begin 48-day measurements of skua chicks. All chicks are measured and weighed when they are 48 days old in order to determine sex and assess their condition.



**Pinnipeds:**

5. This week we recaptured one round three PTT female after she lost her pup. We currently have PTT's and TDR's deployed on four females. We will be recovering those this week when the females return from their current foraging trip. Round two females carried the instruments for an average of 19.0 days. We have recorded 48 foraging trips from 15 females since 18 December.
6. We have 15 female/pup pairs remaining in our attendance study. Six of the seven females (of the original 22 pairs) have likely lost their pups to leopard seal predation.
7. Eleven of the twelve young attendance females are still remaining in the study. All but one have completed six trips to sea and she is currently on her 6th trip.
8. Fur seal diet sampling continued this week with the collection of 10 scat samples from areas of suckling females. Krill was present in all of the scats. Evidence of fish was found in four of the scats and one scat had squid beaks.

9. On February 5 we completed our third round of 100 pup weights cooperatively with the Chilean field party for CCAMLR.

10. Fur seals tagged as pups continue to arrive. To date, we have seen the following percent return for the last nine year classes: (1997) 1.2%; (1998) 1.0%; (1999) 4.8%; (2000) 2.2%; (2001) 3.8; (2002) 2.2%; (2003) 1.4%; (2004) 0.0%; and (2005) 1.4%. A total of 82 different known-age individuals have been seen so far on the cape.

11. We have tagged 185 pups this season. These tags are part of the cooperative Chilean - US deployment of 500 tags on pups. One hundred and two of these are pups of previously tagged females. DNA has been collected from 122 of these pups.

#### **Cape Shirreff Weather for the Week:**

12. Wet and windy for the week. The winds were variable from all around the compass, averaging 9.2 mph, but there were gusts to 49 mph. 0.36 inches of rain accumulated and temperatures were mild, ranging from 0.7 to 10.9 degrees Celsius. The average was 2.9 degrees.

#### **Station Notes:**

13. The research projects continue and some are coming to a close for the season. Preparations continue for our departure scheduled for the 24th.

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*Report submitted by AMLR researchers currently residing at Cape Shirreff. These reports are also posted at <http://swfsc.noaa.gov/aerd-field.aspx>.*