

U.S. Antarctic Marine Living Resources Program
2009-2010 Weekly Field Reports
Cape Shirreff, Livingston Island

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Seabirds:

1. Chinstrap chicks continue to fledge this week and we continue to collect fledge weight data.
2. We have completed collection of 48-day measurements of brown skua chicks. We collected these weights and measurements at 48 days of age to determine their sex and to assess their condition. On 23 February we measured and banded two brown skua chicks on Punta Oeste. We expect that the six chicks on territories around Cape Shirreff and Punta Oeste will fledge.
3. A significant portion of the week was spent compiling and proofing data.

Pinnipeds:

4. Only six mother/pup pairs remain in our attendance study out of the original 30. Leopard seal predation is the likely cause of death for the other 27. Mean number of trips since pupping is 15, and mean trip length this week was 3.6 days, similar to the last several weeks.
5. We continued daily tag resights both systematic and opportunistic. However, we have not seen any new tags since 16 February. We have seen on three two year olds and there have been no tagged yearlings seen this season. Most tag resights (59%) are represented by three cohorts, 1999, 2001, and 2006.
6. All 500 pairs of pup flipper tags have now been deployed. Nine percent of these are on pups of tagged females.
7. Our late season pup survival (survival of pups of tagged females as of 24 Feb) is 67.5% (n = 117).
8. We deployed twenty over-winter satellite-linked transmitters on female fur seals this week.
9. We also deployed two over-winter CTD-tags on Weddell seals this week.
10. Our DCC receiver station was reprogrammed to continue scanning throughout the winter. This will show us how long both tagged female fur seals and Weddell seals remain at the Cape and, in the case of Weddell seals, how frequently they haul out.

Weather:

11. Winds averaged 12.6 mph with a maximum gust of 50.0 mph. We also had a weekend snowstorm, with heavy winds from the east that has left the Cape with an accumulation of snow. Average temperature for the week was 0.8 °C (approx. 2 °C colder than last year for this week), with a high of 3.9 °C and a low of -2.4 °C.



Camp:

12. The R/V *Moana Wave* visited us on Saturday (28 Feb) and delivered some items that were not delivered on her last visit to the Cape.

13. We painted and anchored the ATV shed, repaired shutters that were damaged over winter, and repaired a section of decking that had collapsed under the weight of heavy snow fall.

14. We inventoried several of our buildings and conducted other closing camp activities. We expect the R/V *Moana Wave* will arrive next Monday to close our camp for the season.

Submitted by AMLR staff currently residing at the Cape Shirreff field station, Livingston Island.

