

Dispatch from Monday, 21 May 2007

Hi folks,

We left Palmer Station yesterday evening and arrived at Crystal Sound this morning where the first seal was tagged on the last leg. The weather was ugly with high winds and snow but cleared as the day progressed. The area had changed considerably since the previous deployments with lots of new sea ice. As we moved into the sound we encountered large numbers of fur seals but only a handful of crabeater seals, most of which were on small floes, unsuitable for tagging. Two seals were on reasonable floes but the ice made use of the zodiacs problematic and the animals left the floes before we could complete an approach. We moved into Lallemand Fjord this evening, where the group was so successful previously. We'll attempt to tag here tomorrow. We were able to complete a CTD cast in close proximity to the location of our tagged Weddell seal for use in validating the tag sensors.

Seal Crew



