

Dispatch from Sunday, 22 April 2007

Today was a banner day! We arrived in Lalemand Fjord in the dark with blowing wind and heavy snow. We woke up to a brilliant clear blue sky in an absolutely amazingly beautiful Fjord. We traveled to the end of the Fjord and found crabeater, Weddell and fur seals! The hardest part was finding ice floes that we could safely capture crabeater seals. By the end of the day we had capture and instrumented with satellite tags, 2 crabeater seals and a Weddell seal. We chose to do a Weddell seal, as they are deeper divers than crabeaters, and this will give us an opportunity to test our CTD tags on this species in the Antarctic Peninsula Region.

The hardest part of this message was deciding which pictures to send. We have many amazing images from today's activities. One taken from the bridge of the LMG to show you what it is like. One of the Fjord itself, Mike F. and his cake and finally a picture from Mike Goebel of the seal team working with the first crabeater seal of the day.

We see the affects of Global Warming as the region we operated in all day is listed on our nautical chart as a glacier! In other words we were in 500-700 meters of water depth where some 20-30 yrs ago there was a glacier!

On a lighter note today was Mike Fedak's birthday! Judith, the ship's chief, prepared a birthday cake, but the best birthday gift of all was the spectacular day we spent on the water working with seals!!!!

Best from the seal team.



