

January 15, 2009  
Greetings from Isla Lobos, Uruguay.

I arrived in Montevideo yesterday and early this morning we traveling to Punte del Este, which is a resort time 2 hours NE of Montevideo. It was a short boat ride to the Isla Lobos a small Island just offshore of Punte Del Este. The point of this trip is to deploy satellite tags and GPS tags along with dive recorders on female South American sea lions. I am working with colleague Federico Riet. The fundamental question for our research effort is to get a better understanding of the foraging behavior of this sea lion because its population is declining. Whereas the South American fur seal population in Uruguay is increasing. At least at this point we are studying the sea lion, at some point we will have to examine the foraging behavior of the fur seal. This is a common story between sea lions and fur seals over the world. There are a number of places where sea lions are in decline and fur seals are increasing. The pictures in this initial installment are of sea lions. A follow on e-mail will send images of the fur seal.

Today was a get to the island and get a feel for the site and get ready for work that will begin tomorrow. The two pictures show the team arriving and the city of Punte del Este in the background

Best,  
Dan Costa





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Pictures of South American fur seals. The pups are about one month old.

Best,  
Dan Costa



