

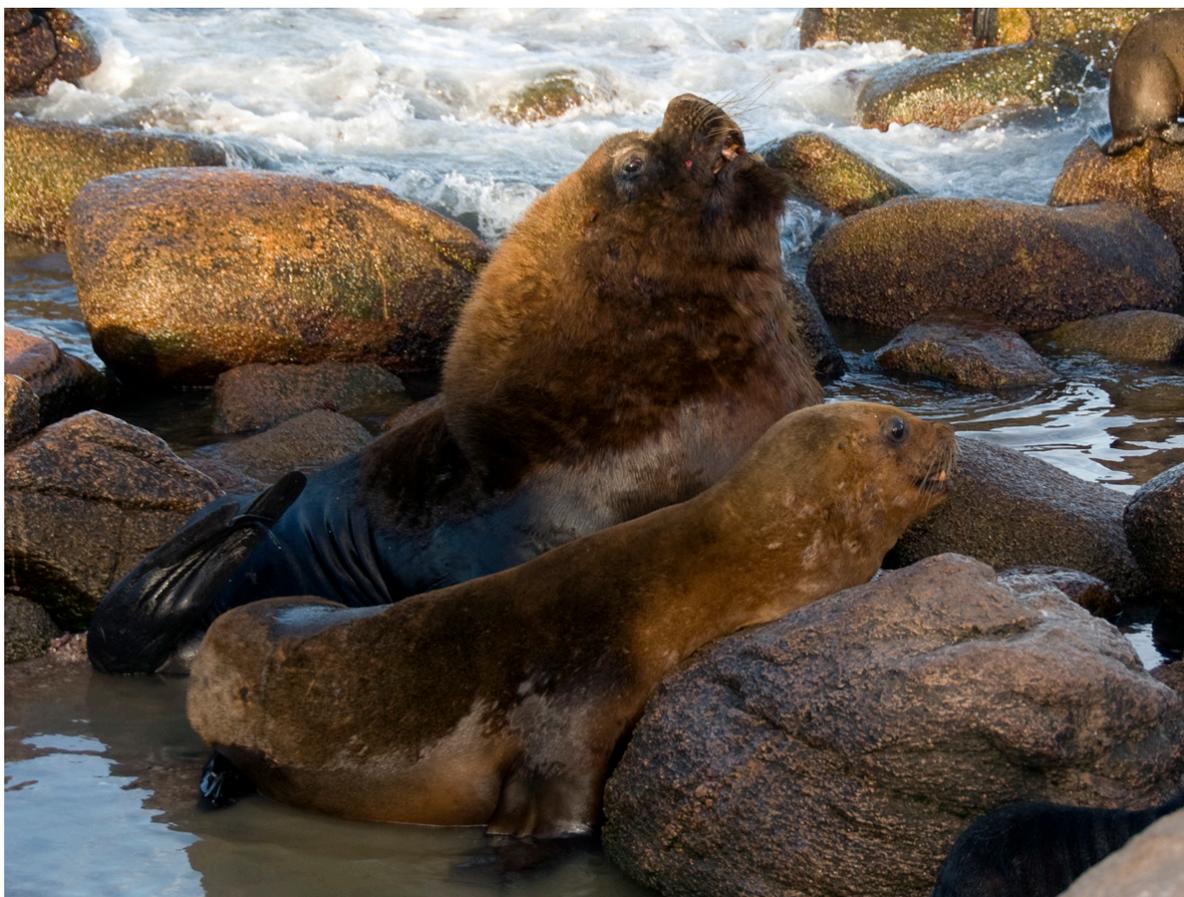
January 16, 2009
Greetings from Isla Lobos, Uruguay.

Male South American sea lions. We will only be working with females, which are fortunately smaller and better looking.

Best,
Dan Costa



Female sea lion with a male, A male sea lion with a fur seal pup in the foreground.



We got up at first light this morning and caught our first South American sea lion!! It was quite an event with a crew of locals, some speak English and others only Spanish. So at times it was a little awkward, especially when most of the people have never caught a sea lion before. It all went well, but these animals are big. They are massive. The female only weighed about 150 kg, but she just seemed gigantic. They are mellow animals and once underway things went quite well.

This had a special significance for me, This is the last sea lion species that I have not worked with or sampled. So with this animal I can now celebrate having worked with 6 of 7 sea lions species. The 7th species is the Japanese sea lion and it is extinct, so I don't plan on trying to put tags on or get blood samples from that species.

The picture is of the female who has a satellite tag, a time depth recorder and a small VHF transmitter. Her pup is next to her.

