

January 23, 2009

Hi: We finished deploying 10 tags on the sea lions on 20 January. It was an interesting experience working on a new species with a totally new field team, with variable experience. Most importantly is that, with the exception of Dave Shuman the vet who came along to do the anesthesia I had not worked with any of the people before. Having said that it was amazing how fast the field team came together even though some members spoke different languages (Spanish vs English). A major component of this field effort was to train a new team of biologist in Uruguay to be able to carry out these kind of studies on their own in the future. We also trained a Uruguayan veterinarian on how to do gas anesthesia with this species. In addition to the field work, there was a film crew that documented our work. They were with us for the entire field period. The plan is for them to develop a short documentary about our project and what its goals are. Attached are a few final photos of our field work. The 1st shows the entire field team. 4 people in the film crew of 4, 3 sea lions handlers (Loberos), 4 Uruguayan biologists and two US biologists. It was a large group of folks, but it was amazing how well we all worked together in the field. The other picture shows the field team at work weighing a female. These animals weighed about 150 kg!

Best,
Dan



