

Dispatch from Tuesday, 22 May 2007

Hi Folks!

Today we were successful in deploying our first tag. Conditions have changed considerably and we have resigned ourselves to working on very small floes. Today we saw lots of Weddell seals in the Fjord and took advantage of the opportunity to deploy a second CTD tag on one. The new sea ice was very thick and it was rough going for the zodiacs to get to the seal. As usual the Raytheon crew was superb in assisting. We saw several crabeater seals but they were mostly on unrealistically small pieces of ice. Late in the day we made an attempt on a crabeater seal on a small floe. Upon closer examination the animal had a fairly fresh and serious wound and we decided not to deploy. The wind is packing the ice into the Fjord and we have had to reposition the *Gould* to avoid getting socked in by the ice. We'll move north this evening and continue our search for crabeater seals tomorrow.

Today's pictures include a group photo of the seal crew along with all of the Raytheon support techs, a picture of us working on the ice, and our tagged seal heading off into the water.

Seal Crew



