

**Seabirds:**

1. Gentoo Penguins are still leaving in the mornings on foraging trips and returning to the breeding colonies in the afternoons. Pair bonds are being established but no nests are being built yet. To date, no gentoo penguins have initiated clutches.
2. Chinstrap penguins are establishing territories and beginning to collect rocks to build nests. To date, no chinstrap penguins have initiated clutches.
3. We have begun a demographic study to determine the reproductive success of penguins that were banded here as chicks and have now returned to breed. We are currently reading bands to locate these known-aged birds and will follow their breeding activities daily to determine their reproductive success.
4. Brown skuas are reestablishing pair bonds and have been observed in pairs around Cape Shirreff and at the penguin colonies.

**Pinnipeds:**

5. Since our first breeding elephant seal census on 19 October we have recorded an additional three births bringing the total elephant seal pup production to 19. Six females have weaned their pups and departed to sea. There are now 14 adult females remaining and 13 of these have suckling pups. Total pup production is 30% less than last year for this date.
6. One of the adult female elephant seals that has given birth on Cape Shirreff has very distinct '04' dye mark on here right shoulder area. However, she does not have tags. We are unsure about the origin of this female but she has likely been on South Georgia, the Falkland Islands, or Elephant Island where there are current research programs on elephant seals.
7. We have weighed, measured and tagged the six weaned elephant seal pups. All have been weighed within 24 hours of weaning. Mass has ranged from 87.0-160.8 kg. We collected small samples of tissue from tagging for DNA analysis from all the pups.
8. Adult male fur seals are continuing to arrive every day. Fur seal breeding colonies and beaches have more snow and ice than normal for this time of year. All the beaches have considerable ice berms that in some areas will prevent females from gaining access to areas above hide tide mark unless we get warmer weather in the next two weeks. There are currently 43 adult males on territory within the U.S. AMLR study site.
9. At the last weekly phocid census of the Cape we recorded 19 Weddell seals, including four pups. We have tagged three of the pups born on the Cape and one of the adult females.



**Weather:**

10. This week was colder on average than last week and we have had a net accumulation of snow. The mean temperature for the week was  $-3.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  (compared to  $-2.8^{\circ}\text{C}$  last week and  $+0.9^{\circ}\text{C}$  for the same week last year.) The low was  $-6.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  and the high was only  $+0.9^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The mean wind chill for the week was  $-9.7^{\circ}\text{C}$ . We had a total cumulative precipitation for the week of 0.40 inches. Maximum wind speed was 58 mph and the mean wind speed was 15.4 mph with prevailing winds from the east and west.
11. We downloaded our over-winter temperature data logger. The winter low was  $-15.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
12. The cold weather this past week and accumulated snow has resulted in an increase in snow cover since our arrival.

**Camp:**

13. Our camp is running smoothly and all power and communication system are in operation. We have a daily radio schedule with Palmer station (at 09:00 local time) and we download email once a day around 23:00 GMT (16:00 PST).
14. The colder weather has made it difficult to keep up with water demand for drinking, cooking, and washing so we have had to move two blue water barrels (55 gal) into our hut to thaw.
15. A ship passed Cape Shirreff on the evening of Tuesday, 27 October. It was late and we could only see the lights so we were unable to identify or classify the ship. We tried hailing it on both VHF and SSB but were unable to make contact.

---

*Submitted by AMLR staff currently residing at the Cape Shirreff field station, Livingston Island.*

