

Elephant and Weddell Seals Symposium:

20 years of observation of the Southern Ocean oceanographic observations and ecological studies

April 10-12, 2024

Centre d'Etudes Biologiques de Chize, France,

Preceded by a one-day workshop on April 9, 2024 dedicated to Southern Ocean phytoplankton studies.

Registration by e-mail before 1st of March 2024
at: christophe.guinet@cebc.cnrs.fr
(Maximum numbers of participants: 100)



The symposium will bring together some one hundred researchers from France and abroad. It will celebrate 20 years of oceanographic observations and studies of elephant seal ecology.

The Système National d'Observation, Mammifères Echantillonneurs du Milieu Océanique (SNO-MEMO) supported by CNRS-Sciences de l'Univers and linked to the Observatoire Aquitain des Sciences de l'Univers and Suivi à long-terme du vivant accredited by CNRS-Ecologie-Environnement. This observatory is run in close partnership with the Australian Integrated Marine Observatory System (IMOS). Finally, SNO-MEMO is an essential component of the Animal Borne Ocean Sensor (AniBOS) network of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS).

For the past 20 years, these animals have made a major contribution to oceanographic observation of the Southern Ocean. Initially in its physical and biogeochemical components, and more recently in its biological component. Elephant seals and Weddell seals account for 80% of temperature and salinity profiles south of 60°S, and 98% of profiles associated with Antarctic pack ice. The ecological component of this observatory enables the monitoring in the variations in numbers, distribution at sea and fishing performance of southern elephant seal and Weddell seals populations. The work carried out has also led to major advances in our understanding of elephant seal ecology and ecophysiology.

These data are helping to study the Southern Ocean and assess the effects of global warming on it.

Four main themes will be covered:

- Contribution of elephant seal data to physical, biogeochemical and biological oceanography,
- Ecology and ecophysiology of elephant seals,
- Influences of environmental conditions on the ecology of these predators,
- New observation tools

This symposium aims at encouraging the emergence of new interdisciplinary research projects on a national and international scale.

Abstract (250 words max), with a title (150 characters Max), list of authors and affiliation, and request for an oral or a poster presentation.

Oral presentation will be allocated a 20 minutes time slot (15 minutes for presentation + 5 minutes for questions), 40 minutes for key notes speaker (30 min presentation + 10 min question).

**Abstract and registration should be sent before March 1 2024 to: christophe.guinet@cebc.cnrs.fr,
Object: EWSS. The sooner the better for organizational purposes.**

Conference fee: €50 per full researcher, free for PhD students and other students.

Accommodation provided at the Gîte du Prioulet in rooms and dormitories. Possibility of booking nearby gites and hotel rooms (at participants' expense).

Catering provided.