

Weddell Seal Photo-ID

Contribute to ongoing research

We are establishing a weddell seal photo-id catalogue and we need your help!

Photo-ID studies of marine mammals identify individuals using natural markings, nicks, notches and scars that are easily visible on their bodies, fins or flukes. Catalogs of photographs can establish a record of the last time/ place an individual was observed (and who they were with). In the long term, photo-ID studies can provide information on the movements, habitat use and reproductive patterns of individual animals, and can even be used to estimate population size. We are establishing a catalog of weddell seals using the patterns on their pelage.

How can you help? Send us your photographs of weddell seals! If possible, please include a description of where the photos were taken (a latitude/longitude is ideal but not necessary) and the date. Photographs of the “belly” region, including the head and foreflippers, are the most useful. Below is an example of an images that is useful in our study.

Please email any useful photographs, along with location and date to:

weddell.photo.id@gmail.com

Good image:

- Ventral (belly) region is visible and in focus
- Photo is taken at a 90° angle to the belly



Poor images:

- Ventral region is not easily visible
- Photo is taken at a sharp angle, making it difficult to see the pigmentation pattern on the ventral side clearly

