



Trends in the study of marine birds and mammals

Professor Gerald Kooyman,
Scripps Institution of Oceanography, USA

A serious attempt to learn how marine animals live at sea began 50 years ago when the first time/depth recorders (TDR) were attached to Weddell seals. Even now, with the huge advancements in marine recording and tracking technology, only a few species are suitable for advanced applications. The attachment of the first TDRs took place at McMurdo Sound (Antarctica), one of the most remote habitats in the world. I will give a personal account of the history of studying marine mammals and emperor penguins in the wild, including the 1973 Alpha Helix expedition where I had the privilege meet Kjell Johansen and other comparative physiologist luminaries. It was wonderful to experience how Kjell conducted his investigations, and as one of the editors of the *Zoophysiology Series*, he later invited me to write a book on diving physiology. That effort had a powerful intellectual influence on me, and as many others, I remain indebted to Kjell's encouragement.



Photo: Dr Paul Ponganis

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