

# Celebration of Conservation

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FROM: Patrick Robinson  
TO: Team Elephant Seal Virtual Science Team  
SUBJECT: Elephant Seal “6967” Follow Up

Hello Team Elephant Seal!

What did you learn about 6967? From 6967’s life history chart, we can see that she:

- was born in 2002
- disappeared for a few years
- started returning regularly to Año Nuevo
- has had three male pups during her life so far.
- We observed this particular seal 160 different times during her life!

In fact, I observed her earlier today (at 15 years old... wow!). That is a lot of research effort, but it is worth our time to learn something new about the seals. Why do you think this kind of information is important?

Earlier today, I went out to Año Nuevo and attached a flipper tag to 7 different seals. I chose seals that were sleeping because I can get very close to them before they know I am there. Then, I quickly attach the tag and leave as fast as I can. One of the most important parts of being a researcher is studying the seals without disturbing them very much because we are interested in their natural behavior. Adding 7 new seals to our study means that today was a very successful day!

I hope you are all enjoying learning about elephant seals and our study at Año Nuevo State Park. I’ll send another update soon after I head back out into the field!

Take care,

*Patrick*

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