Example photo (90°)

Whisker spot patterns in pinnipeds – developing a new photo-ID methodology

Guideline for taking photos

1. **Amount of photos:** 5 photos of each side of each individual sea lion available and for each variable with varying angle and distance accounted for if possible (i.e. 10 photos of each sea lion and per angle, distance and variable)

   Photos will be needed of the following angles, distances and variables:

	Angles	Distances	Variables	Notes
1.	70°, 90°, 110°	1m	Head wet (head up)	• Angles measured from sea lion's front • Left and right side of muzzle
2.	70°, 90°, 110°	1m	Head dry (head up)	
3.	70°, 90°, 110°	1m	Head down (lying on floor)	
4.	70°, 90°, 110°	2m	Head wet (head up)	
5.	70°, 90°, 110°	2m	Head dry (head up)	
6.	70°, 90°, 110°	2m	Head down (lying on floor)	

2. Photos should show the pinniped's **muzzle and the eye** (the eye is used as a reference point)

3. **Please, do not** use the **zoom** on your camera

4. **Information** needed for each photo:
   Sea lion's name or ID
   Date of photo taken
   Camera model (and type of lens if using a SLR)
   Variables the photo accounted for: angle, distance, left/right side, variable (see table)
   Amount of photos taken
   Photo number

5. We are providing a **datasheet** to make it easier to provide the information needed

Taking photos following the guideline above will help us to test for the variations between photos of the same individual. We will also be able to test for variations between individuals accounting for the different variables which is only possible if we know the variations and if they are comparable between the photos (i.e. they have to be consistent between different photos, therefore the guideline with specific instructions ☺). This will all show us the variation allowed in photos of wild (unknown) sea lions to still recognize individuals.

Thank you soooo much for your help!!!

If you have any questions, please don´t hesitate to contact me on 0432087967 or e-mail to sylvia.osterrieder@live.vu.edu.au