

PTTs Awarded at Holiday Party

To close out our tenth anniversary celebration, we offered our customers a chance to win either a 70 gram Argos/GPS PTT or an 18 gram Solar PTT. The drawing was held at our annual holiday party on December 7, 2001.

Congratulations to:

Peter Nye of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation—winner of an 18 gram Solar PTT

Claire Mirande of the International Crane Foundation—winner of a 70 gram Argos/GPS PTT.



Employees, friends, supporters and colleagues gathered at the Columbia Sheraton for a luncheon and party to close out our tenth anniversary. There were so many people to thank for their support.

A chocolate covered raspberry filled cake slightly larger than our 95 gram PTT—suitable for tracking ostrich perhaps...



Tagging of Whale Sharks, Continued from page 5

end of the spear (tag applicator) which prevented the tag-anchor from penetrating the musculature of the shark, but leaving it securely fastened in the epidermis. The tag is attached to the tag-anchor by a 15-20 cm monofilament tether. Each tag was preprogrammed by the manufacturer to detach itself from the host animal on a specific date. When detached, the positively buoyant tag floated to the surface and transmitted archived data to the Argos Satellite System.

To date, five Microwave Telemetry archival pop-up satellite tags have been deployed on whale sharks: three in Honduran waters, and two in the Galapagos. In addition to locational data, water temperature and depths were recorded. The tags deployed in this study were programmed to remain attached to the host animals for periods ranging from twelve days to six months. Data received from these tags has provided a glimpse into the habitat use and day-to-day lives of the whale shark. For example, until recently, it was thought that whale sharks spent their adult lives close to the surface. Data accumulated in this study reveals that the sharks spend time at depths in excess of 2,000 feet in water temperatures colder than 10°C!

Deployment of additional tags in 2002 will provide important information on seasonal movements of whale sharks and we may find additional areas that the sharks visit. The lessons we have learned regarding the use of this new technology has potential application to the conservation of other threatened and endangered species. ❖



Above: Paul Howey from Microwave Telemetry, Inc. looks on as Debbie Shaw, from Service Argos, Inc., announces the winner of the 18g Solar PTT.

Santa surprised everyone when he arrived at the holiday party with a sack full of goodies. Santa must know someone on the inside—he really did know who had been naughty or nice!



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