



Winter AMLR Oceanographic Survey

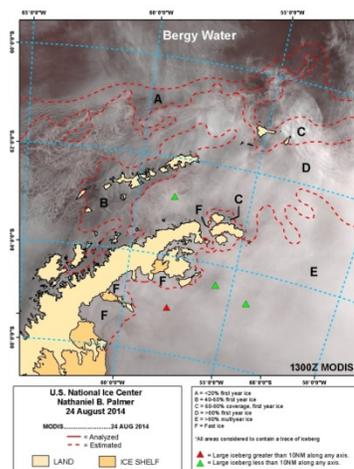
Weekly Report Number 1

August 17 to August 23, 2014

US AMLR Begins 3rd* Consecutive Winter Field Campaign

The final field project of the 2013-14 [U.S. Antarctic Marine Living Resources](#) (AMLR) Program is now underway. Contractors and members of the [Antarctic Ecosystem Research Division](#) (AERD, of the [Southwest Fisheries Science Center](#), [NOAA Fisheries](#)) arrived in Punta Arenas, Chile on the 17th of August to begin loading the [RVIB Nathaniel B Palmer](#) for our 3rd winter field campaign. NOAA's [National Ice Center](#), [Ocean Prediction Center](#), and [Global Drifter Program](#) (based in Miami) all provide support for this mission. With the capable assistance of our contracted port agent, all gear was successfully loaded by 18 August, and most laboratories were fully outfitted by departure on the 19th of August.

Consistent with our previous 27 years of vessel surveys in the Antarctic peninsula region*, the transit time across the Drake Passage was predictable. We arrived in the AMLR study area by Friday August 22nd. Because of ice in Nelson strait and a delay while fueling in Punta Arenas, we will be sampling the Bransfield Strait first, and will then approach Admiralty Bay to calibrate gear. In the coming week, we expect to determine whether southern Bransfield Strait remains the “high krill, high predator” hotspot observed during the winter 2013 survey.



This year the AMLR team compliment includes researchers from the AERD (Christian Reiss, Anthony Cossio, Jennifer Walsh, and Christopher Jones), the University of Hawaii, UCSC, and SIO. It also includes an undergraduate student from UCSD, recent SIO and UH graduates, and collaborators from Italy, Peru, Chile, and Belgium.

Weekly reports for the 30 day survey will be posted [online](#), along with other field reports and images from the season.

Submitted by C. Reiss, Chief Scientist, on behalf of the AMLR researchers aboard the RVIB Palmer. Photos provided by AERD researcher Jen Walsh; ice image provided by the National Ice Center.

**Annually from 1986-2011, AMLR conducted vessel surveys in the austral summer; starting in 2012, AMLR switched to winter vessel surveys to investigate prey availability and the winter environment.*

