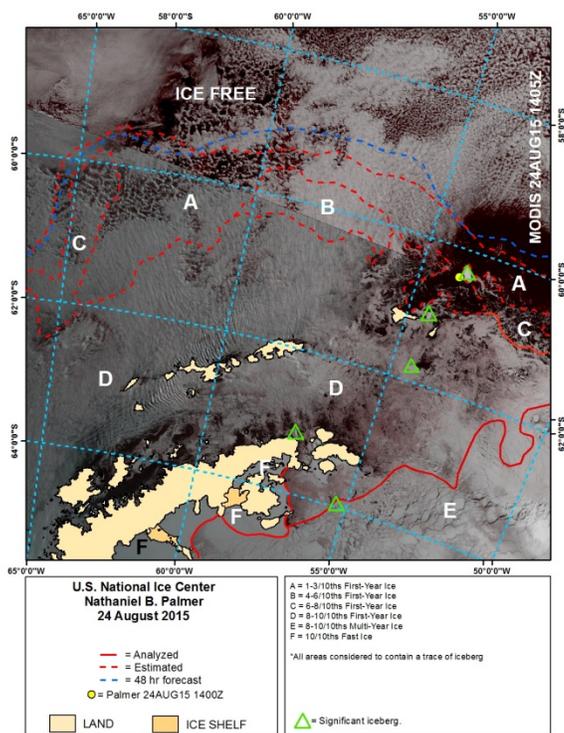


Winter AMLR Oceanographic Survey

Weekly Report Number 3

August 18-24, 2015

The third week of the 2015 US AMLR Survey was focused on sampling within Bransfield Strait. Ice conditions were variable and at time impeded the ships progress. We completed sampling only 19 of the standard AMLR stations in this area; 19 seems to be the area limit during this winter survey. High concentrations of krill were found in the Bransfield. The highest number of krill caught in a net was just over 35,000; seven stations had krill catches in excess of 1000 krill. Antarctic fur seals and crabeater seals were common, although they were restricted to areas with high ice concentration.



After completion of the Bransfield Strait stations, we transited to Elephant Island where we were able to

calibrate the acoustic sensors allowing quantitative estimates of krill biomass to be constructed. Sunday morning (August 23rd) we began sampling stations that were missed around Elephant Island area, and we are currently sampling the most northern stations. Here there is no ice (significant contrast to Bransfield, as shown left) and lots of sunshine. High biomass of filamentous algae is present and we are also seeing fair amounts of furcilia stage Antarctic krill.

Submitted by C. Reiss, Chief Scientist, on behalf of the AMLR researchers aboard the RVIB Palmer. Photos provided by AERD researcher Jen Walsh and ice map courtesy of the U.S. National Ice Center.

