

# SGSSI MPA Review Science Symposium

13-14 June 2023  
Aurora Conference Centre  
Cambridge, UK



Hosted by the Government of South  
Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands



# Pelagic & Benthic Ecosystems



Alex P Taylor, BAS

- **Temporal patterns in South Georgia zooplankton: insights from a moored echosounder.** *Tracey Dornan (BAS)*
- **Cephalopods of the South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands regions: relevance from a MPA perspective.** *José Quieros (University of Coimbra)*
- **Biodiversity of South Georgia's Seaweeds: unique, charismatic and essential.** *Juliet Brodie (Natural History Museum)*
- **Connectivity patterns are species dependent in Southern Ocean deep-sea corals.** *Michelle Taylor (University of Essex)*
- **Overview and first results of the RV *Polarstern* expedition PS133-2 "Island Impact" to South Georgia in Nov/Dec 2022.** *Sabine Kasten (Alfred Wegener Institute)*
- **From Bubbles to Biology: South Georgia's Methane Seep Communities.** *Madeline Anderson (BAS)*



# Tracey Dornan

British Antarctic Survey



ESA



Sue G

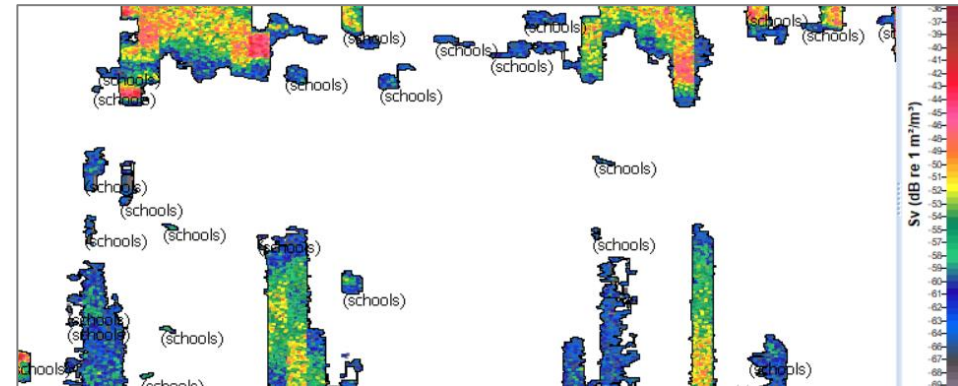
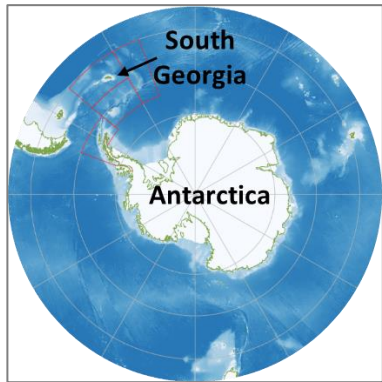


Pete Lens

# Temporal patterns in South Georgia zooplankton: Insights from a moored echosounder

**Tracey Dornan (British Antarctic Survey)**

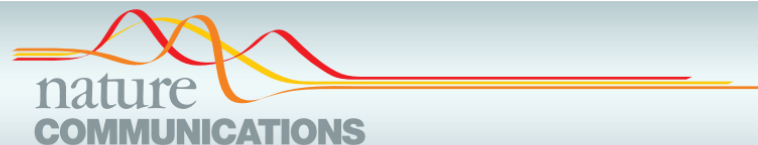
Sophie Fielding, Geraint Tarling







Antarctic krill  
*Euphausia superba*



REVIEW ARTICLE

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-019-12668-7>

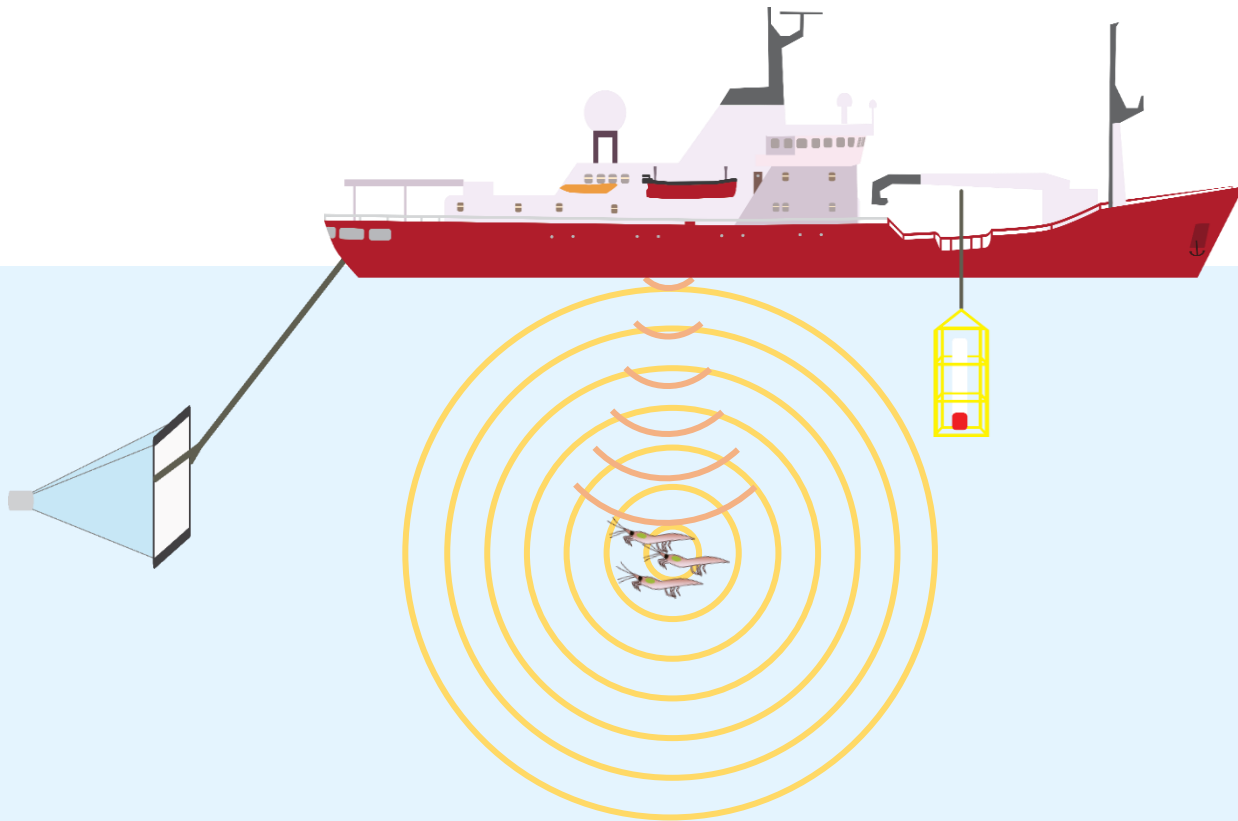
OPEN

# The importance of Antarctic krill in biogeochemical cycles

E.L. Cavan<sup>1,12\*</sup>, A. Belcher<sup>2</sup>, A. Atkinson<sup>3</sup>, S.L. Hill<sup>2</sup>, S. Kawaguchi<sup>4</sup>,  
S. McCormack<sup>1,5</sup>, B. Meyer<sup>6,7,8</sup>, S. Nicol<sup>1</sup>, L. Ratnarajah<sup>9</sup>, K. Schmidt<sup>10</sup>,  
D.K. Steinberg<sup>11</sup>, G.A. Tarling<sup>2</sup> & P.W. Boyd<sup>1,5</sup>

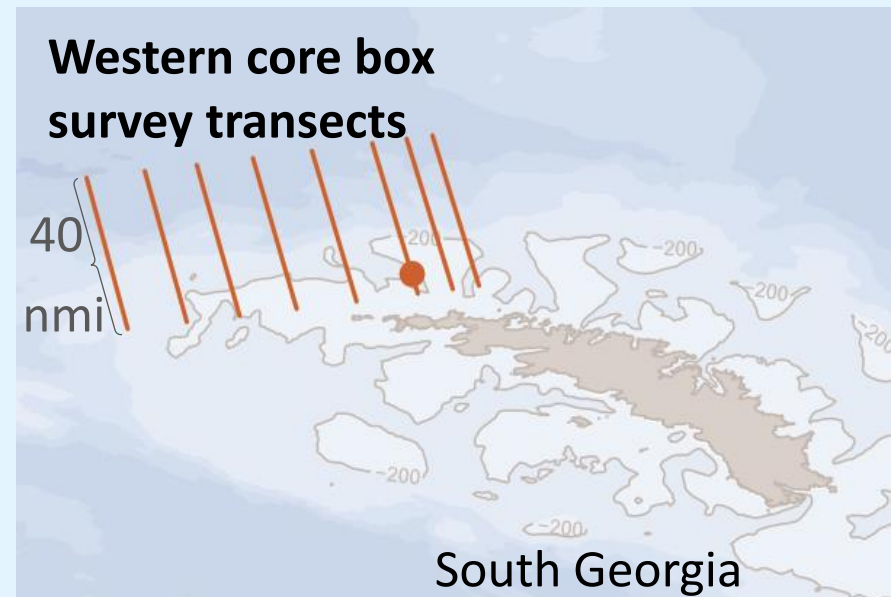


# Antarctic krill surveys – ship



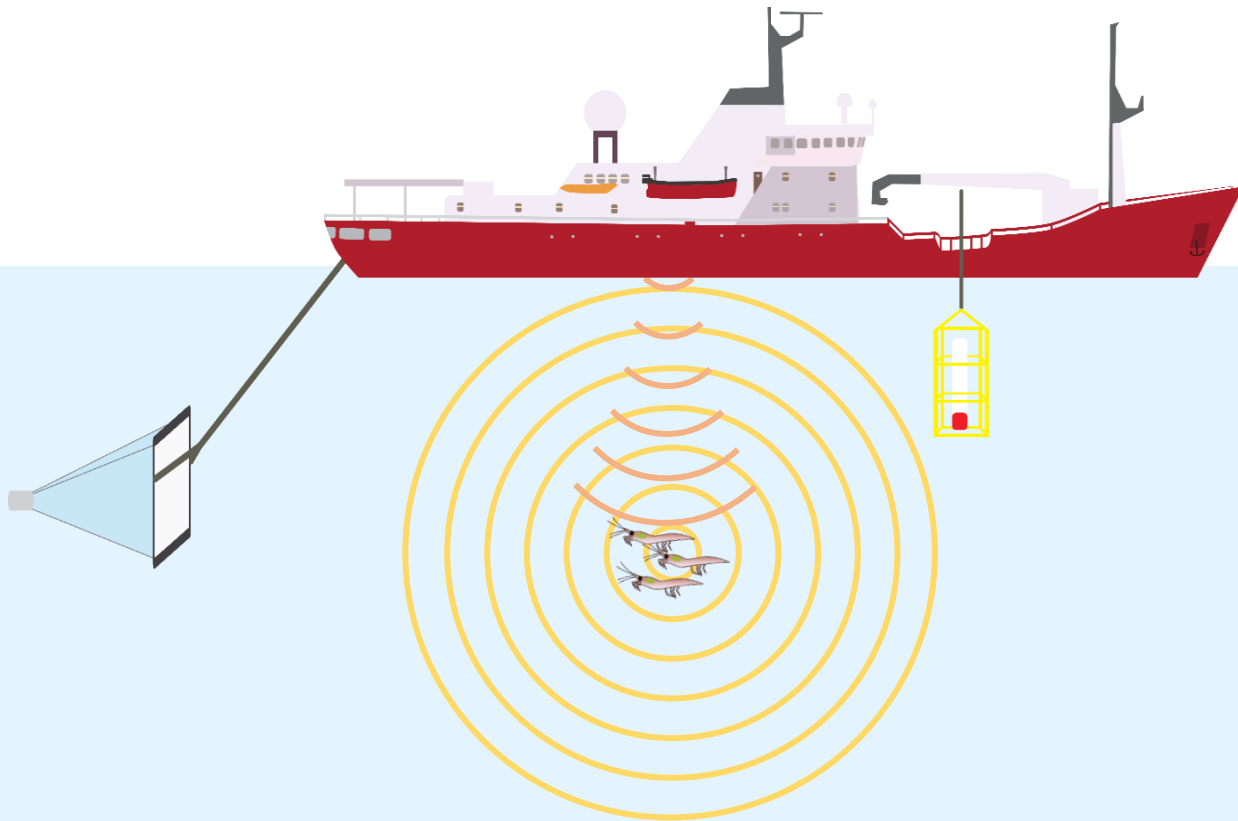
## Benefits

- Multiple frequencies
- Good spatial coverage
- Lots of data storage
- Additional sampling





# Antarctic krill surveys – ship



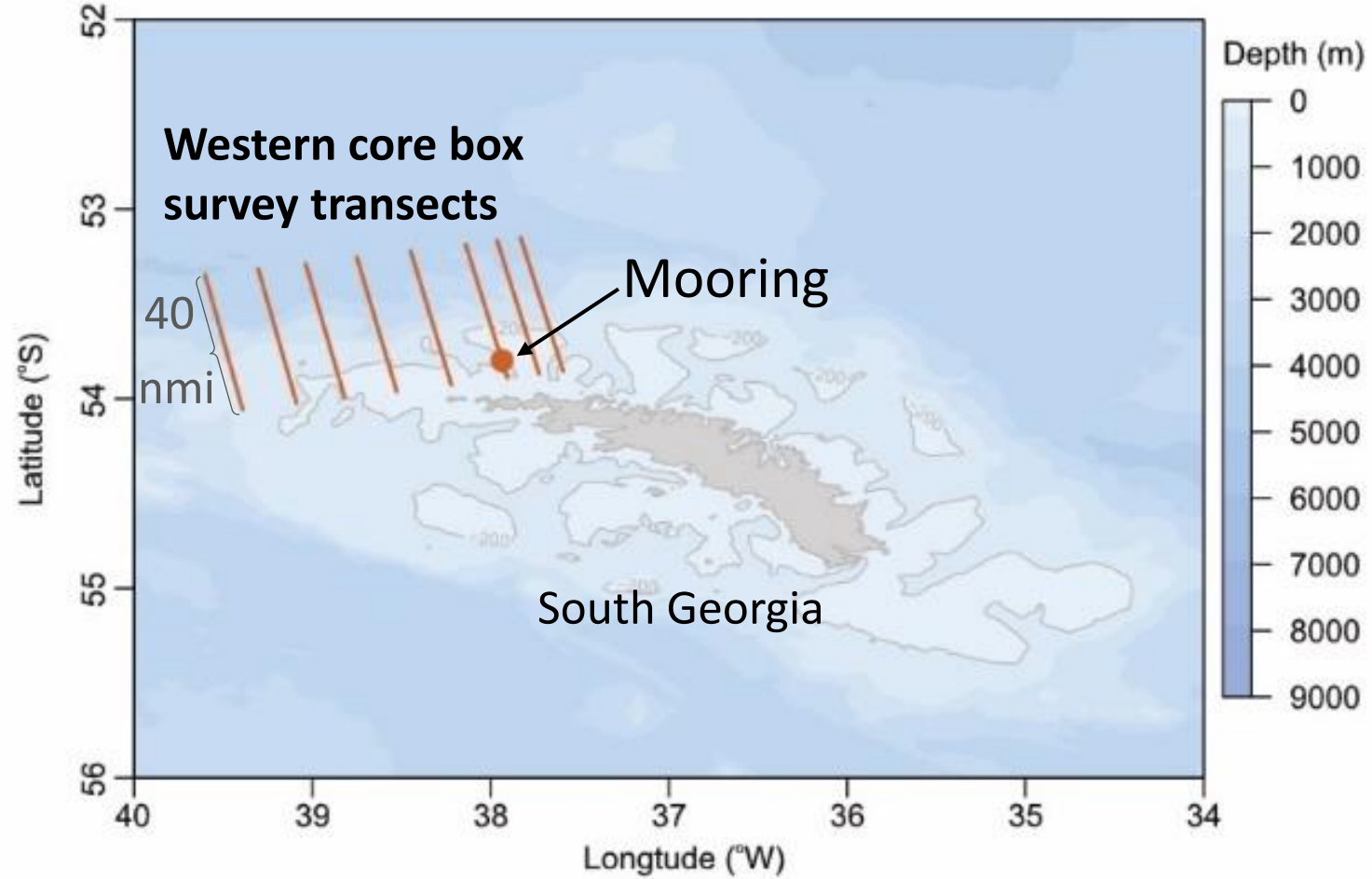
## Benefits

- Multiple frequencies
- Good spatial coverage
- Lots of data storage
- Additional sampling

## Challenges

- Expensive
- Polluting
- Time limited
- Mismatch with fishery

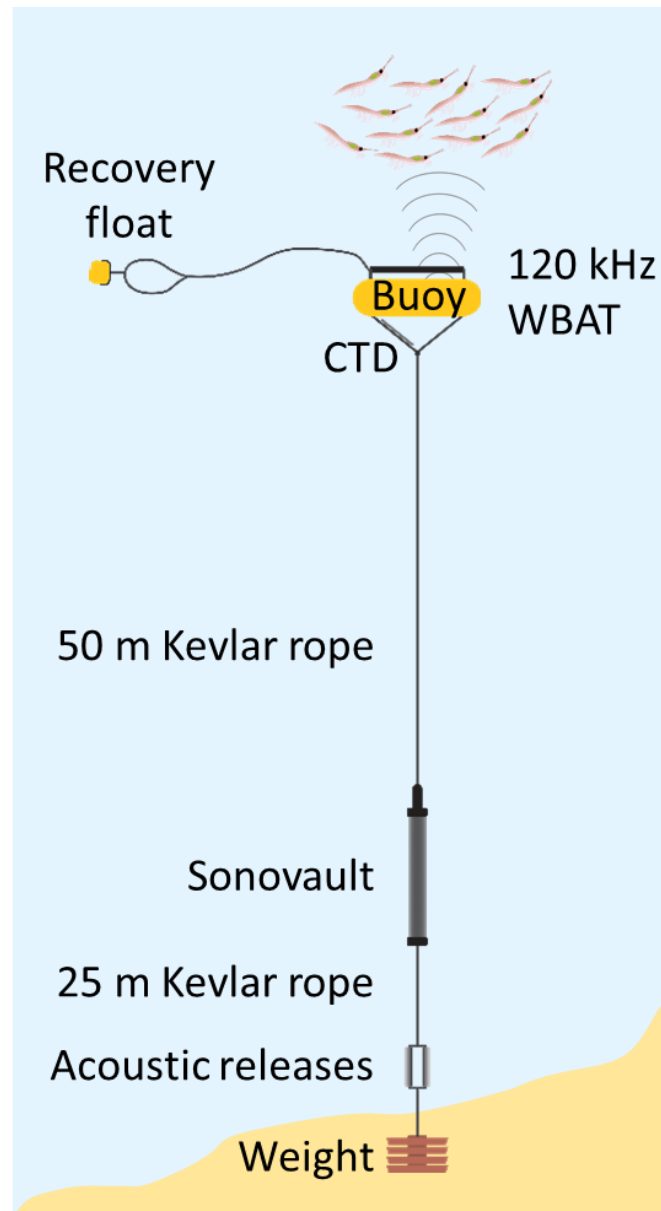
# South Georgia study location





# South Georgia mooring setup

- Jan 2018 – Jan 2022
- Annual deployments
- Samples surface 175 m
- Wideband Autonomous Transceiver (WBAT)
- Upwards facing 120 kHz transducer
- Hourly ping cycle
  - 15 pings (4 s ping interval)
  - 1 min each of CW then FM (chirp)



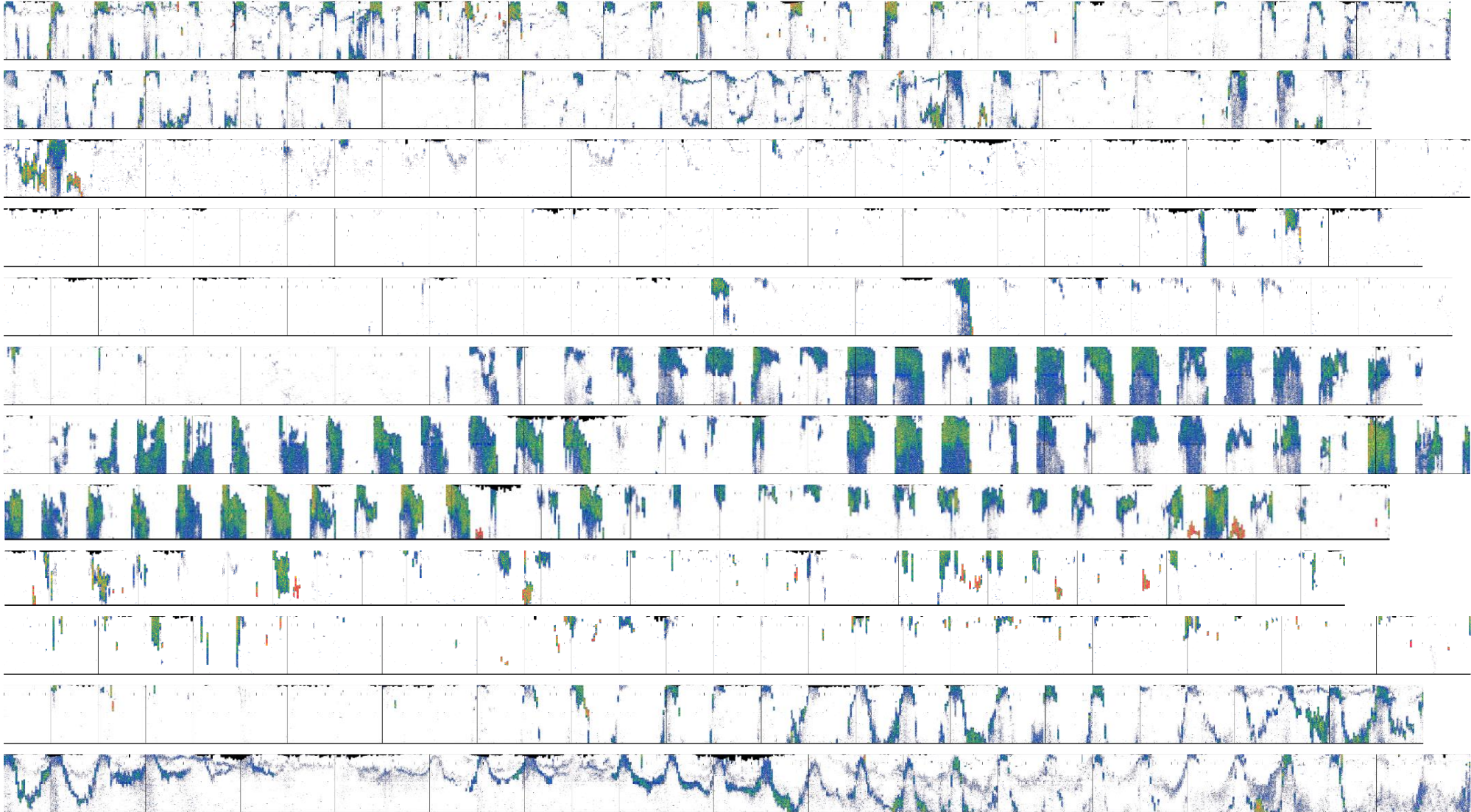
Western Corebox Mooring 2019



# Annual data

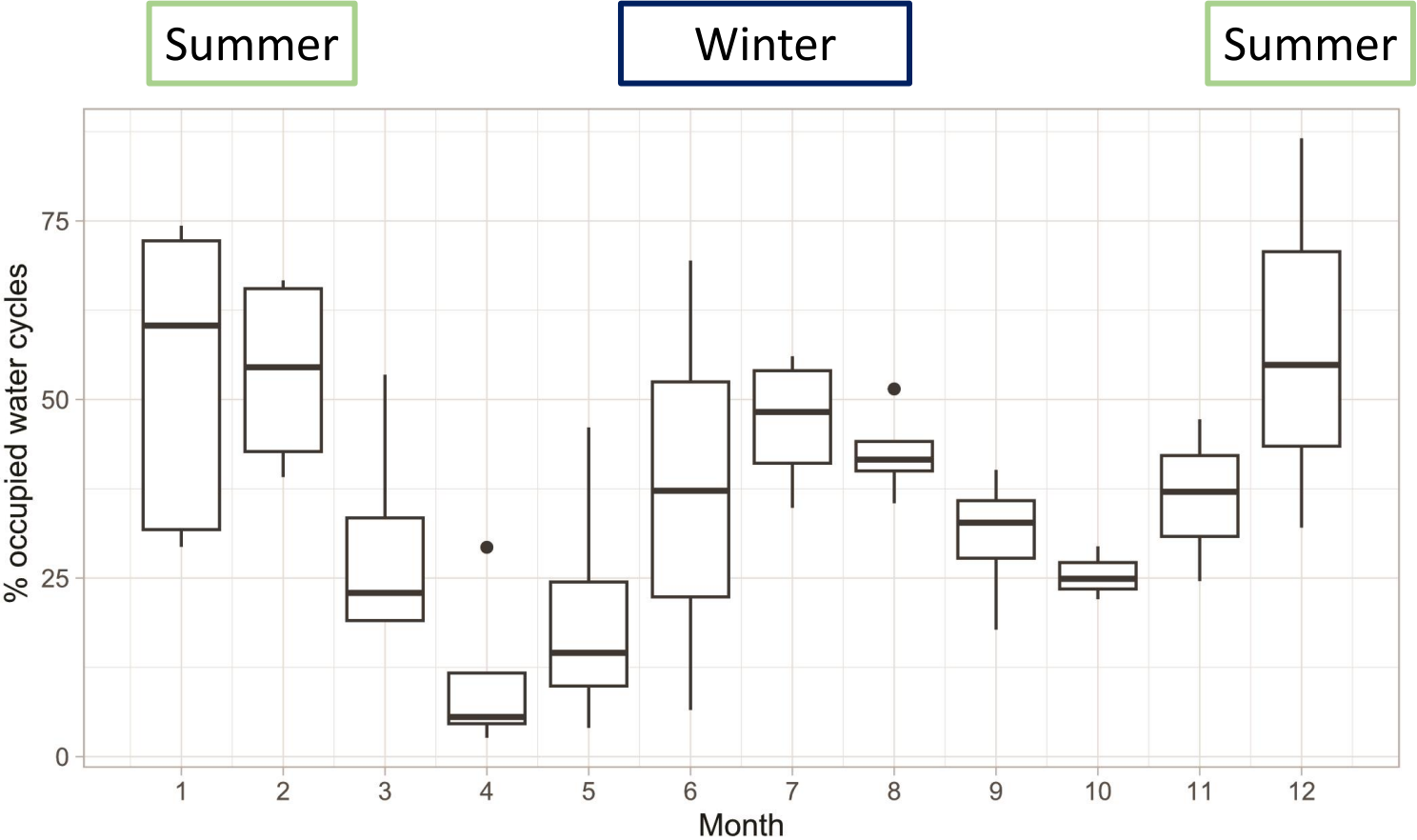
2020

Jan  
Feb  
Mar  
Apr  
May  
Jun  
Jul  
Aug  
Sep  
Oct  
Nov  
Dec



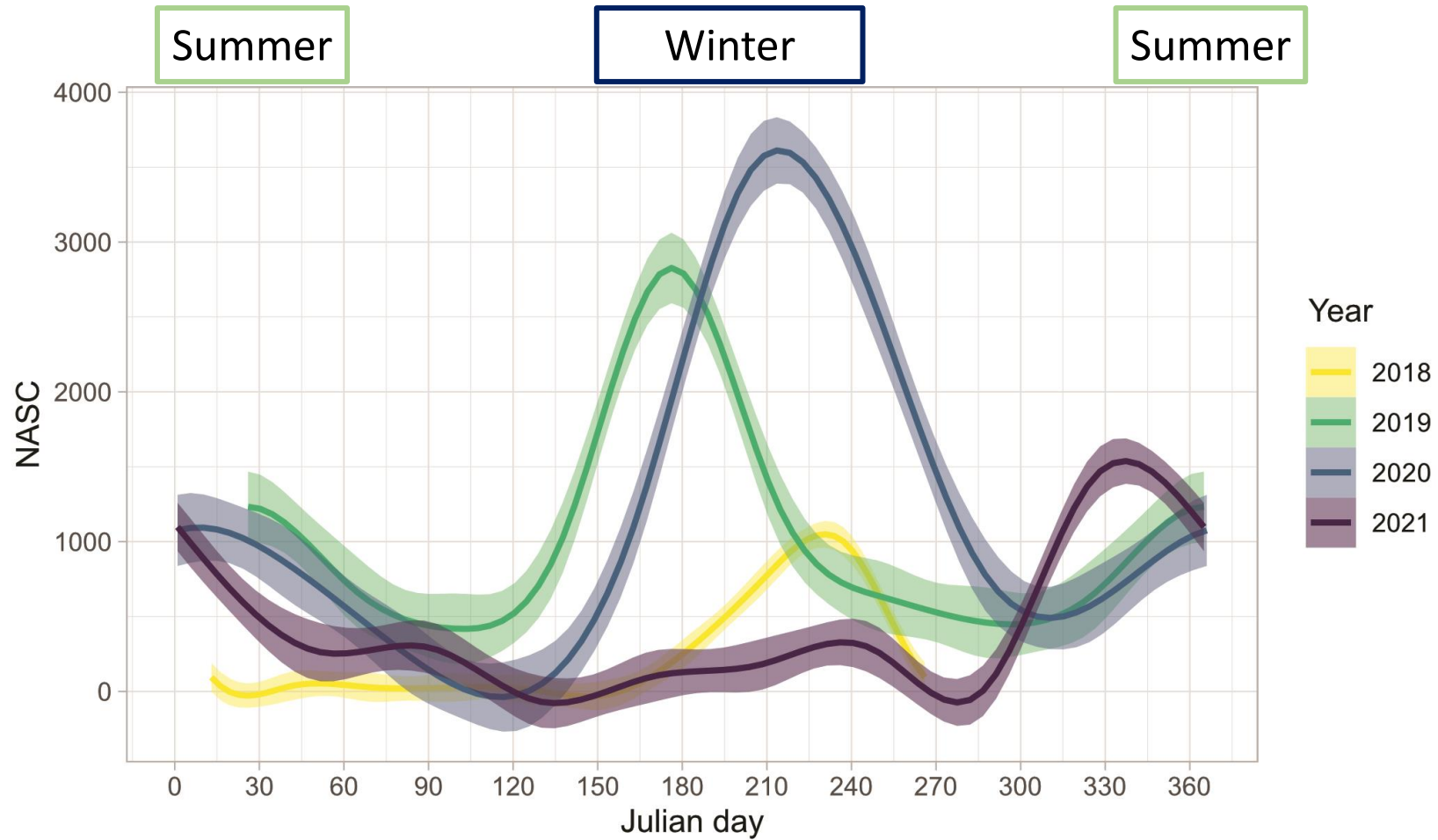


# Temporal variation in water occupation

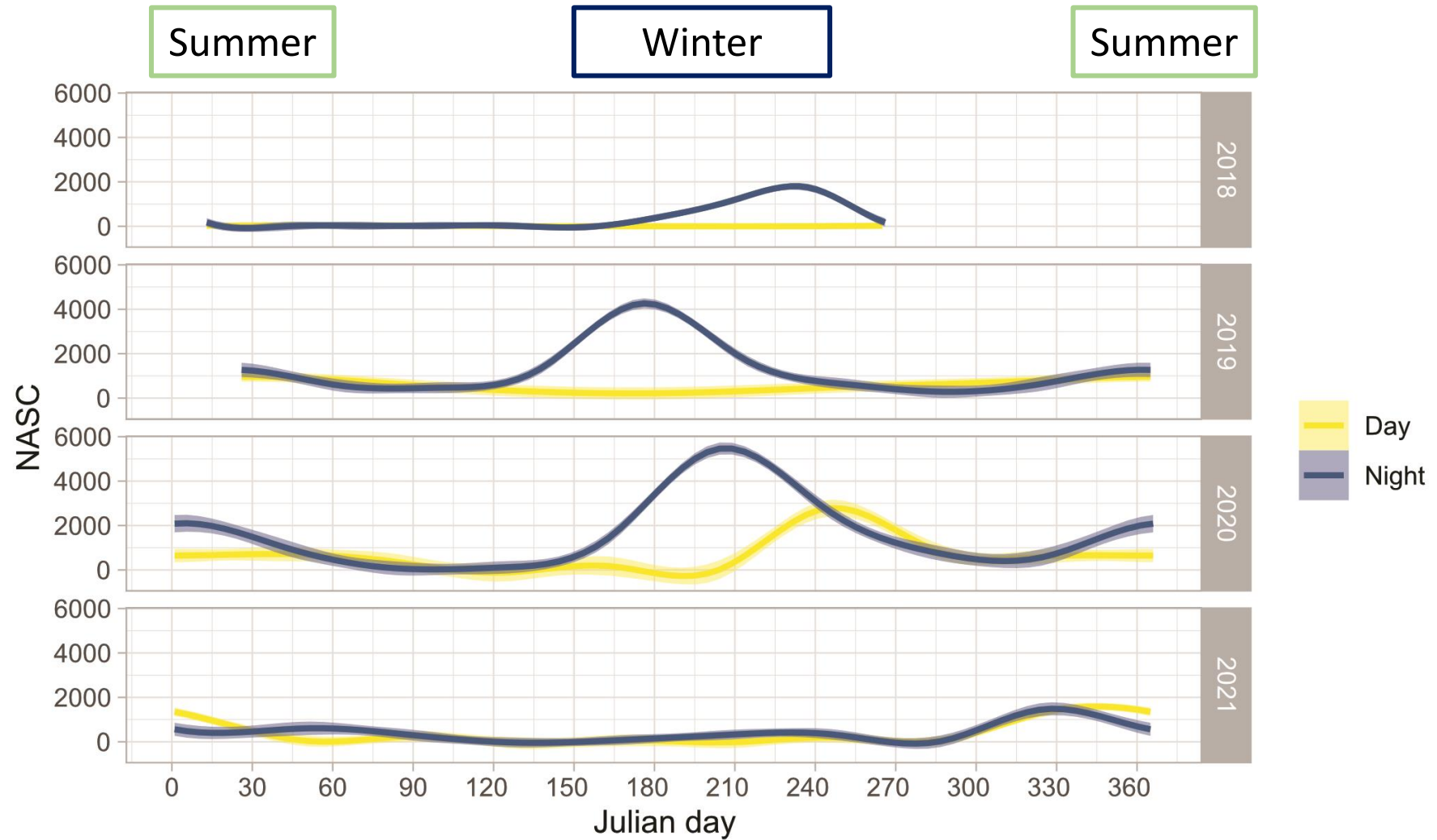


# Temporal variation in total water column NASC

Proxy for biomass

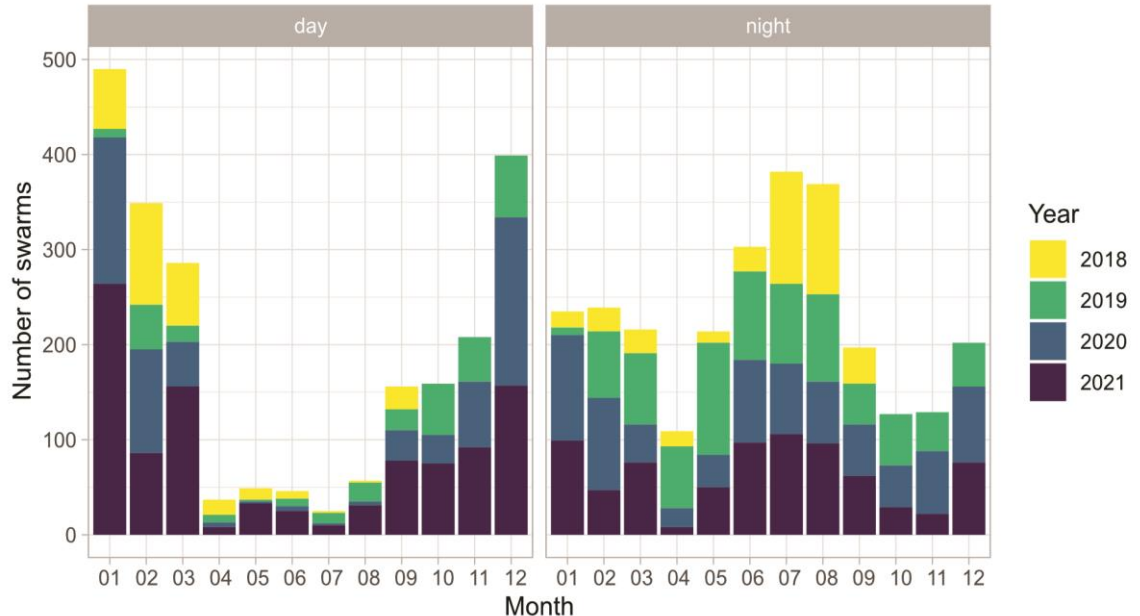
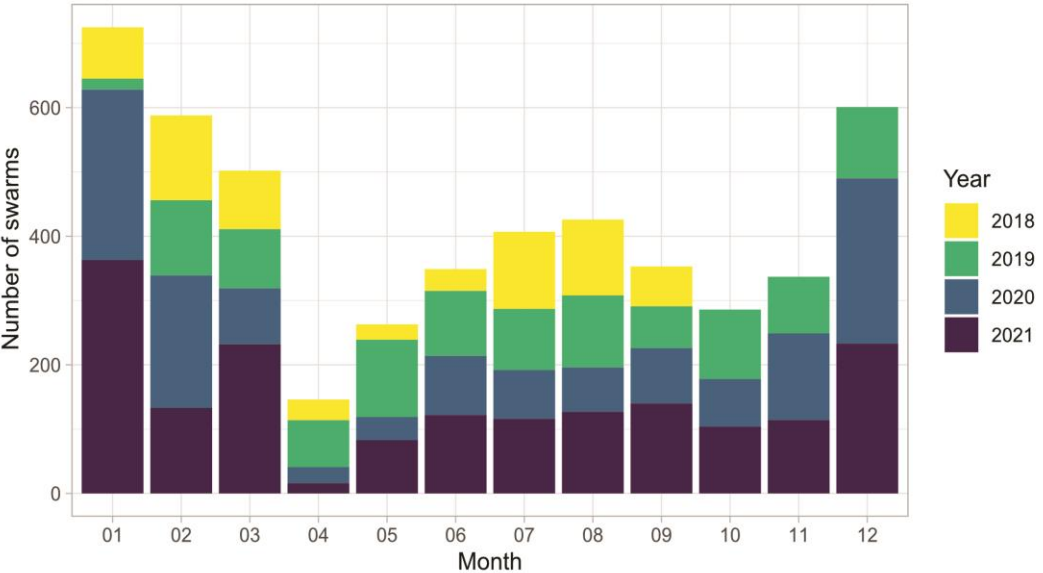


# Day-night effects in total water column NASC

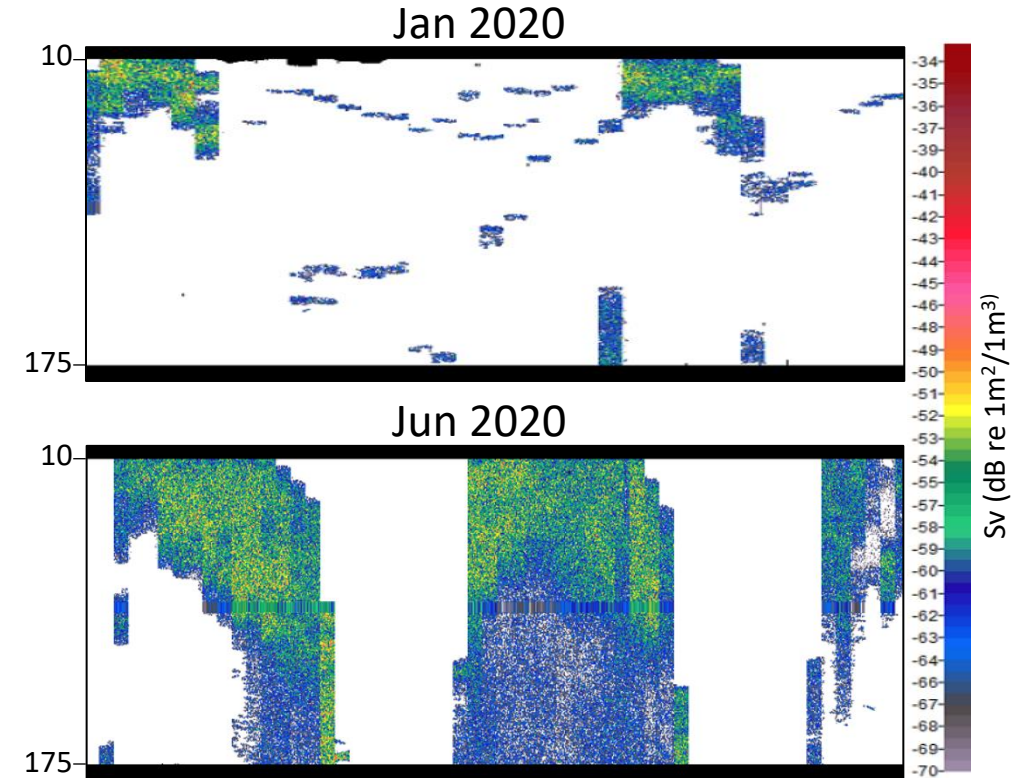
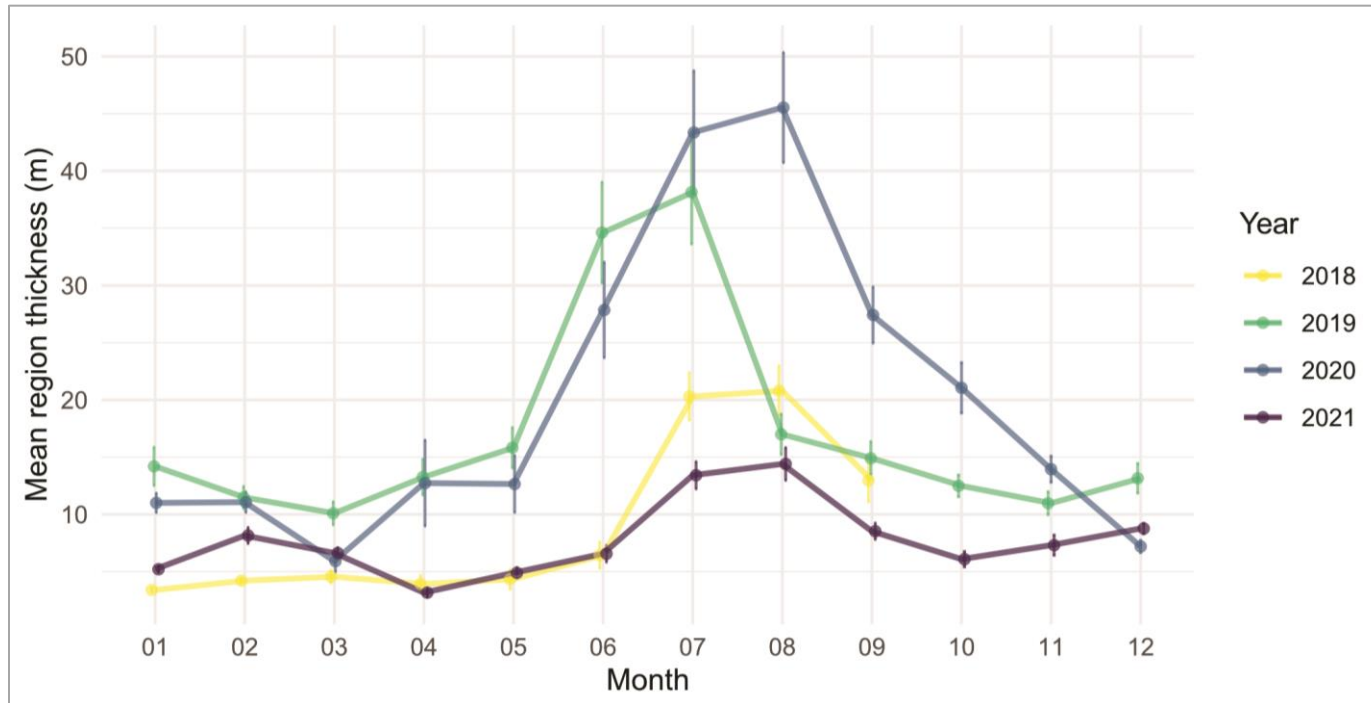




# Temporal swarm patterns – Number of swarms



# Temporal swarm patterns – Thickness of swarms



# Summary

- Clear seasonal and day-night trends in backscatter
- Excellent temporal data to study behaviour and abundance
- Moorings are cost effective
- Opportunities for interdisciplinary studies

But

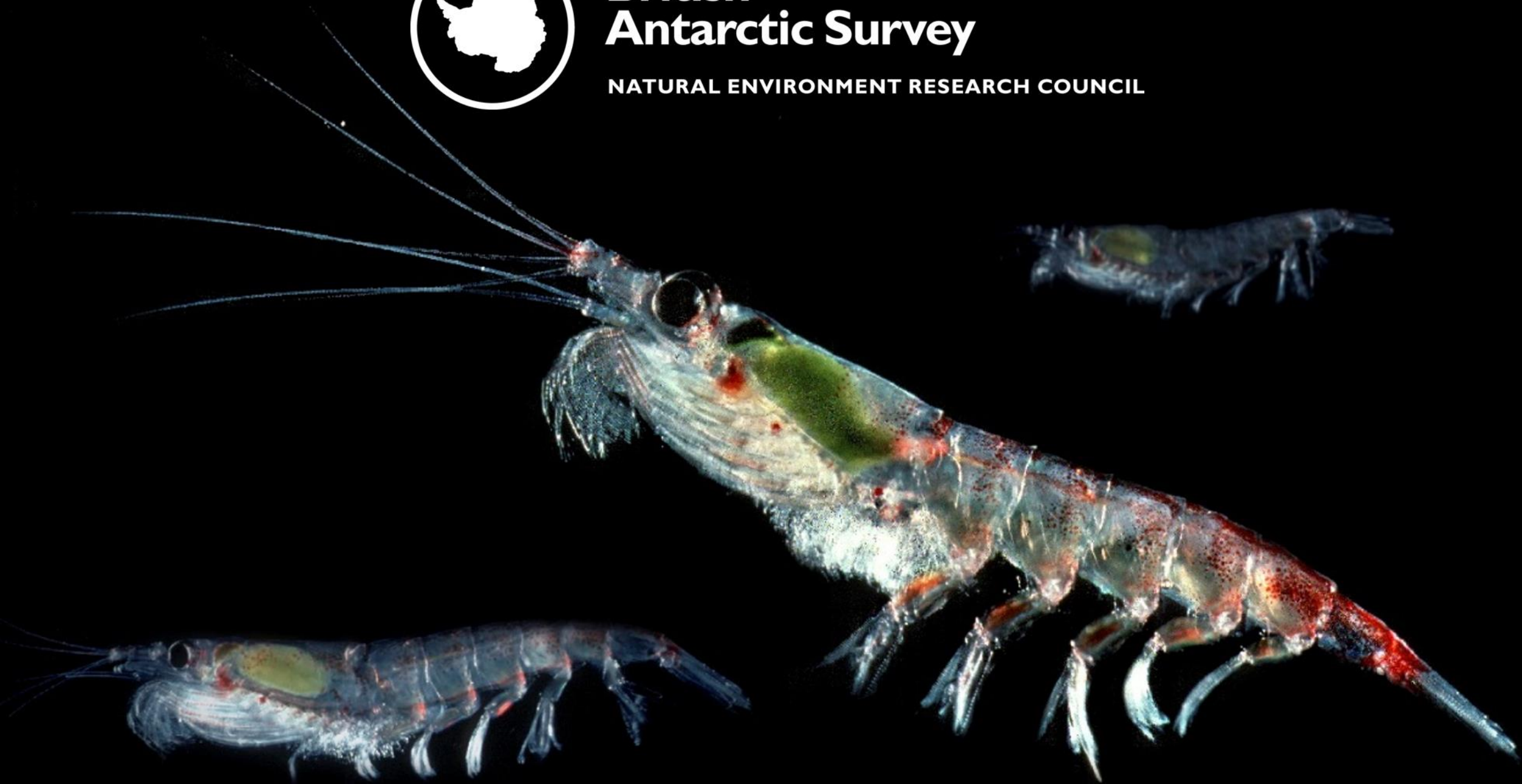
- Challenges remain on species ID
- Ships for deployment and recovery
- Point source that could be addressed with mooring arrays





# British Antarctic Survey

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL



# José Quieros

University of Coimbra



ESA



Sue G



Rod Long



# Cephalopods of the South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands regions



José P. Queirós, José Abreu, Lucas Bastos, Débora Carmo, Joana Fragão, Hugo R. Guimarães, Mariana Quitério, Sara Santos, José Seco, José C. Xavier and many BAS colleagues



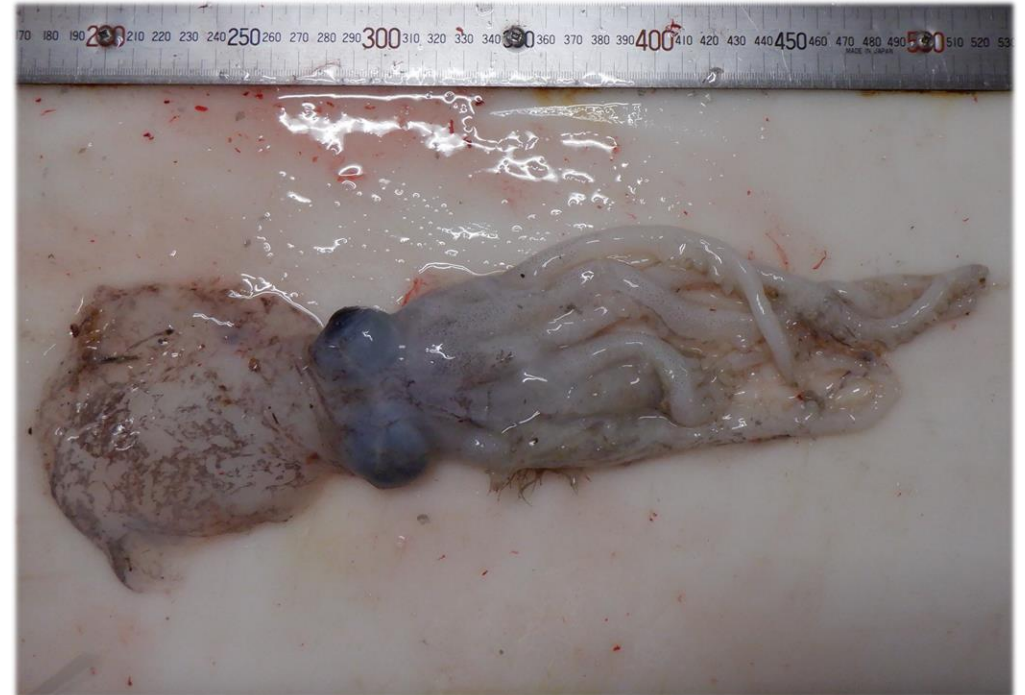
# Contents

- What we know about cephalopods in the region
- What we've done since 2017
  - Cephalopods as prey of top predators
  - Cephalopods' ecology
- What we are doing



# What we knew?

➤ Squid and octopods



*Pareledone turqueti* sampled at South Georgia

# What we knew?



- Squid and octopods
  - 20 species at South Georgia
  - 7 species at South Sandwich Islands

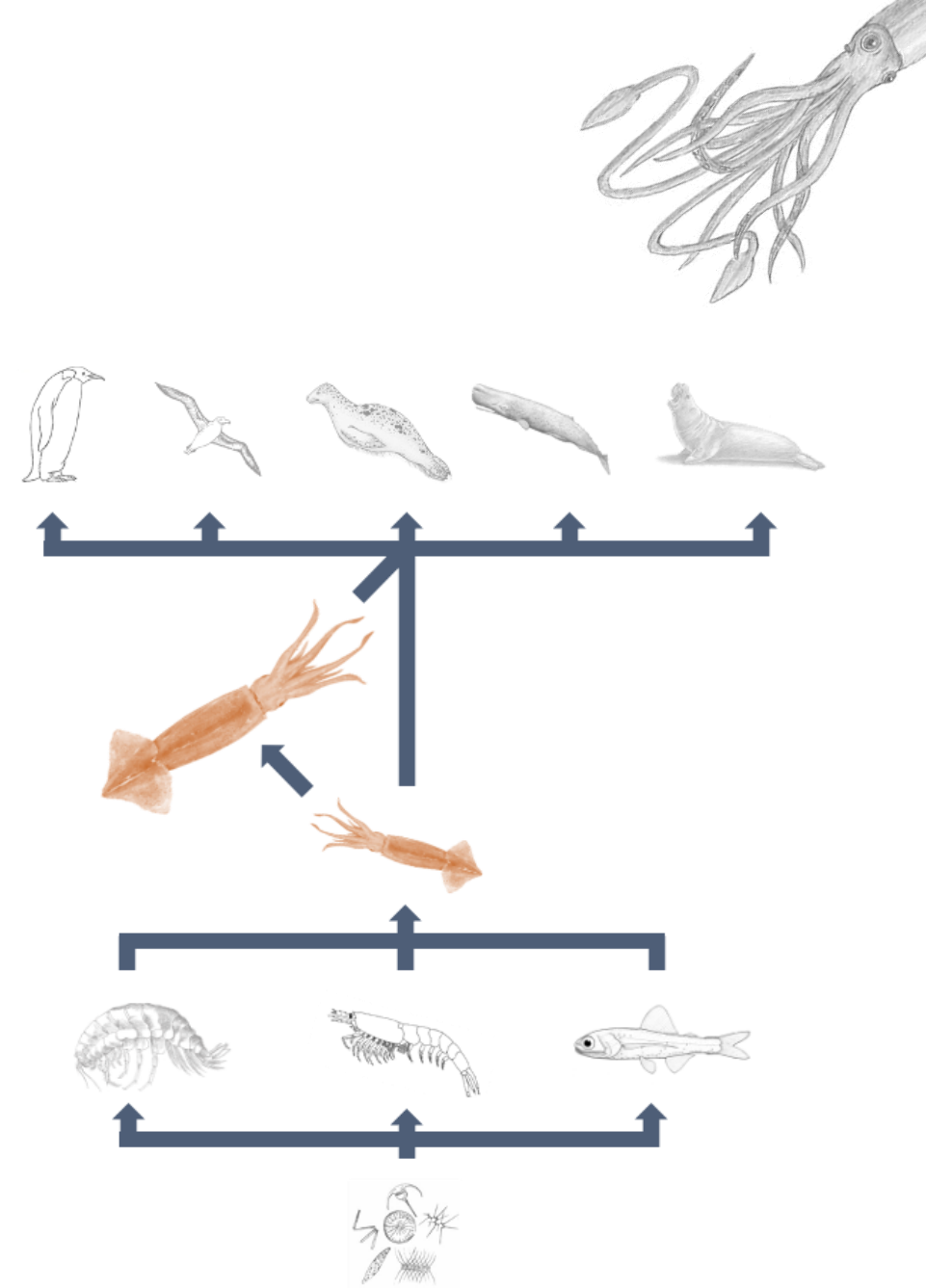


*Pareledone turqueti* sampled at South Georgia



# What we knew?

- Squid and octopods
- Important role in the food-web



# What we knew?

- Squid and octopods
- Important role in the food-web
  - Predators of zooplankton and small fish
  - Prey of several top predators



*Mirounga leonina*



*Diomedea exulans*



*Dissostichus eleginoides* (top)  
and *D. mawsoni* (bottom)



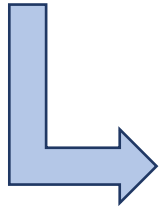
*Arctocephalus gazella*

# What we knew?



- Squid and octopods

- Important role in the food-web



Important pathways in the ecosystem:

Energy

Trace elements (e.g. mercury)

# What we knew?

- Squid and octopods
- Important role in the food-web
- Potential for commercial exploitation



*Martialia hyadesi*

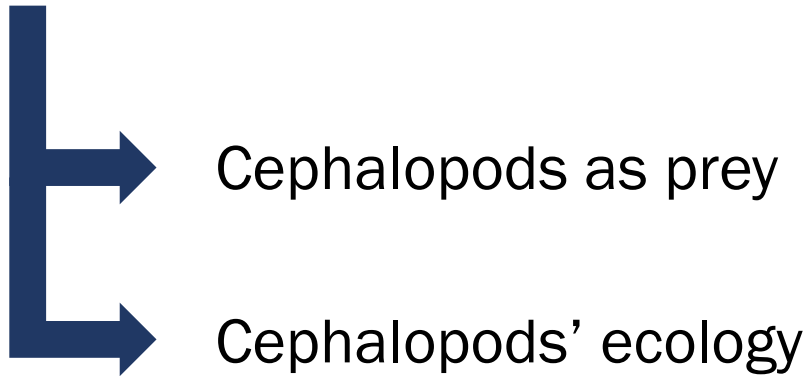
© Rodhouse et al 2014



# What is important to know?



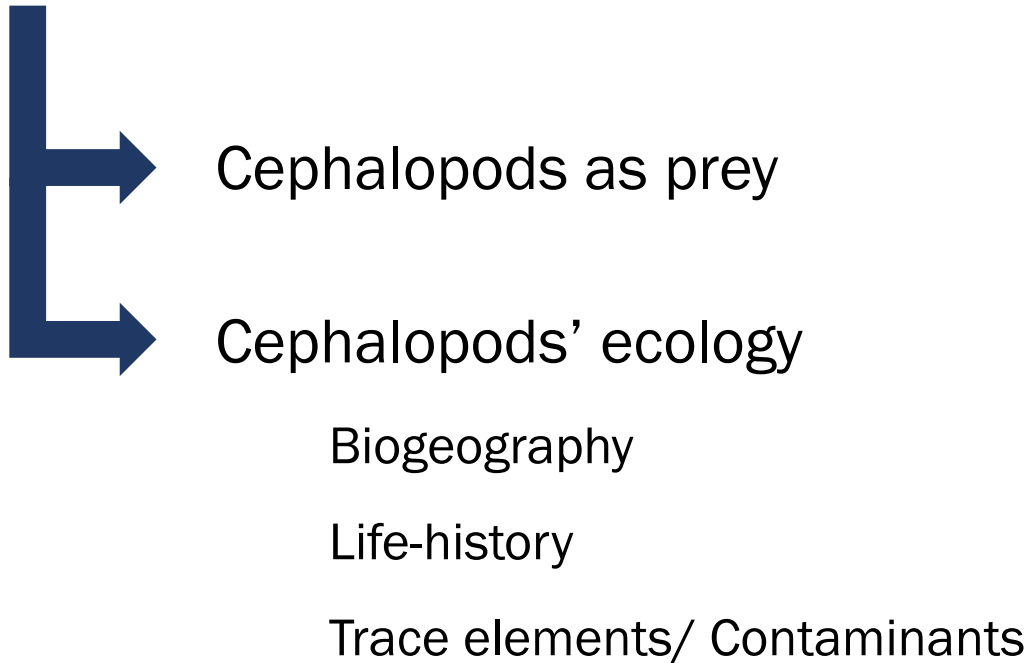
- Squid and octopods
- Important role in the food-web
- Potential for commercial exploitation



# What is important to know?



- Squid and octopods
- Important role in the food-web
- Potential for commercial exploitation



# Cephalopods as prey



Sexual and individual foraging segregation in Gentoo penguins *Pygoscelis papua* from the Southern Ocean during an abnormal winter

José C. Xavier<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Philip N. Trathan<sup>2</sup>, Filipe R. Ceia<sup>1</sup>, Geraint A. Tarling<sup>2</sup>, Stacey Adlard<sup>2</sup>, Derren Fox<sup>2</sup>, Ewan W. J. Edwards<sup>2</sup>, Rui P. Vieira<sup>1a</sup>, Renata Medeiros<sup>3</sup>, Claude De Broyer<sup>4</sup>, Yves Cherel<sup>5</sup>

Vol. 567: 257–262, 2017  
<https://doi.org/10.3354/meps12020>

MARINE ECOLOGY PROGRESS SERIES  
Mar Ecol Prog Ser

Published March 13

## Using seabirds to map the distribution of elusive pelagic cephalopod species

Jorge M. Pereira<sup>1,\*</sup>, Vítor H. Paiva<sup>1</sup>, José C. Xavier<sup>1,2</sup>

Vol. 628: 211–221, 2019  
<https://doi.org/10.3354/meps13100>

MARINE ECOLOGY PROGRESS SERIES  
Mar Ecol Prog Ser

Published October 10

## Squid in the diet of Antarctic fur seals: potential links to oceanographic conditions and Antarctic krill abundance

José Abreu<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Iain Staniland<sup>3</sup>, Clara F. Rodrigues<sup>2</sup>, José P. Queirós<sup>1</sup>, Jorge M. Pereira<sup>1</sup>, José C. Xavier<sup>1,3</sup>

# Cephalopods as prey



➤ Gentoo penguins feed on juveniles



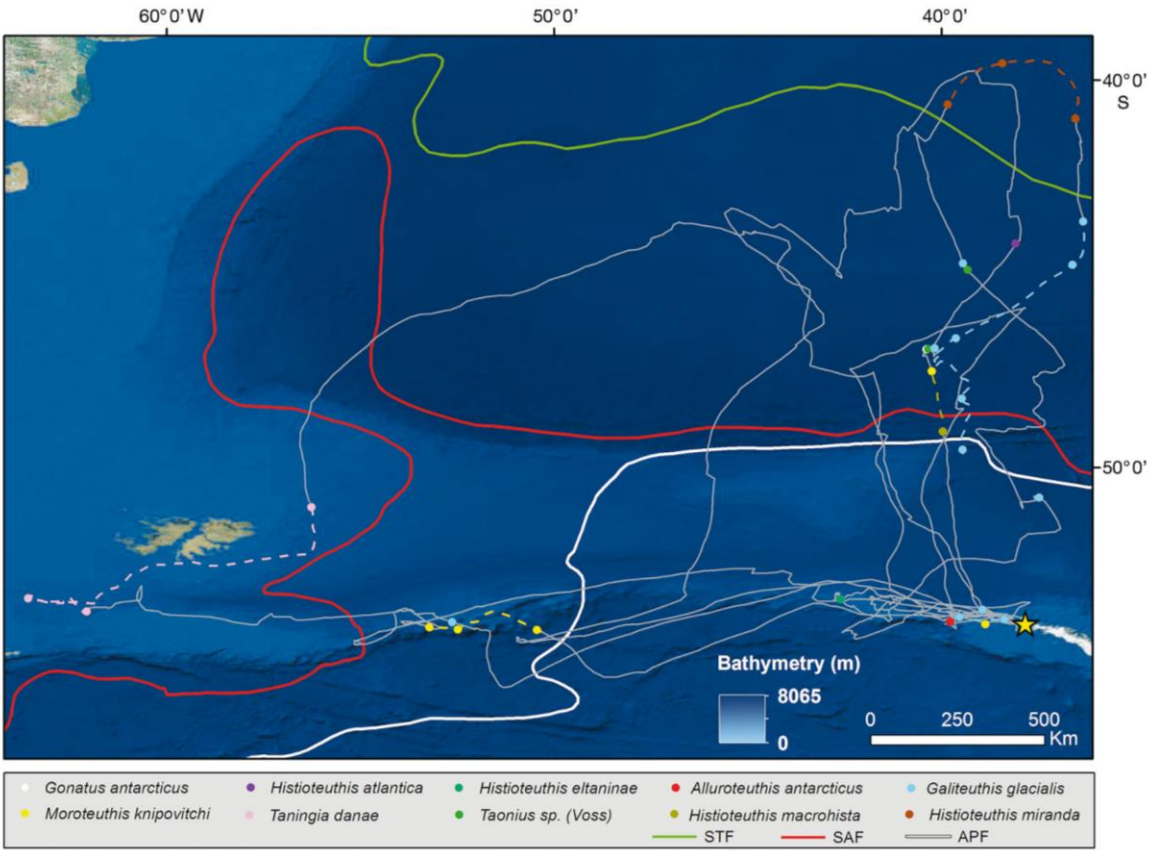
Cephalopods			LRL Mean (range)	ML Mean (range)	Mass Mean (range)
<i>Kondakovia longimana</i>	F	1	1.1	18.7	2.5
	M	yes (upper beak)			
	F+M	2	1.1	18.7	2.5
<i>Slosarczykovia circumantarctica</i>	F	2	0.7	30.4	1.0
	M	2	1.4 (1.0–1.8)	44.6 (36.5–52.6)	2.9 (1.7–4.0)
	F+M	4	1.1 (0.7–1.8)	37.5 (30.4–52.6)	1.9 (1.0–4.0)



# Cephalopods as prey



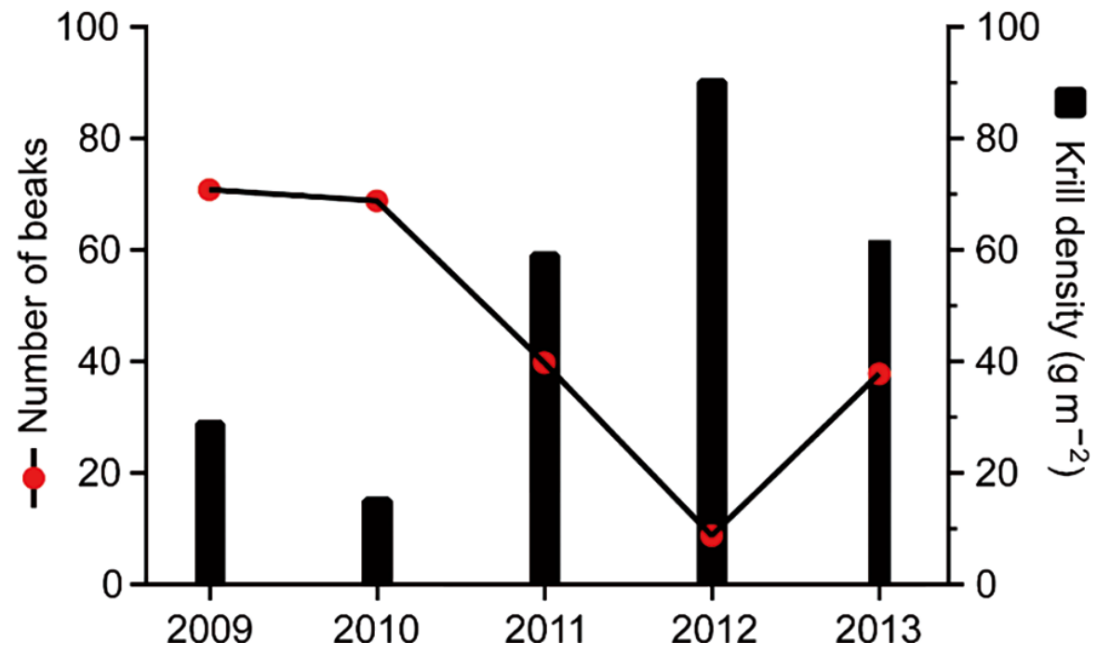
- Gentoo penguins feed on juveniles
- Wandering albatrosses feed in Subtropical and Antarctic squids



# Cephalopods as prey



- Gentoo penguins feed on juveniles
- Wandering albatrosses feed in Subtropical and Antarctic squids
- Antarctic fur seals feed in squid when Antarctic krill is not available



# Cephalopods as prey

British Antarctic Survey • Centre d'Etudes Biologiques de Chizé • Centro de Ciências do Mar e do Ambiente

## CEPHALOPOD BEAK GUIDE FOR THE SOUTHERN OCEAN: an update on taxonomy

J. C. Xavier & Y. ChereI



SOUTHERN OCEAN | 37

### FAMILY ONYCHOTEUTHIDAE Figure 21 | pages 70 & 99

Some species of this family are well known, but some beaks probably belong to undescribed species (e.g. *Moroteuthopsis* sp. B (Imber)).

#### Family identification:

- Distinct jaw angle ridge
- Fold or a ridge on lateral wall (*Moroteuthopsis ingens*, *Moroteuthopsis* sp. B (Imber), and *Onychoteuthis hankii* complex)
- Beaks are often large, particularly *Moroteuthopsis longimana*

The species likely to be found are:

#### *Moroteuthopsis longimana*

ML=-22.348+37.318LRL; M=0.713LRL<sup>3.152</sup> (n=13 for ML; n=22 for M) (Brown & Klages 1987)

#### *Moroteuthopsis ingens*

It is provided the mean value between estimates obtained using equations for males and females (Jackson 1995):

Males: ML=-98.59+24.40LRL (n=82); females: ML=-27.84+44.63LRL (n=68)

Males: logM= 1.22+1.80logLRL (n=82); females: logM= 0.15+3.25logLRL (n=68)

#### *Moroteuthis* sp. B (Imber) (no specific equations)

#### *Filippovia knipovitchi*

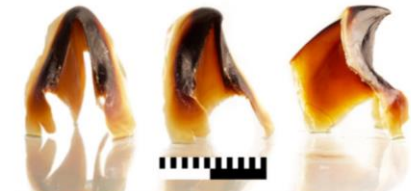
ML=-105.707+62.369LRL; ln M=-0.881+3.798lnLRL (n=7 for ML, n=5 for M) (ChereI, unpublished data)

#### *Onykia rubroni*

ML=-652.91+151.03LRL; ln M=-9.15+8.07lnLRL (n=8 for ML, n=6 for M, using total weight of preserved specimens) (Lu & Ickeringill 2002)

70 | CEPHALOPOD BEAK GUIDE

### FAMILY ONYCHOTEUTHIDAE Figure 21 | pages 37 & 99



<sup>1</sup> *Moroteuthopsis longimana* | adult | Wandering albatross, South Georgia, 11.3 mm LRL



<sup>2</sup> *Moroteuthopsis longimana* | juvenile | Petrelidae southfish, Kerguelen, 3.7 mm LRL


# Cephalopods' ecology




## Biogeography and adaptation to environmental changes

Polar Biology (2018) 41:2409–2421  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00300-018-2376-4>

### Ontogenic changes in habitat and trophic ecology in the Antarctic squid *Kondakovia longimana* derived from isotopic analysis on beaks

José P. Queirós<sup>1,2</sup>  · Yves Cherel<sup>3</sup> · Filipe R. Ceia<sup>2</sup> · Ana Hilário<sup>1,4</sup> · Jim Roberts<sup>5</sup> · José C. Xavier<sup>2,6</sup>

### Long-term changes in habitat and trophic level of Southern Ocean squid in relation to environmental conditions

José Abreu<sup>1</sup> , Richard A. Phillips<sup>2</sup>, Filipe R. Ceia<sup>1</sup>, Louise Ireland<sup>2</sup>, Vítor H. Paiva<sup>1</sup> & José C. Xavier<sup>1,2</sup>

**SCIENTIFIC  
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nature research

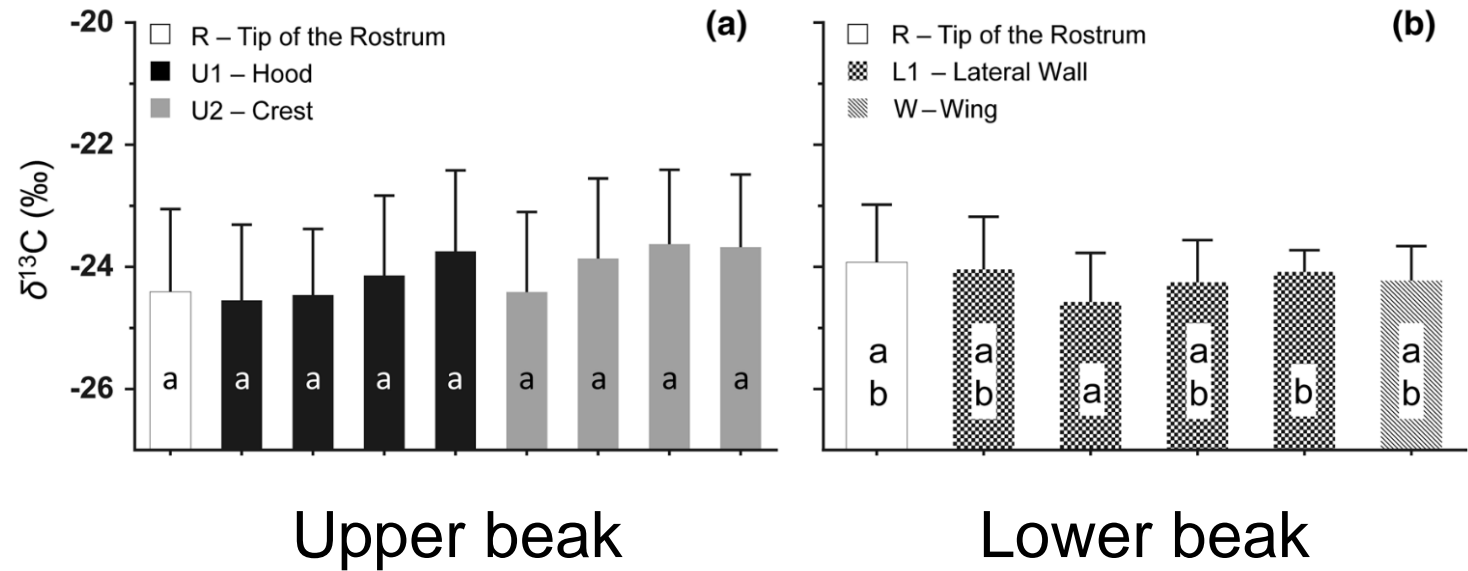


# Cephalopods' ecology



Biogeography and adaptation to environmental changes

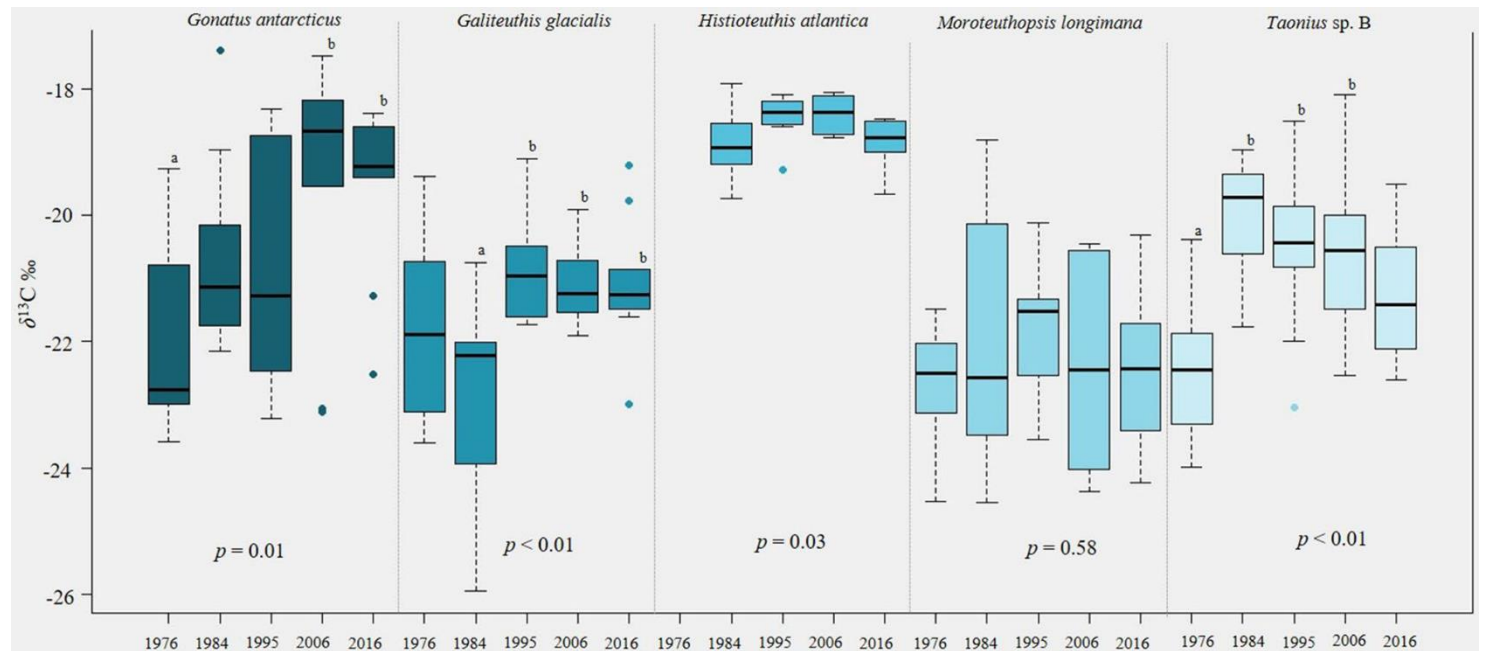
*M. longimana* spends its entire life in the region



# Cephalopods' ecology



- Biogeography and adaptation to environmental changes
  - M. longimana* spends its entire life in the region
  - Potential habitat shifts with climate change



# Cephalopods' ecology



## Trophic ecology

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nature research

Marine Environmental Research 150 (2019) 104757



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Marine Environmental Research

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/marenvrev](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/marenvrev)



Show your beaks and we tell you what you eat: Different ecology in sympatric Antarctic benthic octopods under a climate change context

Ricardo S. Matias<sup>a,\*</sup>, Susan Gregory<sup>b,c</sup>, Filipe R. Ceia<sup>a</sup>, Alexandra Baeta<sup>a</sup>, José Seco<sup>d,e</sup>, Miguel S. Rocha<sup>f,g</sup>, Emanuel M. Fernandes<sup>f,g</sup>, Rui L. Reis<sup>f,g,h</sup>, Tiago H. Silva<sup>f,g</sup>, Eduarda Pereira<sup>d</sup>, Uwe Piatkowski<sup>i</sup>, Jaime A. Ramos<sup>a</sup>, José C. Xavier<sup>a,b</sup>

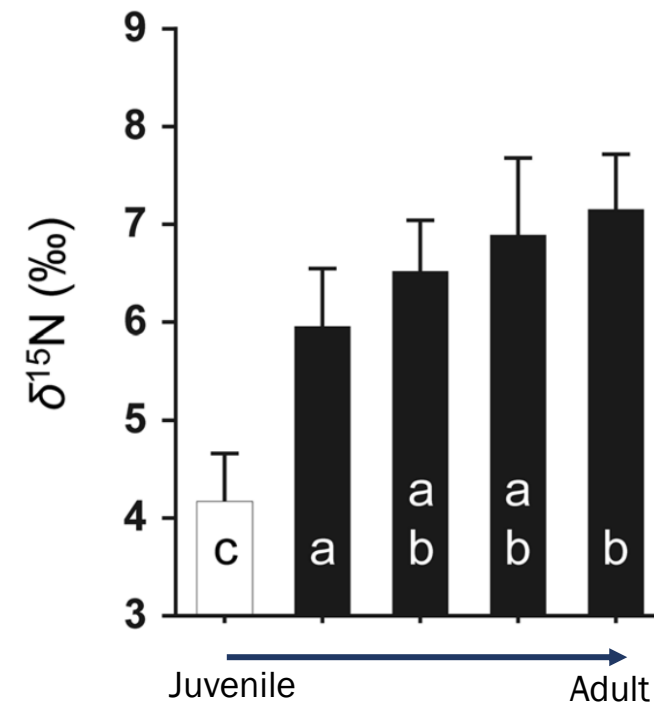


# Cephalopods' ecology



## Trophic ecology

*M. longimana* increase >1 trophic level with grow





# Cephalopods' ecology



## Trophic ecology

- M. longimana* increase >1 trophic level with grow
- No influence of environmental conditions on the trophic position

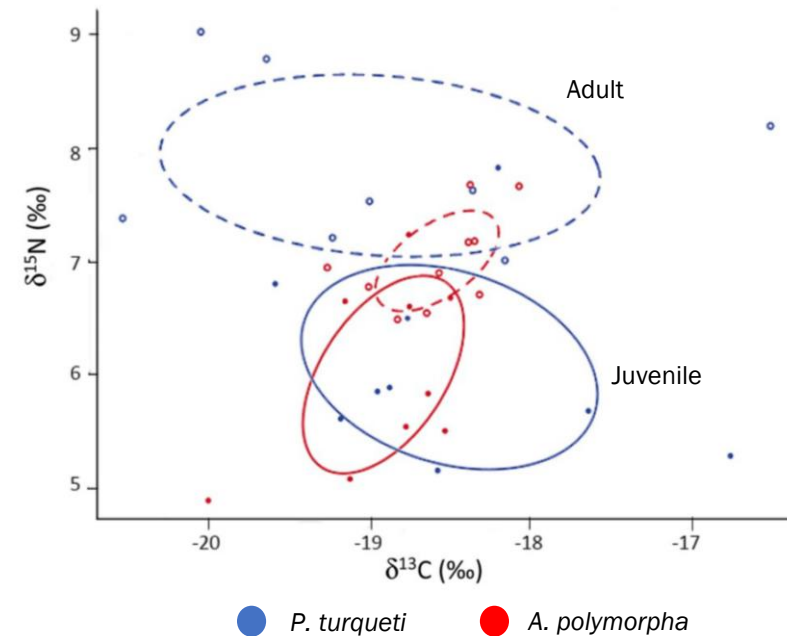
Year	$\delta^{15}\text{N}$ (‰)				
	<i>Moroteuthopsis longimana</i>	<i>Taonius sp. B</i>	<i>Gonatus antarcticus</i>	<i>Galiteuthis glacialis</i>	<i>Histioteuthis atlantica</i>
1976	6.1 ± 0.38	10.54 ± 0.72	9.52 ± 0.80	7.05 ± 1.32	--
1984	6.49 ± 1.07	10.91 ± 0.97	9.74 ± 0.95	6.89 ± 0.79	10.53 ± 0.66
1995	6.3 ± 0.38	10.78 ± 0.61	10.21 ± 0.87	6.73 ± 0.84	10.89 ± 0.39
2006	6.54 ± 0.42	10.39 ± 0.80	10.2 ± 0.89	6.42 ± 0.75	11.18 ± 0.55
2016	5.94 ± 0.60	9.84 ± 0.94	9.82 ± 0.72	5.92 ± 0.89	10.6 ± 0.56
Statistics (ANOVA)	F <sub>4,45</sub> = 1.65 p = 0.18	F <sub>4,45</sub> = 2.56 p = 0.05	F <sub>4,45</sub> = 1.24 p = 0.31	F <sub>4,43</sub> = 2.21 p = 0.08	F <sub>3,36</sub> = 2.92 p = 0.05

# Cephalopods' ecology



## Trophic ecology

- *M. longimana* increase >1 trophic level with grow
- No influence of environmental conditions on the trophic position
- *P. turqueti* feeds in higher trophic level



# Cephalopods' ecology



## Age and growth

Marine Biology (2023) 170:10  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00227-022-04156-2>

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ORIGINAL PAPER

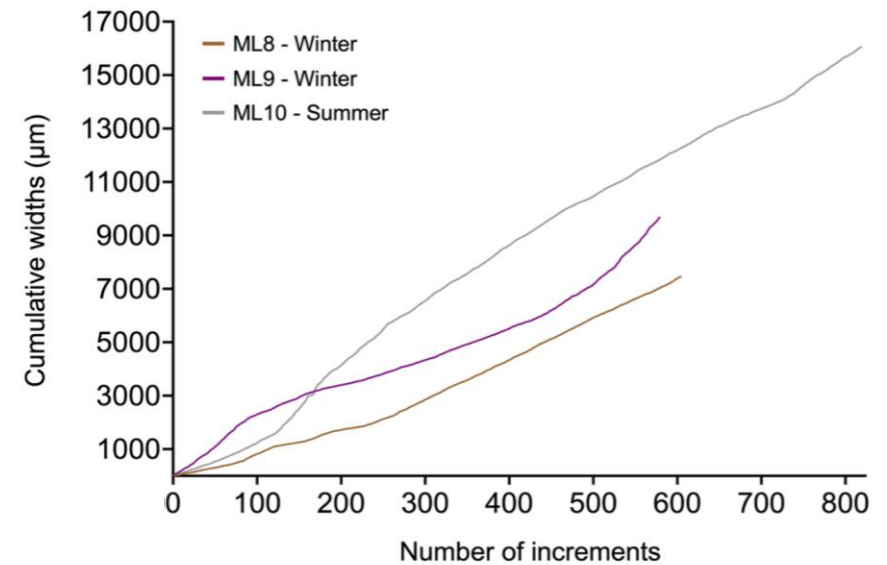
## Age and growth estimation of Southern Ocean squid *Moroteuthopsis longimana*: can we use beaks collected from predators' stomachs?

José P. Queirós<sup>1</sup>  · Aurora Bartolomé<sup>2</sup> · Uwe Piatkowski<sup>3</sup>  · José C. Xavier<sup>1,4</sup>  · Catalina Perales-Raya<sup>2</sup> 

# Cephalopods' ecology



- Age and growth (of *M. longimana*)
  - Life-span of >2 years
  - Hatches throughout the year
  - Spring is a time of faster growth





# Cephalopods' ecology



## Ecotoxicology (focused on Mercury)

[Marine Environmental Research 161 \(2020\) 105049](#)

Cephalopod beak sections used to trace mercury levels throughout the life of cephalopods: The giant warty squid *Moroteuthopsis longimana* as a case study

José P. Queirós<sup>a,\*</sup>, Paco Bustamante<sup>b,c</sup>, Yves Cherel<sup>d</sup>, João P. Coelho<sup>e</sup>, José Seco<sup>f,g</sup>, Jim Roberts<sup>h</sup>, Eduarda Pereira<sup>f</sup>, José C. Xavier<sup>a,i</sup>

[Marine Pollution Bulletin 158 \(2020\) 111447](#)

Antarctic octopod beaks as proxy for mercury concentrations in soft tissues

Ricardo S. Matias<sup>a,\*,1</sup>, José Seco<sup>b,c,1</sup>, Susan Gregory<sup>d,e</sup>, Mark Belchier<sup>d</sup>, Maria E. Pereira<sup>b</sup>, Paco Bustamante<sup>f,g</sup>, José C. Xavier<sup>a,d</sup>

[Chemosphere 239 \(2020\) 124785](#)

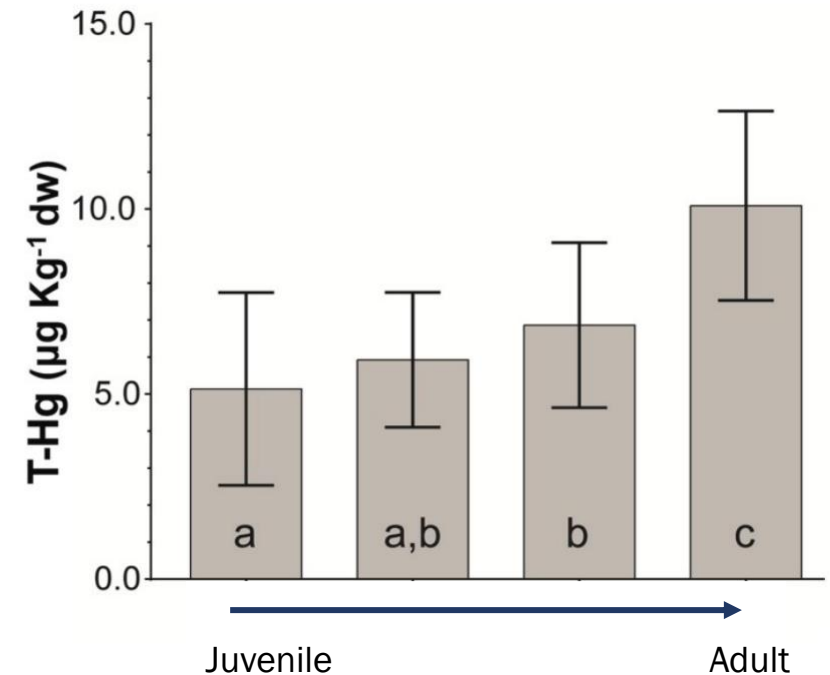
Mercury levels in Southern Ocean squid: Variability over the last decade

José Seco<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, José C. Xavier<sup>c,d</sup>, Andrew S. Brierley<sup>b</sup>, Paco Bustamante<sup>e</sup>, João P. Coelho<sup>f</sup>, Susan Gregory<sup>c,g</sup>, Sophie Fielding<sup>c</sup>, Miguel A. Pardal<sup>h</sup>, Bárbara Pereira<sup>a</sup>, Gabriele Stowasser<sup>c</sup>, Geraint A. Tarling<sup>c</sup>, Eduarda Pereira<sup>a</sup>

# Cephalopods' ecology



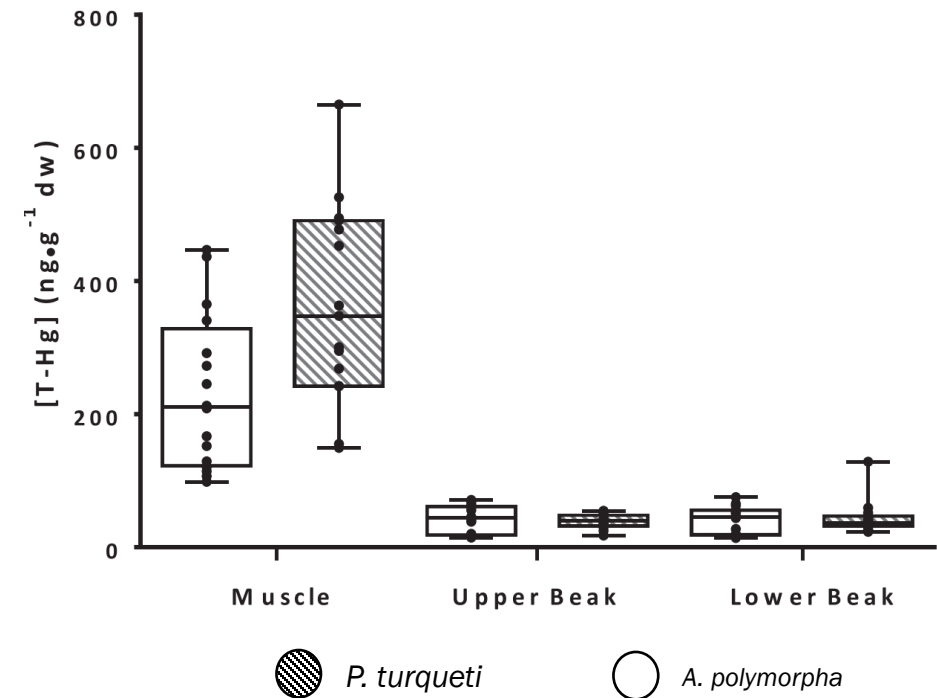
- Ecotoxicology (focused on Mercury)
- M. longimana*'s adults have 2x more mercury



# Cephalopods' ecology



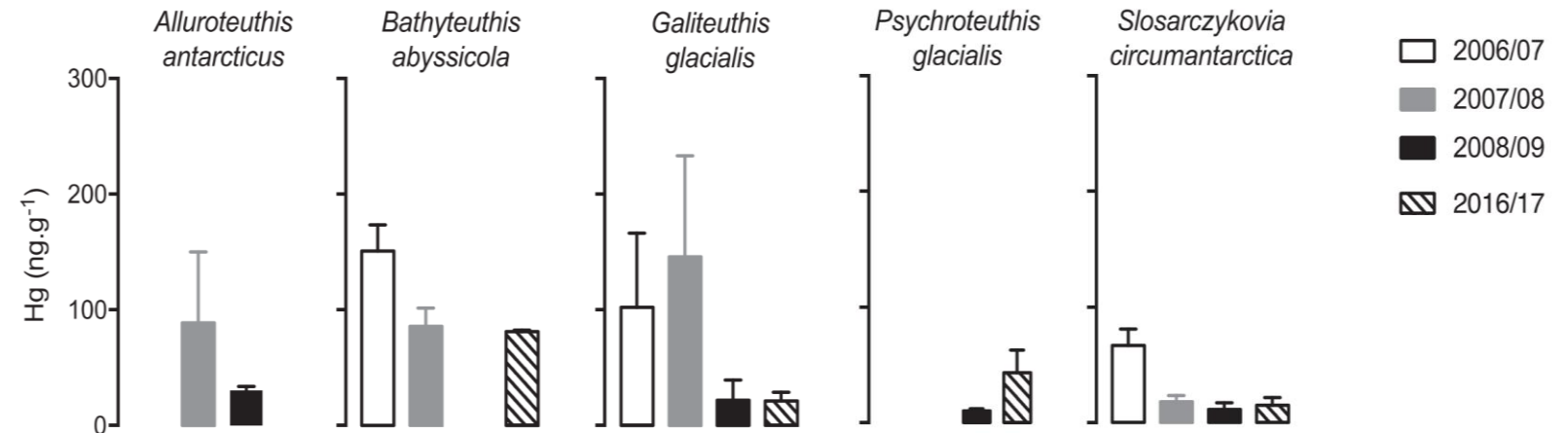
- Ecotoxicology (focused on Mercury)
  - M. longimana*'s adults have 2x more mercury
  - P. turqueti* has more mercury than *A. polymorpha*



# Cephalopods' ecology



- Ecotoxicology (focused on Mercury)
  - M. longimana*'s adults have 2x more mercury
  - P. turqueti* has more mercury than *A. polymorpha*
  - Mercury concentrations decreased





# What are we doing?



- Modelling the importance of cephalopods in terms of biomass
  - Débora Carmo with Simeon Hill
- Role of cephalopods in predators' diet under contrasting environmental conditions
  - Mariana Quitério with Richard Philips
- Cephalopods in the diet of poorly studied predators (e.g. Macrourids)
  - José Abreu with Phil Hollyman, Martin Collins and Richard Philips

# What are we doing?



- Biogeography of cephalopods at South Sandwich Islands
  - José Queirós with Phil Hollyman and Mark Belchier
- Biogeography of cephalopods in the Scotia Sea
  - Lucas Bastos with Martin Collins and Gabi Stowasser
- Baseline studies for new emergent pollutants and microplastics
  - Joana Fragão, José Seco, Sara Santos and Filipa Bessa with Clara Manno, Geraint Tarling and Ryan Saunders

# What are we doing - ATCM



IP 2

**ENG**

Agenda Item: CEP 11  
Presented by: Portugal, United Kingdom  
Original: English  
Submitted: 1/4/2022

|

**Effects of climate change on Antarctic marine food webs: new evidence from squid**

1

IP 32

**ENG**

29.5.-8.6.2023  
Helsinki - Finland

Agenda Item: CEP 11  
Presented by: Portugal, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom  
Original: English  
Submitted: 20 Apr 2023

|

**Mercury in Antarctic marine ecosystems**

1

# To conclude!

- Cephalopods are important to predators in all life-stages
- Cephalopods are available to predators all year-round
- Cephalopods can be an important source of contaminants to predators
- Climate change can induce changes in the habitat of cephalopods





# Thank you



**British  
Antarctic Survey**

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

- 👤 Mark Belchier
- 👤 Ashley Bennison
- 👤 Linda Capper
- 👤 Rachel Cavanagh
- 👤 Martin Collins
- 👤 Pete Convey
- 👤 John Croxall
- 👤 Mike Dunn
- 👤 Sophie Fielding
- 👤 Elaine Fitzcharles
- 👤 Jane Francis
- 👤 Peter Fretwell
- 👤 Paul Geissler
- 👤 Sue Gregory
- 👤 Simeon Hill
- 👤 Guy Hillyard
- 👤 Phil Hollyman
- 👤 Kevin Hughes
- 👤 Louise Ireland
- 👤 Nadine Johnston
- 👤 Clara Manno
- 👤 Eugene Murphy
- 👤 Lloyd Peck
- 👤 Richard Phillips
- 👤 Norman Ratcliffe
- 👤 Paul Rodhouse
- 👤 Ryan Saunders
- 👤 Iain Staniland
- 👤 Gabi Stowasser
- 👤 Geraint Tarling
- 👤 Phil Trathan
- 👤 David Vaughan
- 👤 David Walton
- 👤 Claire Waluda
- 👤 Andy Wood
- 👤 And many other BAS colleagues!





# Juliet Brodie

Natural History Museum



ESA



Sue G



SMSG



# Biodiversity of South Georgia's seaweeds: unique, charismatic and essential

Juliet Brodie & Rob Mrowicki

Natural History Museum, London, UK



**British Antarctic Survey**

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL



# Seaweed collectors in South Georgia



1867: R.O. Cunningham ('Nassau', Extra-tropical South America)

1882-3: German International Polar Year Expedition

1907, 1921 & 1923: C. Skottsberg

1913: P. Stammwitz

1936: 'Discovery' Expedition

1950s: J. Fay, W.N. Bonner

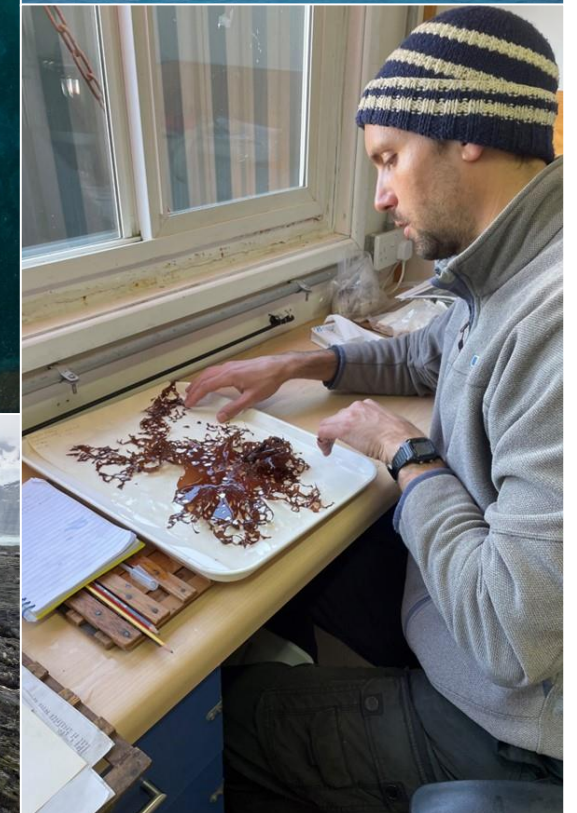
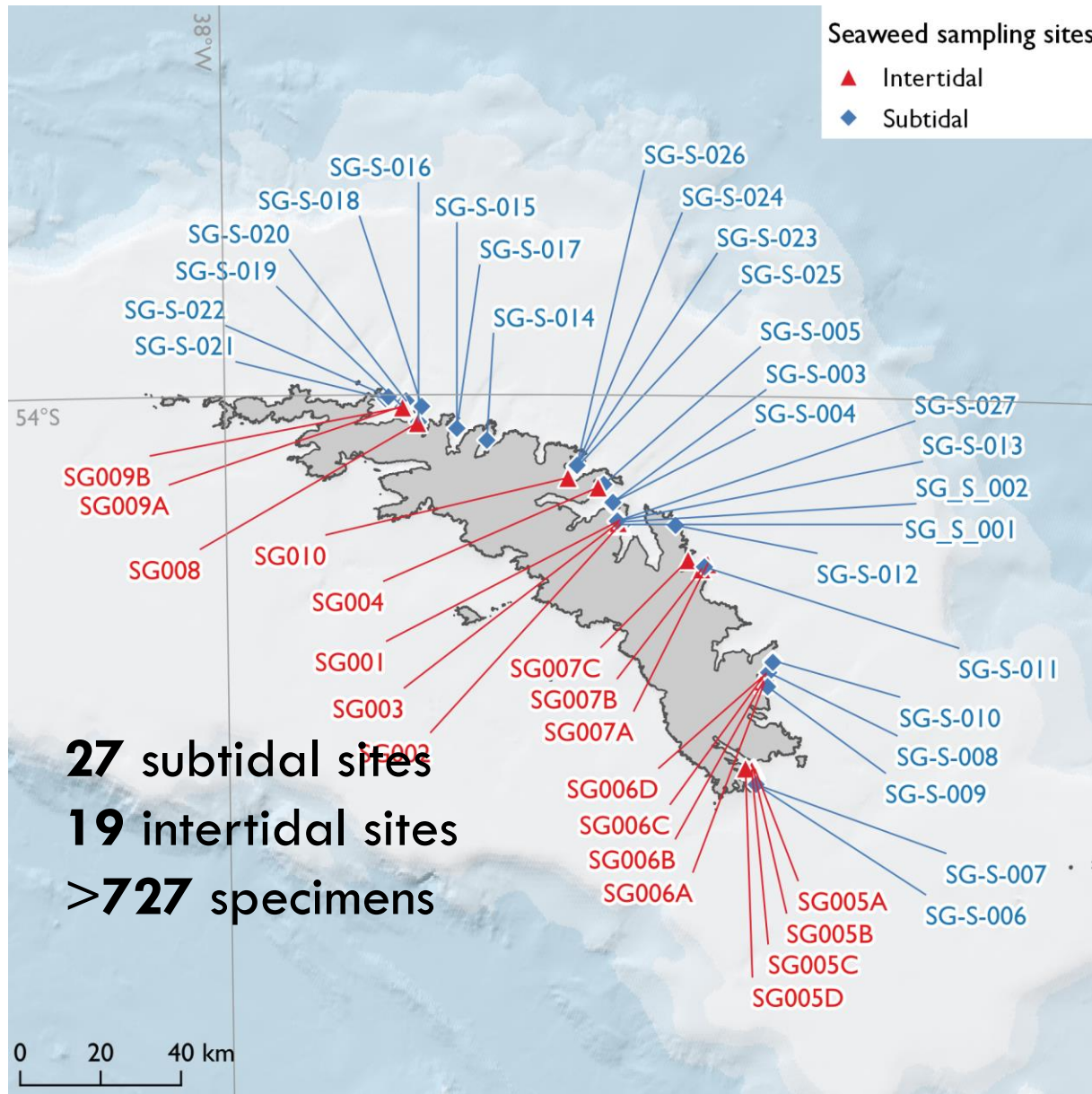
2010: E. Wells (SMSG Expedition)

2021: 'Operation *Himantothallus*'





# South Georgia 'Operation *Himantothallus*' collecting sites 2021





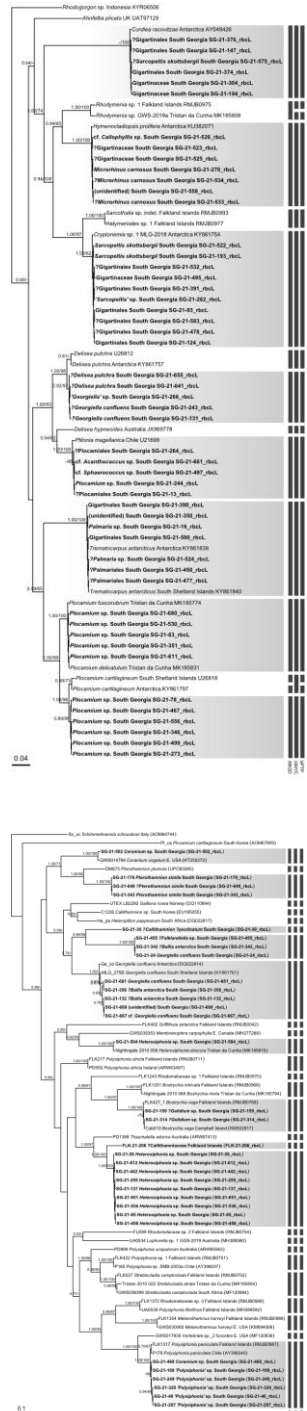
# Creating a reference collection



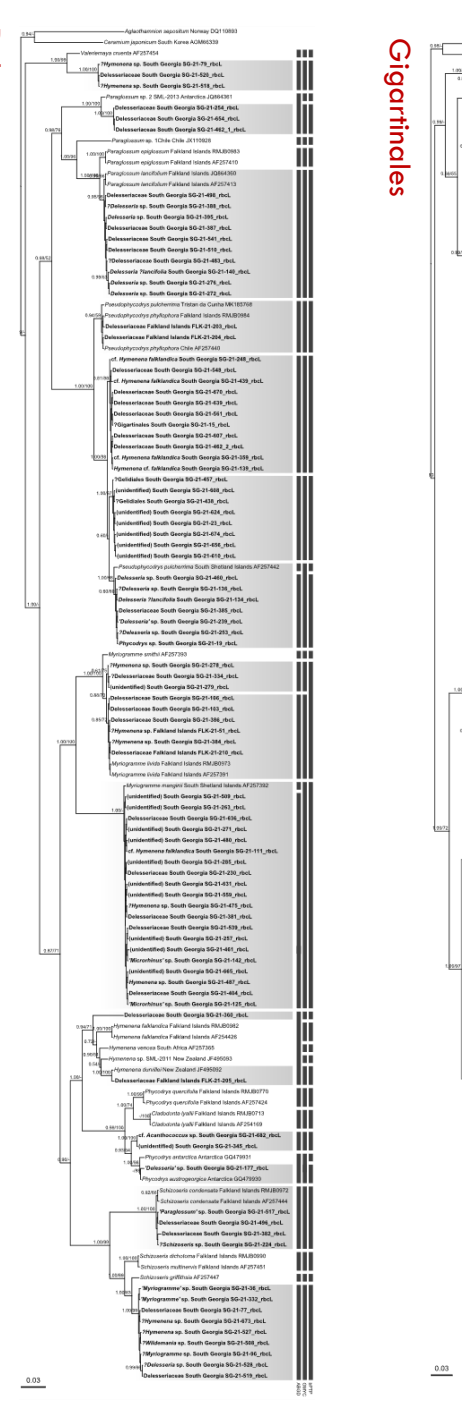


Rhodymenioidae (exc. Ceramiales + Gigartinales)

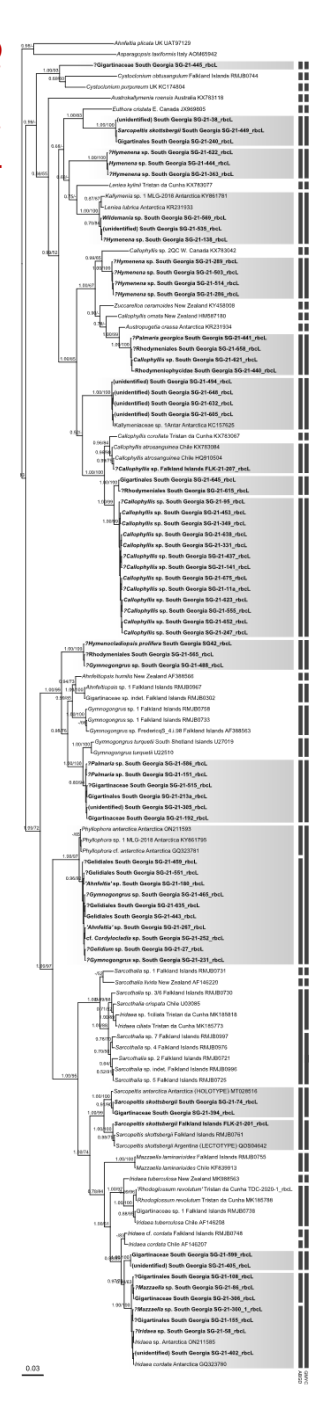
Ceramiales (exc. Delesseriaceae)



Delesseriaceae



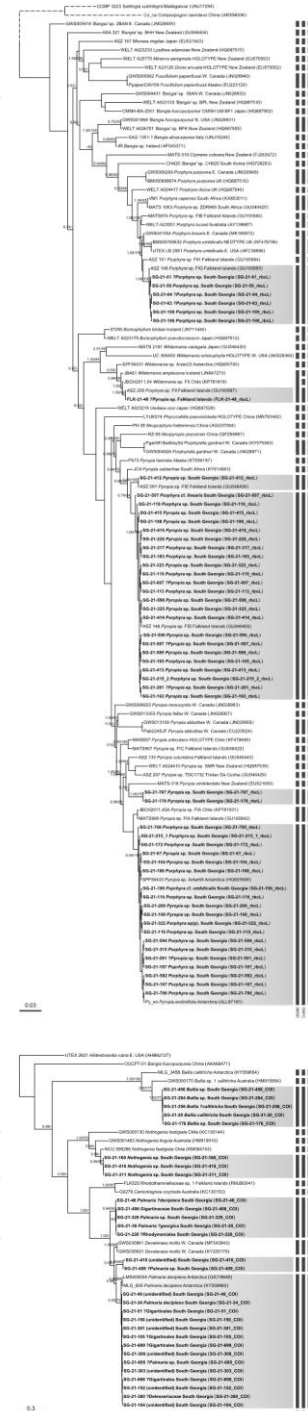
Gigartinales



Bangiales



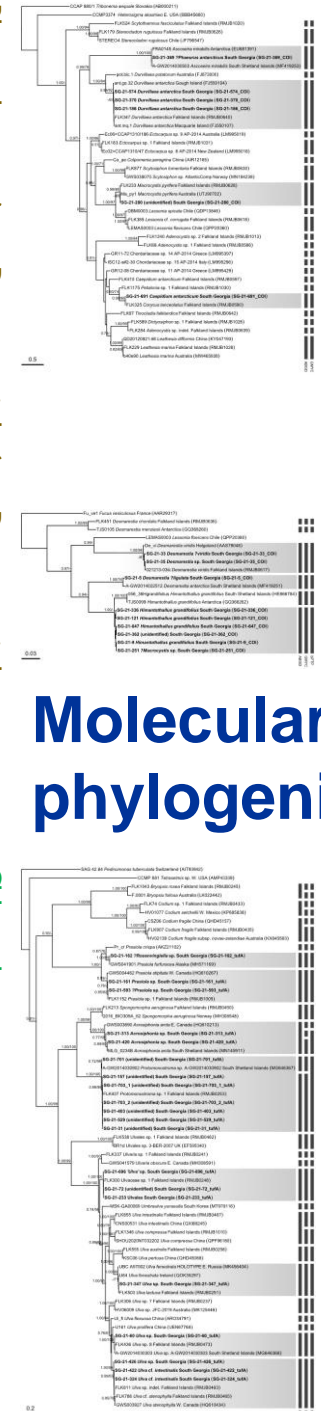
Nemaliophycidae



Phaeophyceae (exc. Desmarestiales)

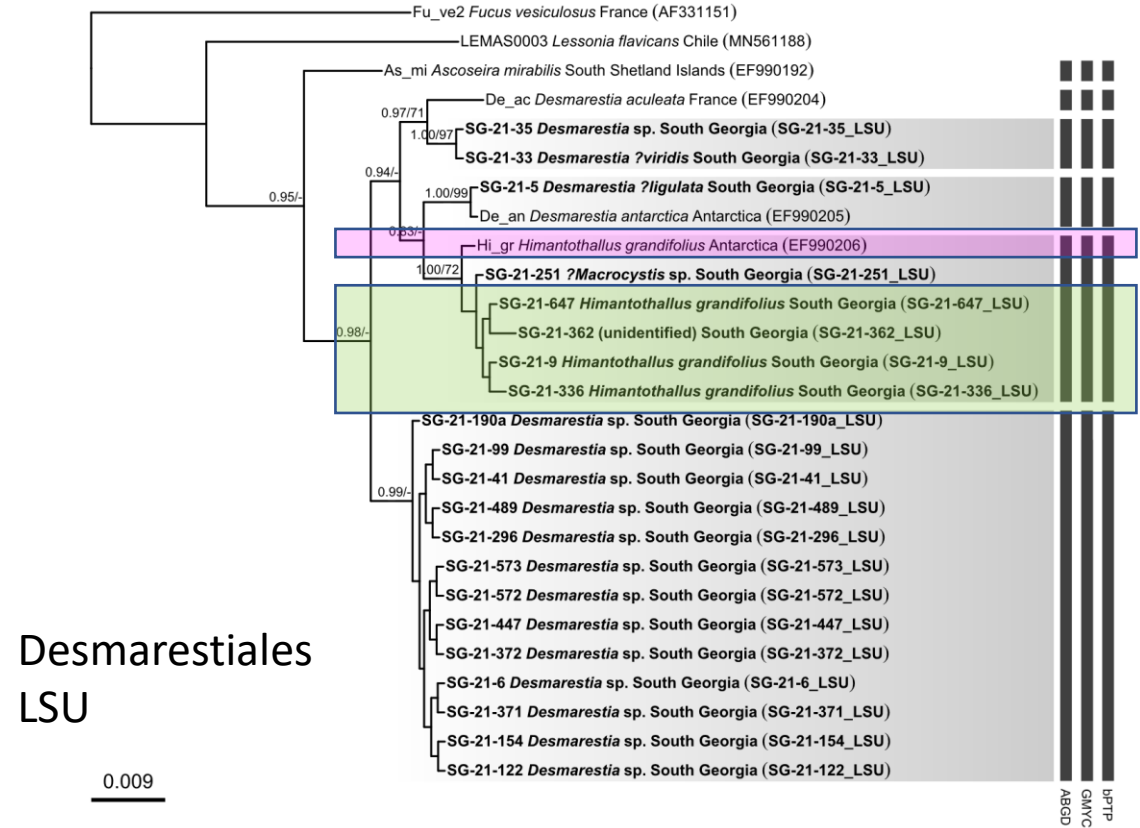
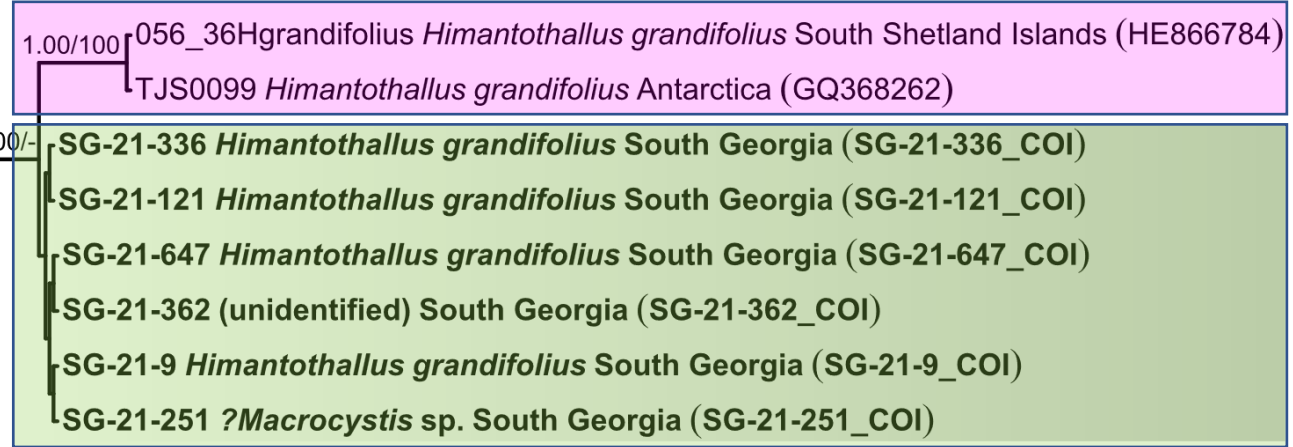
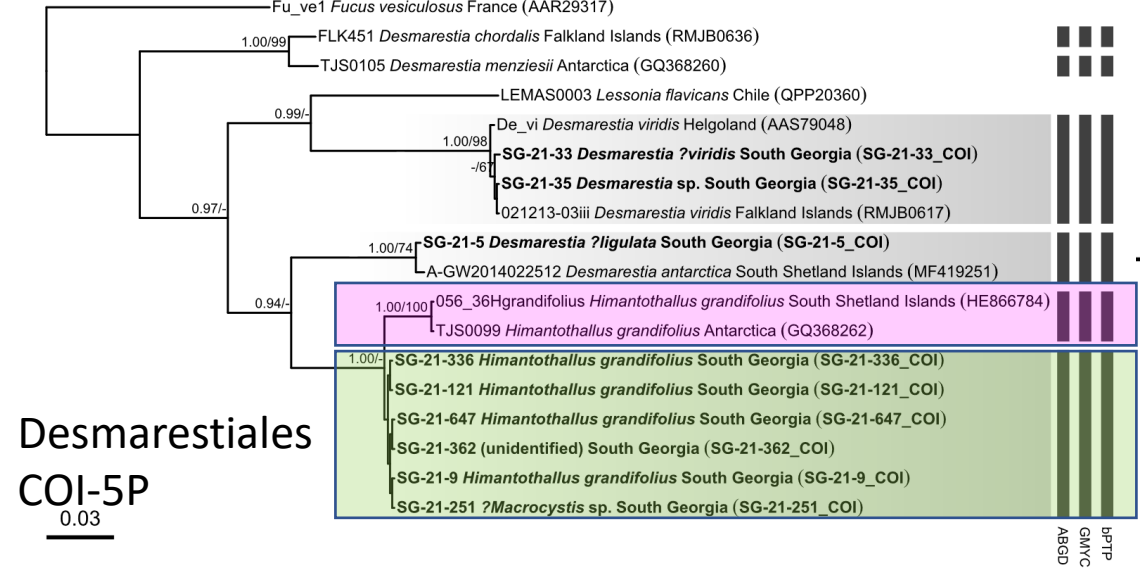
Desmarestiales

Chlorophyta



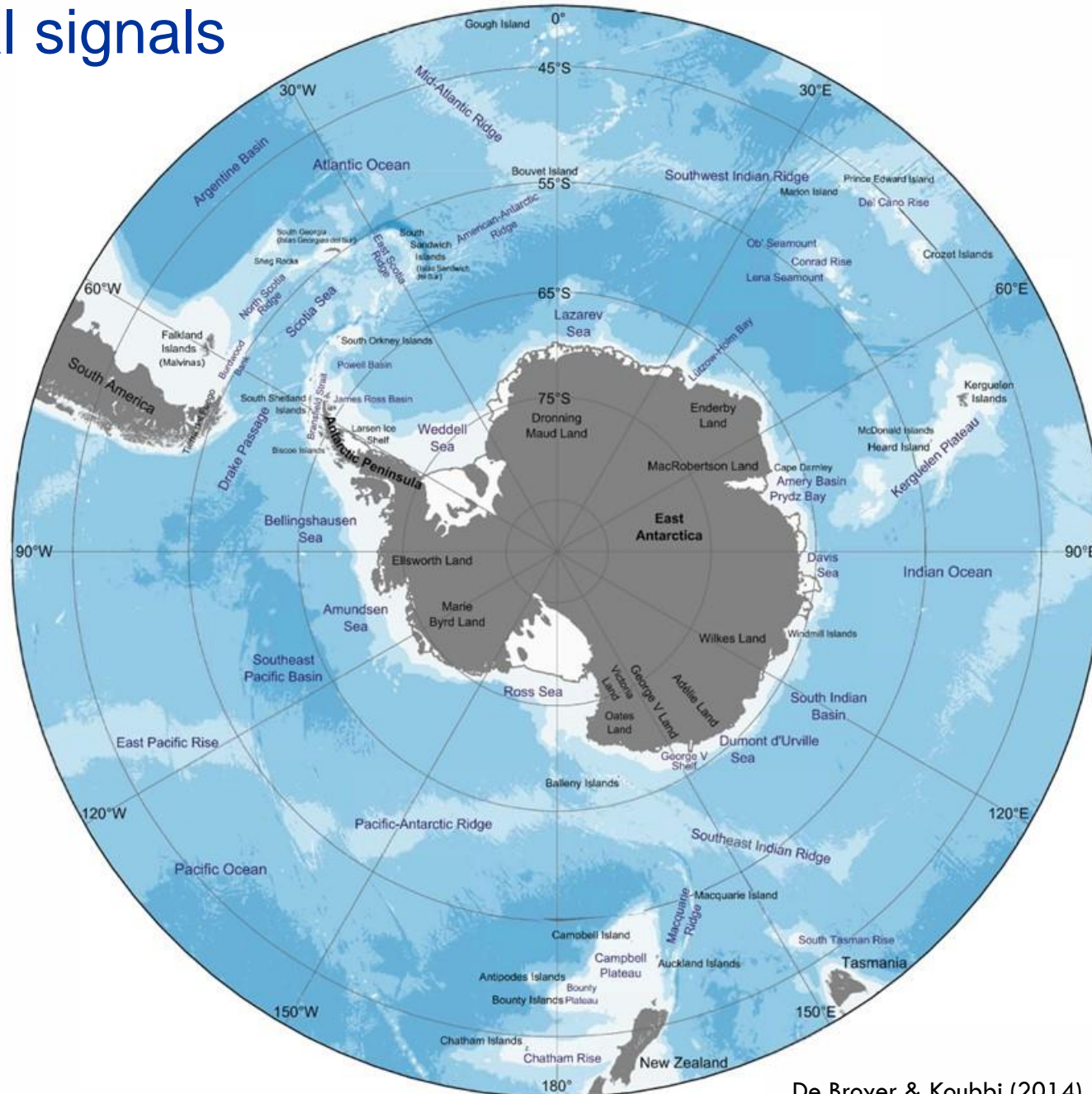
Molecular phylogenies

# Himantothallus grandifolius: a possible endemic





# Biogeographical signals



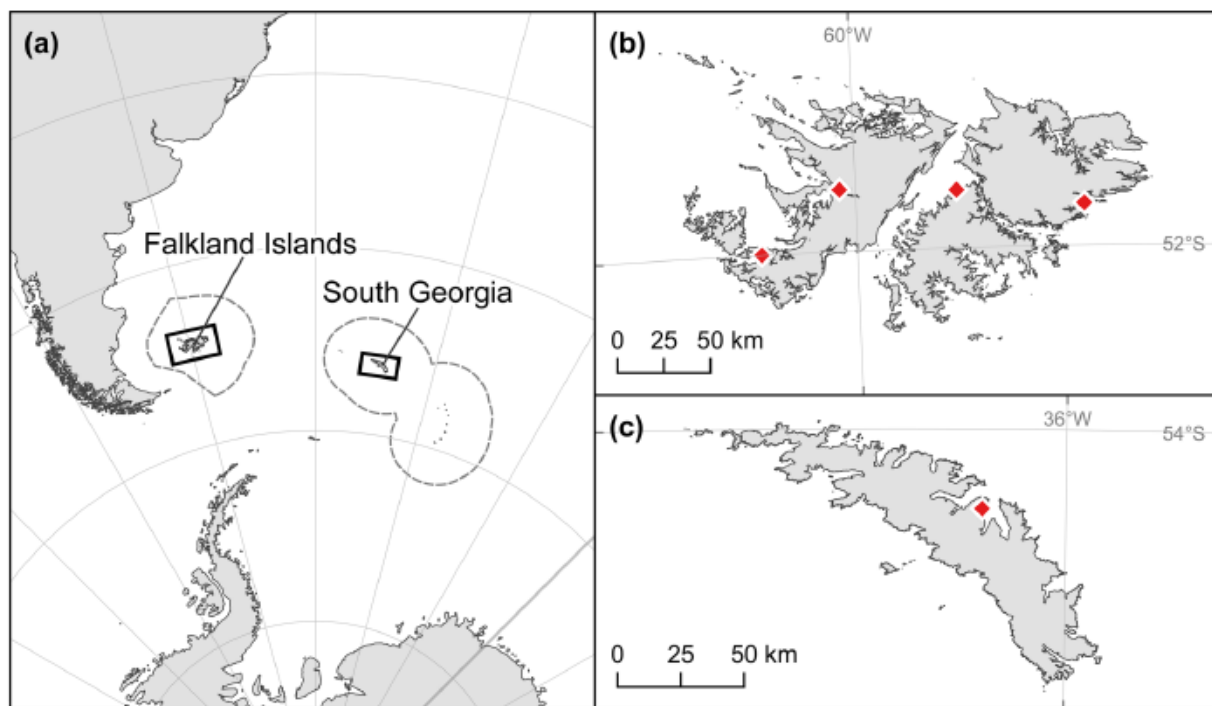
De Broyer & Koubbi (2014)

<https://www.biodiversity.aq/atlas/contents/biogeography-southern-ocean/>



## The first record of a non-native seaweed from South Georgia and confirmation of its establishment in the Falkland Islands: *Ulva fenestrata* Postels & Ruprecht

Robert J. Mrowicki<sup>1</sup>  · Juliet Brodie<sup>1</sup> 





# Capturing historical data



83 specimens (1867–1966)  
27 species

Thal. nat. Hist. Mus. Lond. (Bot.) 24(2): 101-114  
Issued 24 November 1994

### Observations on the benthic marine algal flora of South Georgia: a floristic and ecological analysis

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Distribution of shore algae	103
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Marine algal flora	112
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+85 species

Intertidal and Subtidal Benthic Seaweed  
Diversity of South Georgia

Report for the  
South Georgia Heritage Trust

Survey September 2011



+25 species

Shallow Marine Survey Group  
E Wells<sup>1</sup>, P Brewin and P Brickle

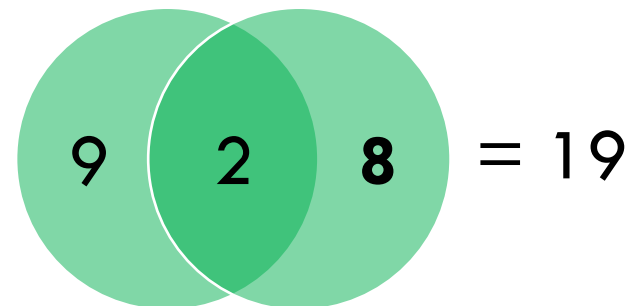
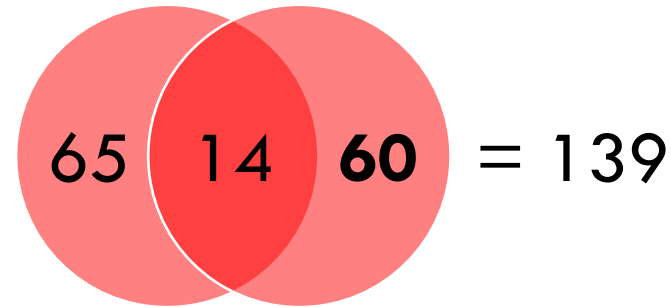
<sup>1</sup>Wells Marine, Norfolk, UK



= 137 species

Baseline

Current project



236

### A draft check-list of the seaweeds of South Georgia

Darwin Initiative project DPLUS122  
Julie Brodie & Rob Mrowicki  
06 Sep 2022

Taxa in blue have been added to the check-list since the previous version (September 2021), determined via analysis of molecular data from new collections.

<p><b>CHROMISTA</b></p> <p><b>OCHROPHYTA</b> Cavalier-Smith, 1995</p> <p><b>Class Chrysmoidophyceae</b></p> <p><b>Order Chrysmoidales</b> C. O'Kelly &amp; C. Billard ex H.E. Price</p> <p><b>Family Chrysmoidaceae</b> Hourcade, 1957</p> <p><i>Antarctococcus applanatus</i> (Günth) Delisle</p> <p><b>Class Phaeophyceae</b> Kjellm., 1891</p> <p><b>Subclass Dictyosphyceae</b> Silberfeld, F. Rosconi &amp; Reiers, 2014</p> <p><b>Order Sphaeriales</b> Nitzsch, 1909</p> <p><b>Family Sphaeriaceae</b> sp. 1</p> <p><b>Family Styxocarpales</b> Ottmann, 1922</p> <p><b>HALOPTERIS</b> Kützting, 1843</p> <p><i>Haloptera falklandica</i> (Montagne) Scragg</p> <p><i>Haloptera obtusa</i> (J.D. Hooker &amp; Harvey) Scragg</p> <p><b>Order Syringodermatales</b> E.C. Henry, 1984</p> <p><b>Family Syringodermataceae</b> E.C. Henry, 1984</p> <p><b>MICROZONIA</b> J. Agardh, 1894</p> <p><i>Microzonia setiformis</i> (Harvey) J. Agardh</p> <p><b>Subclass Fucophyceae</b> Cavalier-Smith, 1996</p> <p><b>Order Acetabularales</b></p> <p><b>Family Acetabularaceae</b></p> <p><b>ASCOSPERA</b></p> <p><i>Ascospira mirabilis</i> Skottberg</p>	<p><b>DESMARESTIA</b> J.V. Lamouroux, 1813, nom. cons.</p> <p><i>Desmarestia antarctica</i> R. Metz &amp; P.C. Silva</p> <p><i>Desmarestia confederata</i> (Harvey) M.E. Hamner &amp; A.F. Peters</p> <p><i>Desmarestia ligulata</i> (Stackhouse) J.V. Lamouroux</p> <p><i>Desmarestia monensis</i> J. Agardh</p> <p><i>Desmarestia viridis</i> (J.E. Montagne) J.V. Lamouroux</p> <p><i>Desmarestia willii</i> Reimche</p> <p><i>Desmarestia</i> sp. 1</p> <p><b>HIMANTODHALLIES</b></p> <p><i>Himantodhalla grandifolia</i> (A. Gepp &amp; E.S. Guppy) Zentgraf</p> <p><b>PIALURUS</b> Skottberg, 1907</p> <p><i>Pialurus antarcticus</i> Skottberg</p> <p><b>Order Ectocarpales</b> Bessey, 1907</p> <p><i>Ectocarpus</i> sp. 1</p> <p><b>Family Acetabularaceae</b> Hamel ex J. Feldmann, 1937</p> <p><b>GEMINOCARPUS</b> Skottberg, 1907</p> <p><i>Geminocarpus antarcticus</i> Skottberg</p> <p><i>Geminocarpus geminus</i> (J.D. Hooker &amp; Harvey) Skottberg</p> <p><b>HINCKSIA</b> E.E. Gray, 1864</p> <p><i>Hincksia grandifolia</i> (Smith) P.C. Silva</p> <p><b>Family Adenocystaceae</b></p> <p><b>ADENOCYSTIS</b> J.D. Hooker &amp; Harvey, 1845</p> <p><i>Adenocystis antarctica</i> (Harvey) Skottberg</p> <p><i>Adenocystis</i> sp. 1</p>
<p><b>CAEPIDUM</b> J. Agardh, 1882</p> <p><i>Caepidium antarcticum</i> J. Agardh</p> <p><i>Caepidium</i> sp. 1</p> <p><b>Family Ectocarpaceae</b> C. Agardh, 1828</p> <p><i>Ectocarpus</i> sp. 1</p> <p><b>ECTOCARPUS</b> Lyngbye, 1815, nom. cons.</p> <p><i>Ectocarpus falklandicus</i> Skottberg</p> <p><b>Family Scytosiphonaceae</b> Farlow, 1881</p> <p><b>PETALONIA</b> Derbès &amp; Solier, 1850, nom. cons.</p> <p><i>Petalonia fasciata</i> (O.F. Miller) Kuntze</p> <p><b>SCYTOSIPHON</b> C. Agardh, 1820, nom. et typ. cons.</p> <p><i>Scytosiphon falklandicus</i> (Lyngby) Link</p> <p><b>Order Fucales</b></p> <p><b>Family Durvillaceae</b></p> <p><b>DURVILLACEAE</b></p> <p><i>Durvillaea antarctica</i> (Chamisso) Harmer</p> <p><b>Order Laminioidales</b></p> <p><b>Family Laminiaceae</b></p> <p><b>MACROCYSTIS</b></p> <p><i>Macrocystis purpurea</i> (Lamouroux) C. Agardh</p> <p><b>Order Scytosiphonales</b> A.F. Peters &amp; M.N. Copley, 1998</p> <p><b>Family Sphaeriales</b> Mitchell &amp; Whiting, 1892</p> <p><b>Order Scytosiphonales</b> J.D. Hooker &amp; Harvey, 1845</p> <p><i>Scytosiphon falklandicus</i> (J.D. Hooker &amp; Harvey) A.D. Cotton</p> <p><b>Subclass Ishigophyceae</b></p> <p><b>Order Ishigophyales</b></p> <p><b>Family Petroleraceae</b></p> <p><b>PETRODERMA</b> Kützting, 1897</p> <p><i>Petroderma maculiforme</i> (Walley) Kützting</p>	<p><i>Prasinella crispata</i> (Lightfoot) Kützting</p> <p><i>Prasinella</i> sp. 1</p> <p><b>Class Ulvophyceae</b> K.R. Mattox &amp; K.D. Stewart, 1978</p> <p><b>Order Acrospionales</b></p> <p><b>Family Acrospionaceae</b></p> <p><b>PETALONIA</b> Derbès &amp; Solier, 1850, nom. cons.</p> <p><i>Petalonia fasciata</i> (O.F. Miller) Kuntze</p> <p><b>ACROSPHONIA</b> J. Agardh, 1846</p> <p><i>Acrospionia arcuata</i> (Dillwyn) Gaim</p> <p><b>PROTOMONOSTROMA</b> K.L. Vinogradova, 1959</p> <p><i>Protomonostroma</i> sp. 1</p> <p><b>Order Ulvales</b> Blackman &amp; Tansley, 1902</p> <p><b>Family Ulvaceae</b> J.V. Lamouroux ex Desmarest, 1822</p> <p><i>Ulvaceae</i> sp. 1</p> <p><b>ULVA</b> Linnaeus, 1753, nom. et typ. cons.</p> <p><i>Ulva antarctica</i> (Peters) &amp; Rognatch</p> <p><i>Ulva lacuna</i> Linnaeus</p> <p><i>Ulva</i> sp. 1</p> <p><b>MACROCYSTIS</b></p> <p><i>Macrocystis purpurea</i> (Lamouroux) C. Agardh</p> <p><b>Order Scytosiphonales</b> A.F. Peters &amp; M.N. Copley, 1998</p> <p><b>Family Sphaeriales</b> Mitchell &amp; Whiting, 1892</p> <p><b>Order Scytosiphonales</b> J.D. Hooker &amp; Harvey, 1845</p> <p><i>Scytosiphon falklandicus</i> (J.D. Hooker &amp; Harvey) A.D. Cotton</p> <p><b>Subclass Ishigophyceae</b></p> <p><b>Order Ishigophyales</b></p> <p><b>Family Petroleraceae</b></p> <p><b>PETRODERMA</b> Kützting, 1897</p> <p><i>Petroderma maculiforme</i> (Walley) Kützting</p> <p><b>PYROPIA</b> J. Agardh, 1899</p> <p><i>Pyropia antarctica</i> (A. Gepp &amp; E. Guppy) E.C. Choi &amp; M.S. Hoang</p> <p><i>Pyropia</i> sp. 1</p> <p><b>CHLOROPHYTA</b> Pacher, 1914</p> <p><b>CHLOROPHYTINA</b></p> <p><b>Class Trebouxiophyceae</b> Friedl, 1995</p> <p><b>Order Prasinoidales</b> (Friedl)</p> <p><b>Family Prasinellaceae</b> Blackman &amp; Tansley, 1902</p> <p><i>Prasinella Meneghinii</i>, 1838, nom. cons.</p> <p><b>Class Floridophyceae</b> Compiout, 1960</p> <p><b>Subclass Alveolophyceae</b></p> <p><b>Order Alveolales</b> C.A. Maggs &amp; C.M. Paocheol</p> <p><b>Family Alveolaceae</b> C.A. Maggs &amp; C.M. Paocheol</p> <p><i>Alveolalia</i> sp. 1</p> <p><b>ABINELTIA</b> E.M. Friess, 1836, nom. cons.</p>



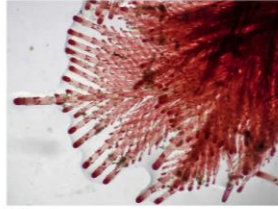
# An identification guide to the seaweeds of South Georgia

RHODOPHYTA

## Ballia sp.1



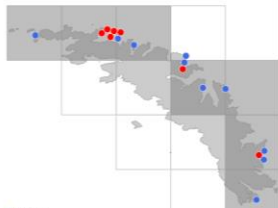
Ballia sp. 1.



Ballia sp. 1.



Ballia sp. 1.



Ballia sp. 1 distribution map.

**DESCRIPTION** Erect axes, up to 29 cm in height, densely branched in one plane to give a feathery appearance. Main axes with opposite to irregular branching, more densely packed towards the tips to give a bushy wedge-shaped appearance. Attached by a robust holdfast up to 1 cm in diameter.

**TEXTURE AND COLOUR** Slightly rough texture, and spongy in very densely branched specimens. Bright to dark red.

**HABITAT** Frequent in the subtidal on rock and crustose coralline algae up to 18.5 m depth; occasional in rockpools in the intertidal.

**DISTRIBUTION** Widespread along the whole extent of the north coast of South Georgia in the subtidal; widespread in the intertidal.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

**NOTES ON SPECIES IDENTITY** Based on molecular data, this species is a fairly close match to *Ballia callitricha* but may represent an undescribed species.

**COMMENTS** Epiphytic red seaweeds, including crustose corallines, Delesseriaceae and a tough, *Ahnfeltia*-like species are common. Some specimens very compact which in addition to the seaweeds, support a wide range of worms, isopods, bryozoans and bivalves. There is uncertainty about the identification of *Ballia* specimens from South Georgia and they may represent more than one species.

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OCHROPHYTA

## Himantothallus cf. grandifolius



Himantothallus cf. grandifolius.



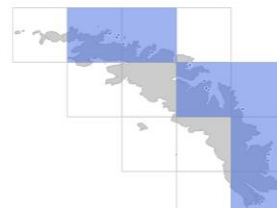
Himantothallus cf. grandifolius.



Himantothallus cf. grandifolius.



Himantothallus cf. grandifolius.



Himantothallus cf. grandifolius distribution map.

**DESCRIPTION** A massive thallus, up to (at least) 17 m long and 1 m wide. Holdfast is a network of tangled filaments, sometimes tens of centimetres in diameter. Small fronds are round or oar-shaped, developing from a narrow, branched stipe. Even in larger plants, stipes tend to be <3 cm wide, and have a flattened cross-section. Stipes (and fronds) may become twisted into a spiral.

**TEXTURE AND COLOUR** Tough, thick and leathery, with very smooth fronds. Golden to dark brown in colour.

**HABITAT** Low intertidal and sublittoral fringe, and subtidal to at least 18 m depth. Grows on rocky substrata.

**DISTRIBUTION** Common and widely distributed along the north coast of South Georgia, from Esbensen Bay in the southeast to the Bay of Isles in the northwest.

**SIMILAR SPECIES** Young individuals may resemble small *Ascoseira mirabilis* and *Macrocystis pyrifera* plants, but *Himantothallus cf. grandifolius* tends to have rounded or oar-shaped fronds, rather than elongated and tapered; also the stipe has a distinctive, irregular branching pattern.

**NOTES ON SPECIES IDENTITY** It was thought that this species was the same as *Himantothallus grandifolius* found in Antarctica; however, molecular analyses indicate that specimens from South Georgia belong to a separate, possibly endemic, species.

**COMMENTS** This habitat-forming seaweed can be found at high densities, carpeting the seabed with its expansive fronds. The complex holdfast supports a high biodiversity of seaweeds and invertebrates.

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CHLOROPHYTA

## Protomonostroma sp.1



Protomonostroma sp. 1.



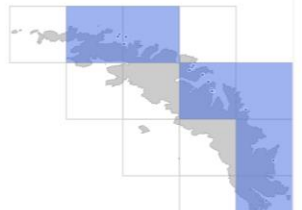
Protomonostroma sp. 1.



Protomonostroma sp. 1.



Protomonostroma sp. 1.



Protomonostroma sp. 1 distribution map.

**DESCRIPTION** Extremely thin green blades with very irregular margins, one cell layer thick. Cells are very small compared to other green seaweeds. Variable in size and shape, from small, compact rosettes a few centimetres across, to broad, lobed or divided sheets (up to c. 14 cm long and 5 cm wide) arising from a central point. Attached to the substratum via a central discoid holdfast. Exhibits a characteristic growth phase, consisting of inflated hollow sacs, sometimes >10 cm across, which presumably develop into flattened blades.

**TEXTURE AND COLOUR** Soft, delicate and fragile. Bright lime green to olive green in colour, appearing translucent.

**HABITAT** In the intertidal zone, from the upper to lower shore. Commonly grows in rock pools on hard substrata, but can also be epiphytic on other seaweeds (such as *Porphyra* or *Pyropia* species).

**DISTRIBUTION** Common and widespread along the north coast of South Georgia, from Drygalski Fjord in the southeast to the Bay of Isles in the northwest.

**SIMILAR SPECIES** Similar to bladed *Ulva* species, but consists of a single cell layer, as opposed to two. The 'inflated sacs' growth phase has only been observed in this species.

**NOTES ON SPECIES IDENTITY** Probably an undescribed species in the genus *Protomonostroma*. Matches other specimens from the Falkland Islands and Antarctica.

**COMMENTS** It is unclear whether the 'inflated sacs' growth phase is just a seasonal phenomenon (observed during spring/ summer).

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# Citizen Science: Monitoring seaweed biodiversity in South Georgia



## Activity 1: Shifting Seaweeds

### Join the survey

**When?** During any shore excursion, either aboard the Zodiac (or other small boat) between ship and landing area, or by foot on the shore itself. Try to do the survey within one hour of low tide.

**Where?** Anywhere on the coast of South Georgia.

**Who can take part?** Everyone.

**How long does it take?** 10 minutes.

### You will need:

- The *Shifting Seaweeds* activity guide
- A *Shifting Seaweeds* recording form
- A clipboard and pencil
- A camera or smartphone
- A watch or other timekeeping device
- A handheld GPS device

### What to do:

**1. Choose a shore.** If you are on a small boat, look for seaweed-covered rocky outcrops that you can get close to (without compromising safety). If you are on foot, find a rocky area of the shore with seaweeds growing on it, out of the way of territorial or sensitive wildlife (such as fur seals or breeding birds).



#### 1. Bladder weed, *Adenocystis utricularis*

Bladders can be almost spherical to narrow and cylindrical. Soft and gelatinous when fresh, tough and leathery when dry. Found in mid to low shore pools and on emergent rock.



#### 2. Bull kelp, *Durvillaea antarctica*

Texture smooth, tough and hard, but sometimes feels spongy. Commonly at the water's edge and in shallow water on rocky coastlines, although sometimes occurs in low shore pools.



#### 3. Antarctic turf foot, *Cospidium antarcticum*

This species has both a basal crust and an upright phase. Found on emergent rock from mid to low shore, around rock pools and at the water's edge. Often seen just as a crust, without uprights.



#### 4. Red palm weeds, *Palmaria* spp.

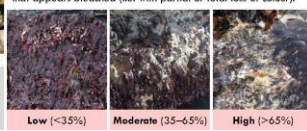
This group includes various species. Can be thin and slippery, or cartilaginous. Flat blades with rounded edges. Emergent rock on mid to low shore and at the water's edge.



### Estimating the severity of seaweed bleaching

1. Divide your survey area into three approximately equal horizontal bands, between the water's edge and the high water marks.

2. For each band, estimate the total amount of seaweed tissue that appears bleached (i.e. with partial or total loss of colour).



**5. Calcified crusts**  
There are various unidentified species of calcified crust (examples here are from the Falklands). Mauve or brownish pink to white or grey. Water's edge, low and mid shore rock pools and wet rocks.



## Activity 2: Alien Invaders

### Join the survey

**When?** While ashore, during any shore excursion, and at any time except high Spring tides.

**Where?** Anywhere on the coast of South Georgia, but especially around Grytviken and King Edward Point.

**Who can take part?** Everyone.

**How long does it take?** 10 minutes.

### You will need:

- The *Alien Invaders* activity guide
- An *Alien Invaders* recording form
- A clipboard and pencil
- A camera or smartphone
- A watch or other timekeeping device
- A handheld GPS device

### What to do:

**1. Choose your survey area.** Aim for a relatively flat section of shore (sandy or pebbly shores work best, but flat rocky areas might also be suitable), out of the way of territorial or sensitive wildlife (such as fur seals or breeding birds). Find the strandline – the uppermost line or band of debris, including seaweeds, that has been washed up at the top of the shore. This will form the upper limit of your search area.

**2. Take a picture.** Standing on the shore between the strandline and the water's edge, take a photograph in the direction of your survey, including as much of the strandline as possible. This will provide an important record of the environmental conditions on the shore.

### Probable non-native seaweeds already present in South Georgia



#### 1. Sea lettuce, *Ulva fenestrata*

Thin but tough blades, slightly translucent in appearance, with irregular edges and sometimes covered in holes. May grow up to tens of centimetres across. Inhabits a wide range of intertidal and subtidal environments. Found as free-floating drift at Grytviken.

#### 2. Oyster thief/Sea potato, *Ectocarpales* sp(p).

This unidentified seaweed may include more than one species. Hollow sacs with paper-thin or leathery walls. Often grows epiphytically on other seaweeds. Found washed up on the shore near Grytviken, and inhabiting other shores to the northwest.

### Non-native seaweeds that could potentially arrive from elsewhere



#### 3. Green sponge fingers, *Codium fragile*

Unmistakable. Firm and velvety in texture. In pools and on emergent rock on the mid to low shore and at the water's edge. Often with brown or red filamentous seaweeds growing on it.

#### 4. Green fluffy spongy weed, *Spongomorpha aeruginosa*

Fine filamentous seaweed with a soft and spongy texture. Found in wet areas, pools, and at the water's edge. Looks like mini pommops when submerged. Commonly grows on other seaweeds.



## Activity 3: Raft Watch

### Join the survey

**When?** On board your ship, while cruising in a straight line between destinations.

**Where?** On the way to or from South Georgia, either on the open ocean or within sight of land.

**Who can take part?** Everyone.

**How long does it take?** 30 minutes.

### You will need:

- The *Raft Watch* activity guide
- A *Raft Watch* recording form
- A clipboard and pencil
- A camera (with telephoto lens)
- Binoculars
- A watch or other timekeeping device
- A handheld GPS device

### What to do:

**1. Find an observation point.** This can be on either side of the ship, or with views across both sides, and facing either forwards or backwards. Make sure you can see the surface of the sea both nearby (within one ship's width) and far away (towards the horizon, if visible).

**2. Start looking for rafts.** Use the *Raft Watch* recording form to write down all data (don't forget to record the time and GPS position at the beginning of the survey). As the ship moves along, scan up and down between the ship and the horizon, using binoculars to look at floating objects in more detail.

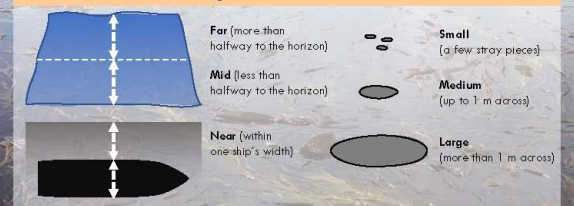
When you spot a seaweed raft:

- Record its distance and size using the guide below.
- Identify which of the two main seaweed species it consists of.
- Note whether there is any non-biological debris and/or wildlife associated.
- If possible, take a photograph using a camera with telephoto lens.

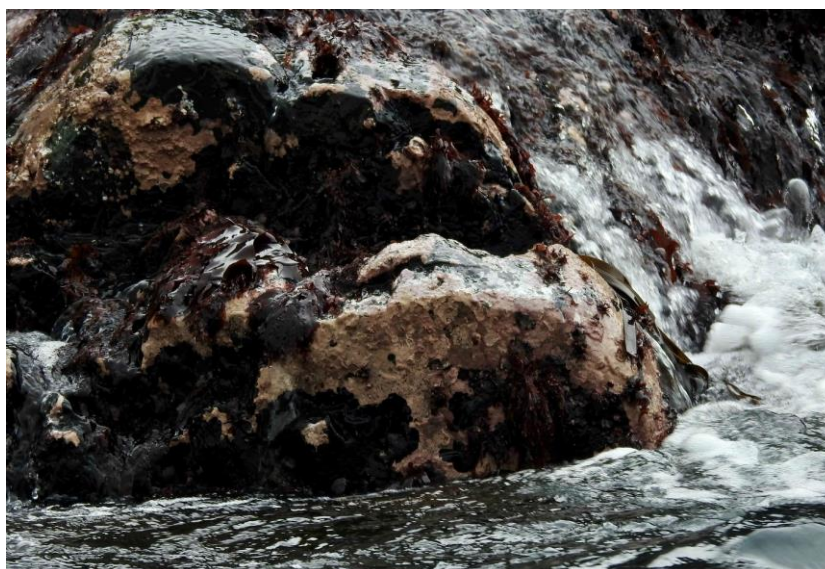
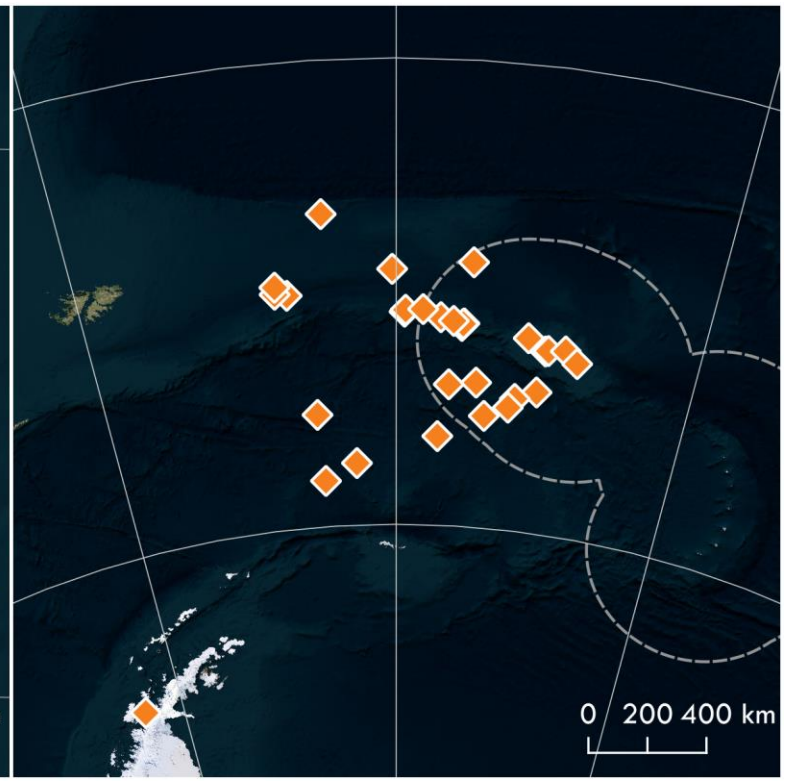
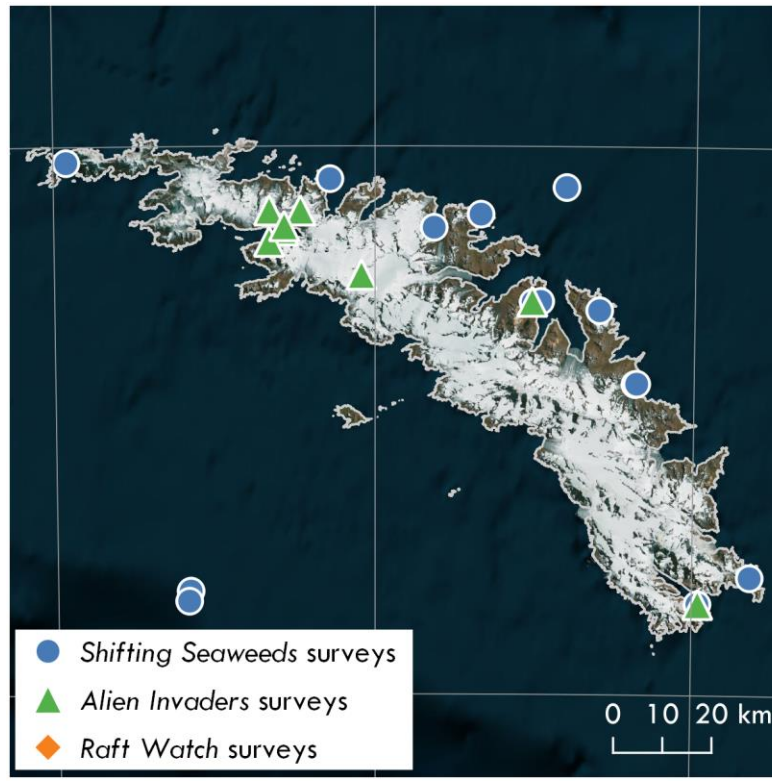
**3. Stop looking after 30 minutes** (or less). Record the time and GPS position at the end of the survey. If you didn't see any rafts, record this on the form.

**4. Submit your results.** As soon as possible after the survey, give the recording form and any photos to your guide – they will then submit the results to seaweed experts at the Natural History Museum in London, who will use your data in scientific investigations and reports.

### Estimating the distance and size of rafts:



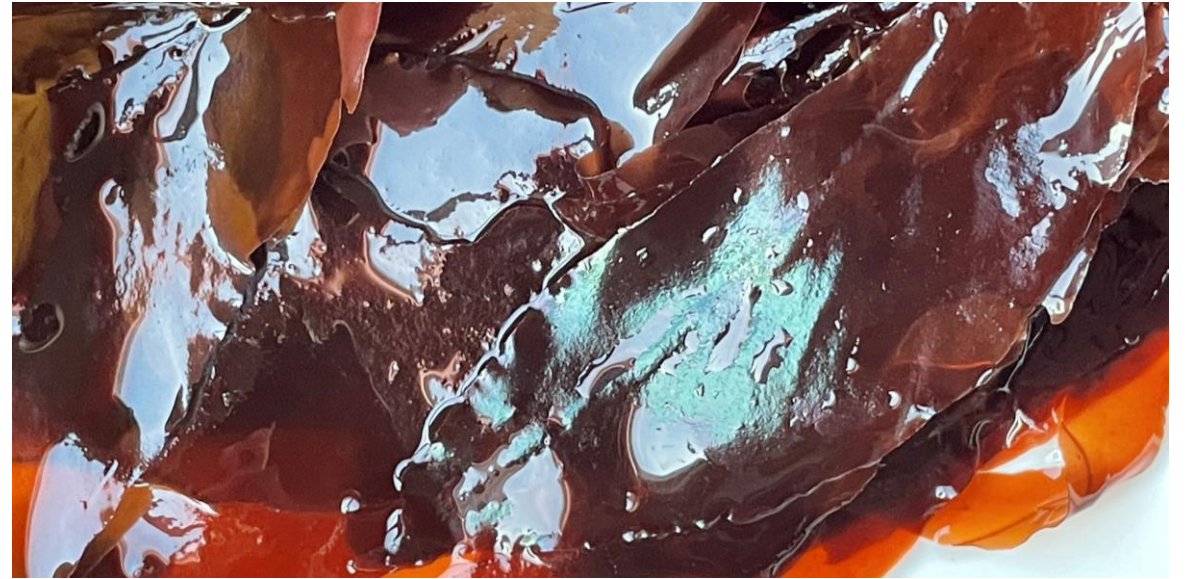
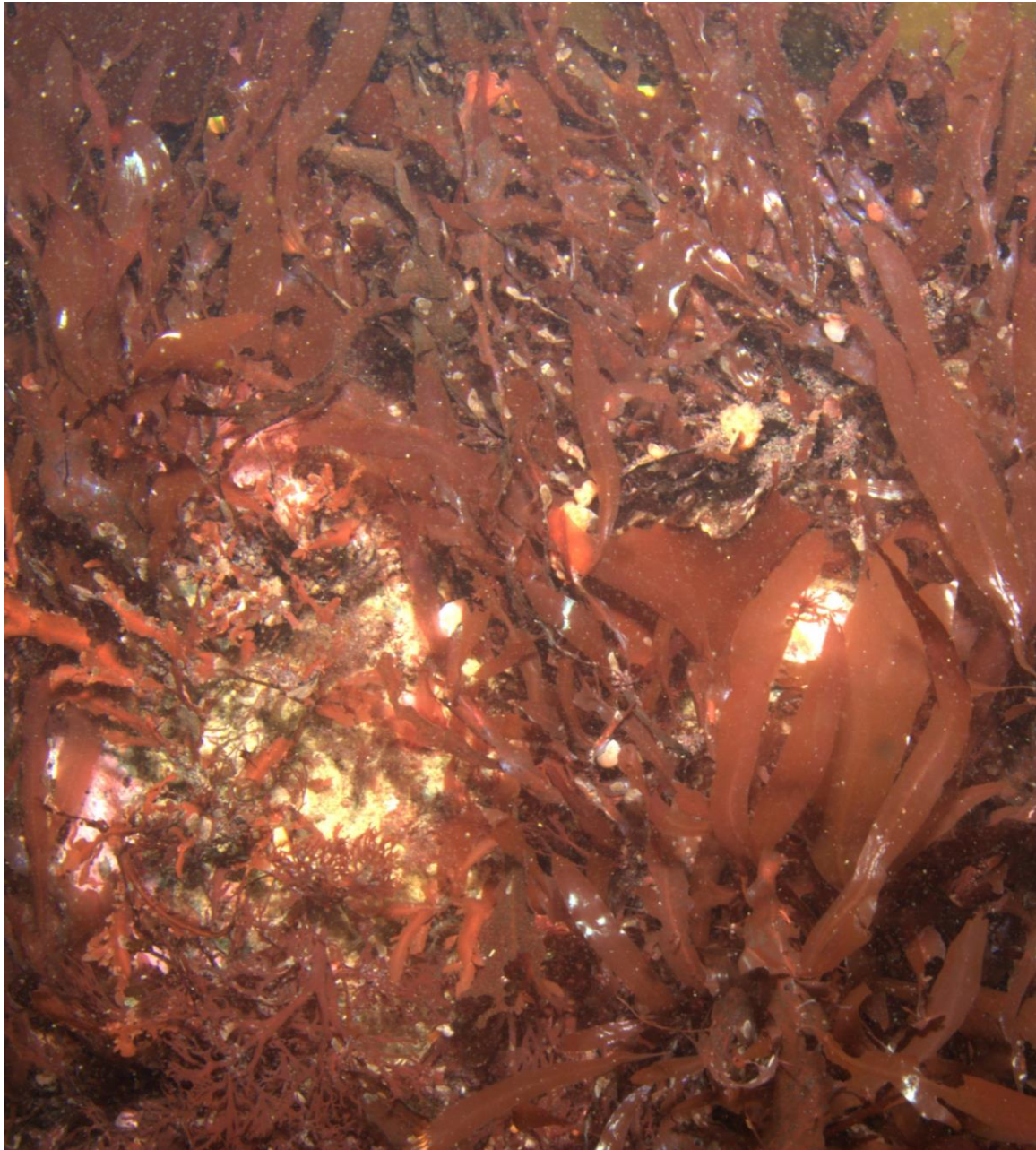




33 surveys so far



# *Myriogramme manginii* with structural colour





# Future work

Mapping spatial/temporal distributions are valuable for Red List and Important Plant Area assessments.

There is a need for more work in South Georgia, including south side of the island.

The huge taxonomic gaps need addressing and require a global approach.

There are phenomena to be explored, e.g., structural colour.



**British Antarctic Survey**  
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL





# Michelle Taylor

University of Essex



ESA



Sue G



Cefas



# Connectivity patterns are species dependent in Southern Ocean deep-sea octocorals

María Belén Arias; Kerry-Lee Etsebeth; Rui Vieira; Andrea M. Quattrini, Jessica Gordon; ; Alice Malcolm-McKay;

Michelle Taylor – University of Essex

@Dr\_MTaylor [www.taylorlab.science](http://www.taylorlab.science)

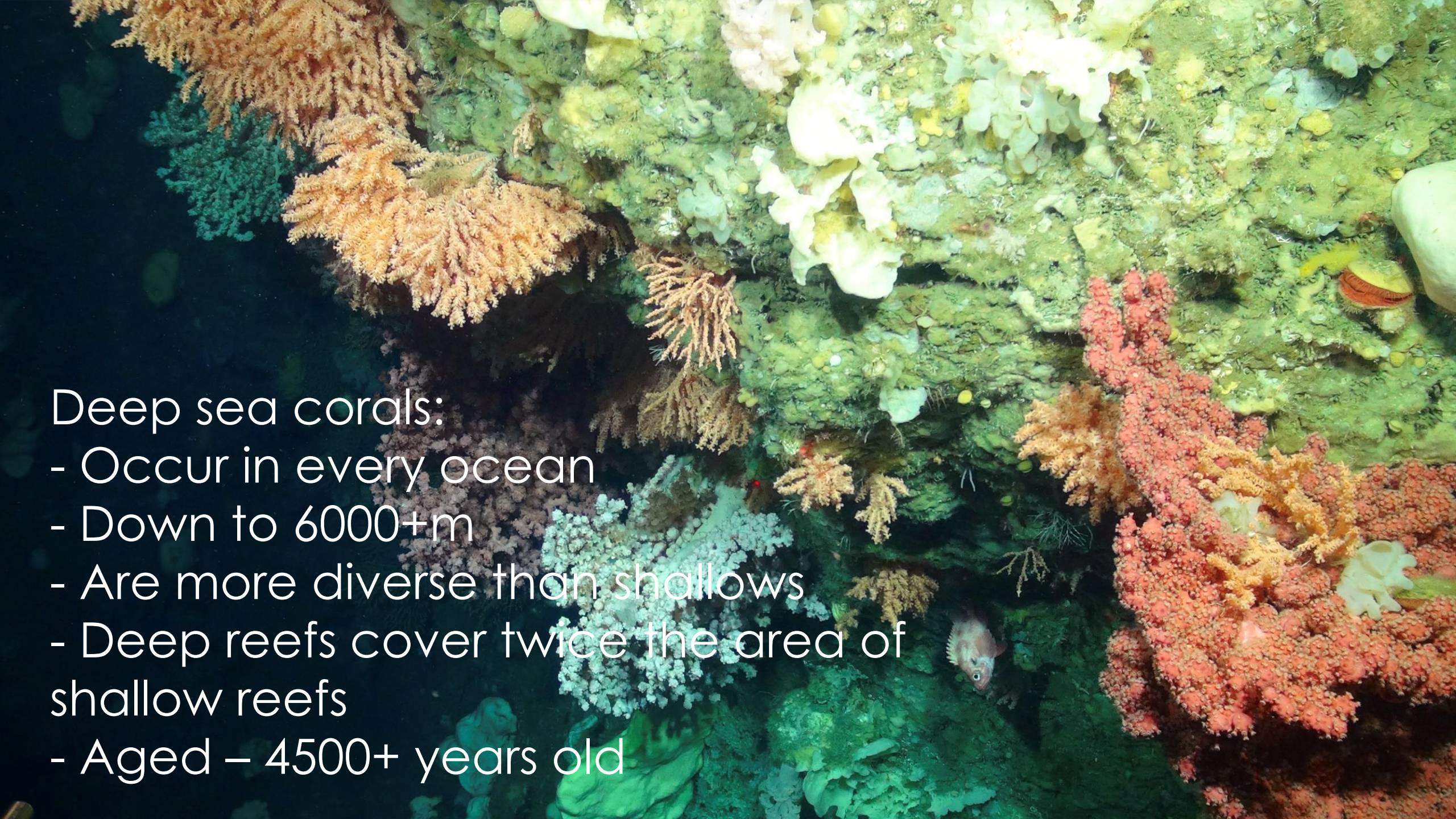


Collaborative Centre for Sustainable Use of the Seas



NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM





## Deep sea corals:

- Occur in every ocean
- Down to 6000+m
- Are more diverse than shallows
- Deep reefs cover twice the area of shallow reefs
- Aged – 4500+ years old



# Study design – UCEs > SNPs

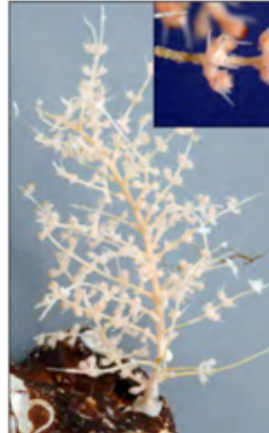


*Primnoella chilensis*

**Sampling sites:** 6

**Total:** 92 individuals

**Reproductive strategy:**  
brood then 'crawling'  
larvae



*Dasytenella acanthina*

**Sampling sites:** 11

**Total:** 86 individuals

**Reproductive strategy:**  
brooding (i.e., internal  
fertilization)

*Thouarella viridis*

**Sampling sites:** 4

**Total:** 63 individuals

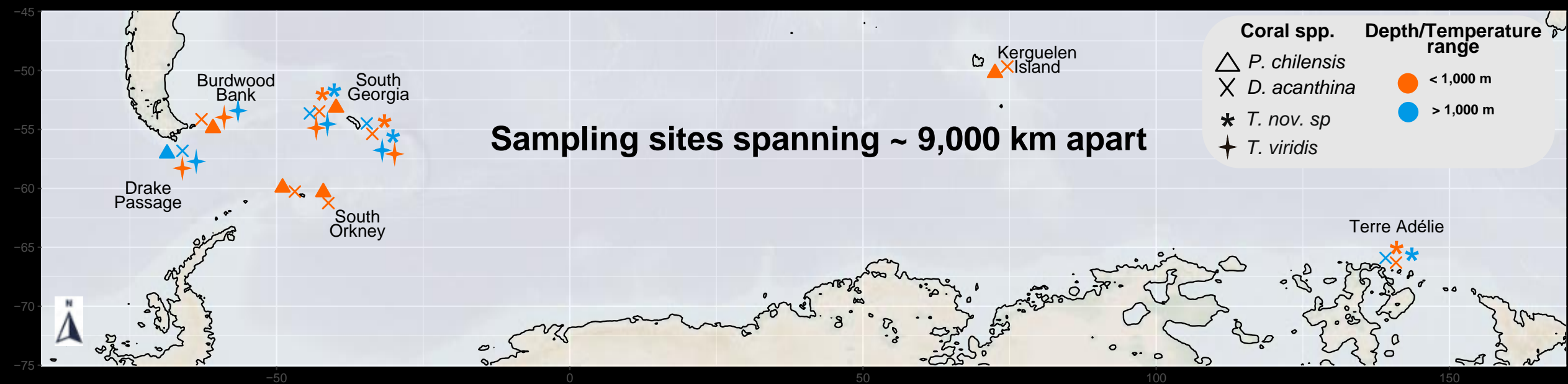
**Reproductive strategy:**  
brooding (i.e., internal  
fertilization)

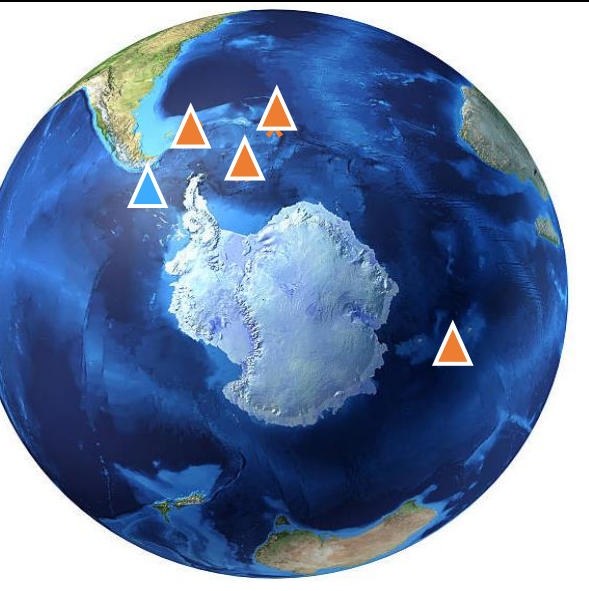
*Thouarella nov. sp.*

**Sampling sites:** 4

**Total:** 88 individuals

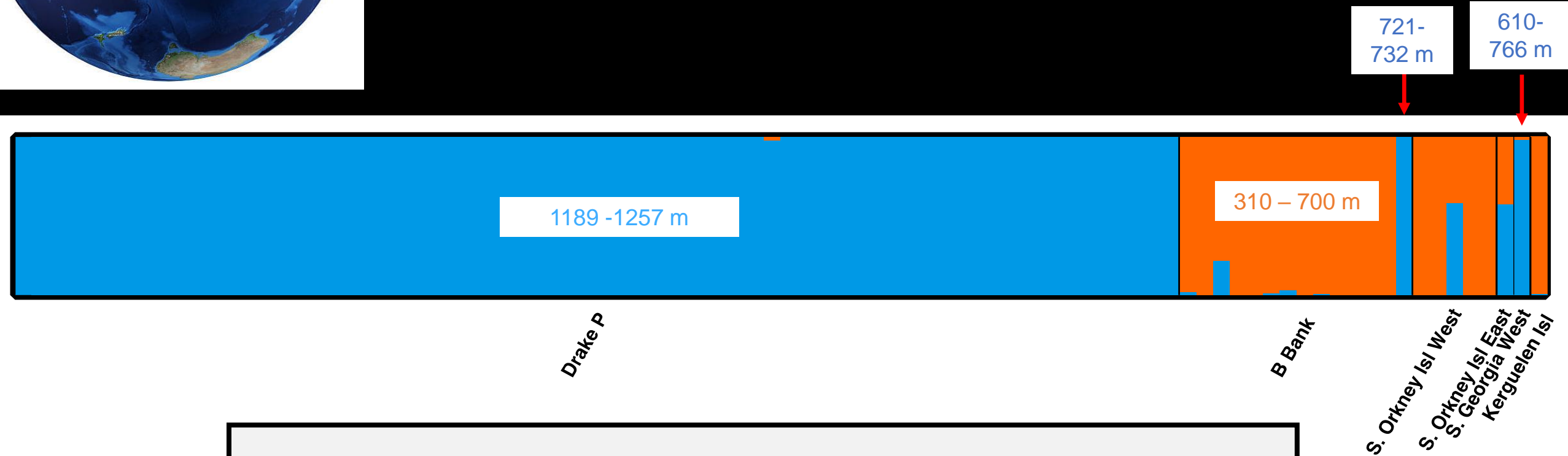
**Reproductive strategy:**  
brooding (i.e., internal  
fertilization)





# Genetic clustering of *P. chilensis*

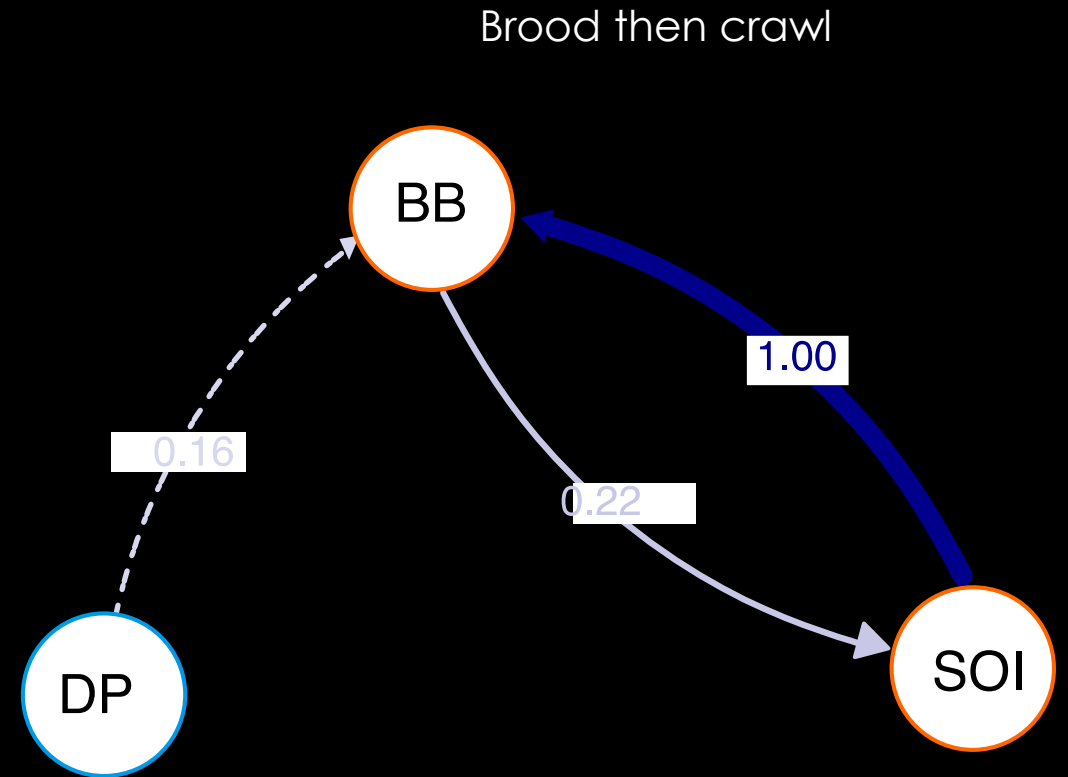
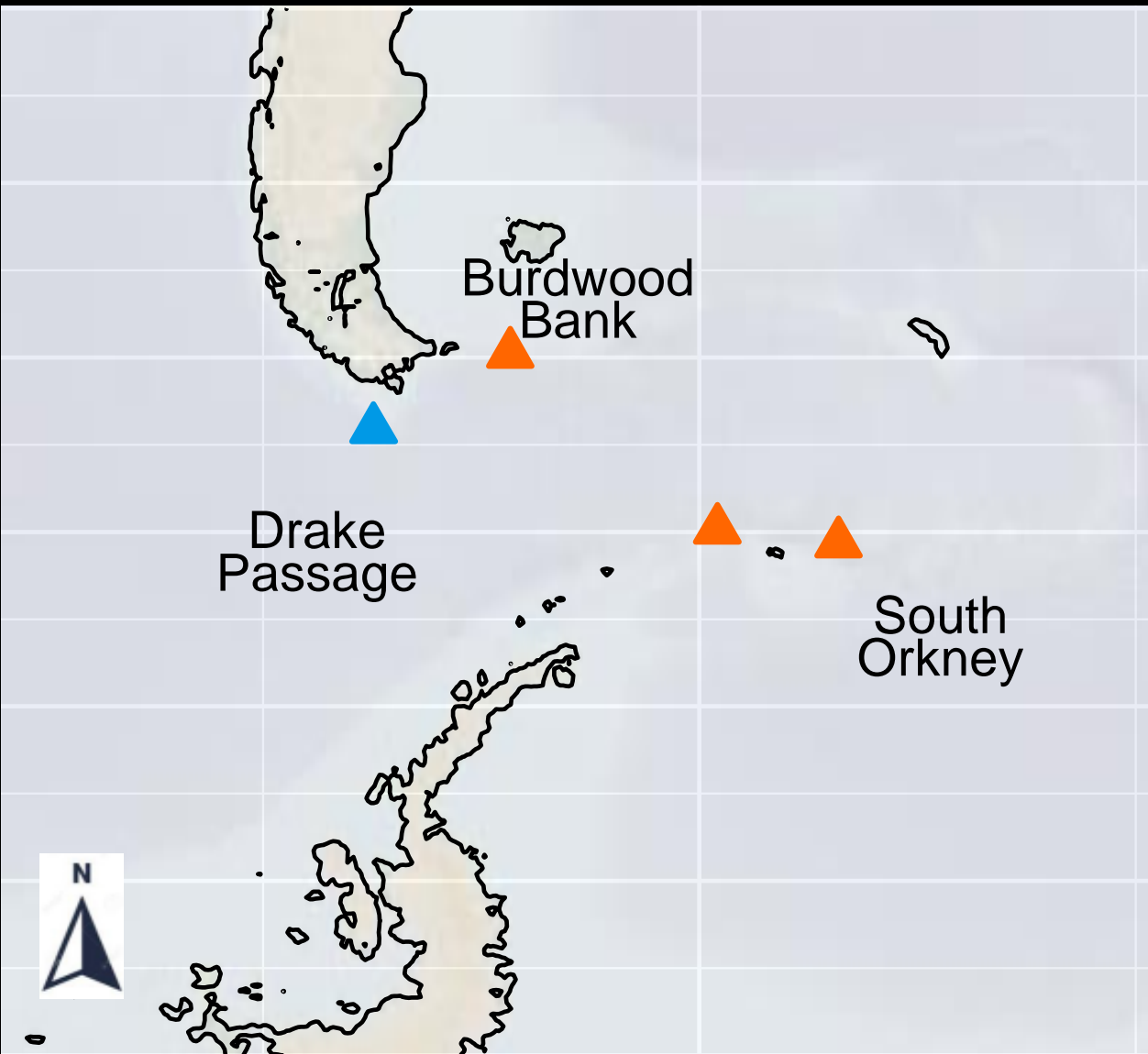
Two distinct genetic cluster identified by depth (2,663 SNPs)



Genetic structure found between **Shallow** vs **Deep** identifying **~800 m isobath as potential dispersal barrier** across sampling sites despite samples spanning thousands of kilometers apart

# Migration dynamics of *P. chilensis*

Strong gene flow among shallow samples sites



An study of *Thouarella* spp. (2 nuclear markers) populations across the ACC (South Pacific and Southern Ocean) shared haplotypes (Dueñas et al., 2016)





# Genetic clustering of *D. acanthina*

Depth and geographic location (2,400 SNPs)

## 4 genetic clusters

**West sampling sites** (dark green and yellow) are assigned to different genetic clusters despite their origin (from the same location).

**Dark green cluster** is predominant across sites > 945 m indicating **panmixia (depth)**

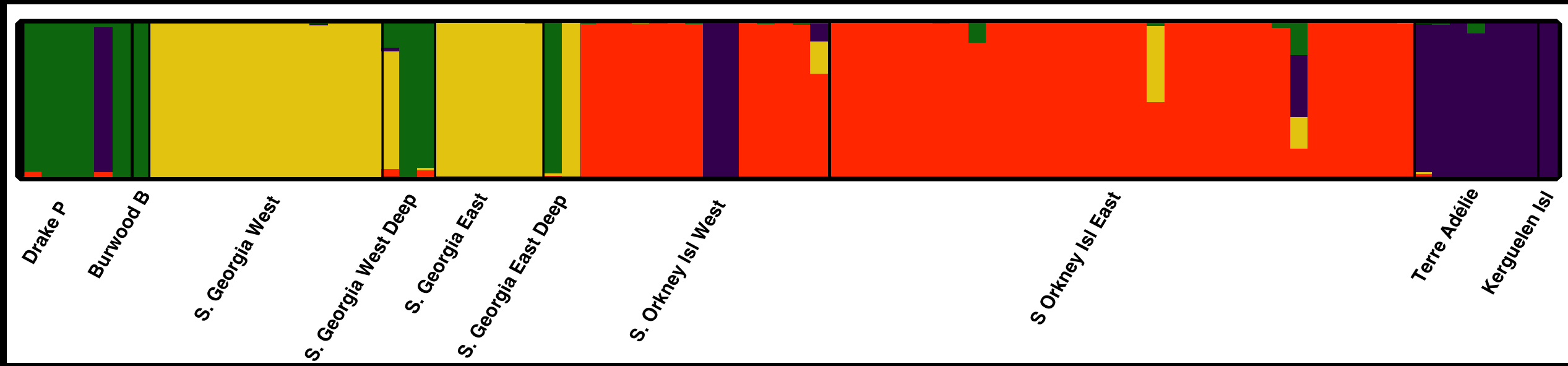
**South Orkney samples (red)** and **East sampling sites (purple)** are assigned to a **unique genetic** clusters despite their similar depths.

945–1,667 m

185 – 604 m

480 – 881 m

440 –  
1281m



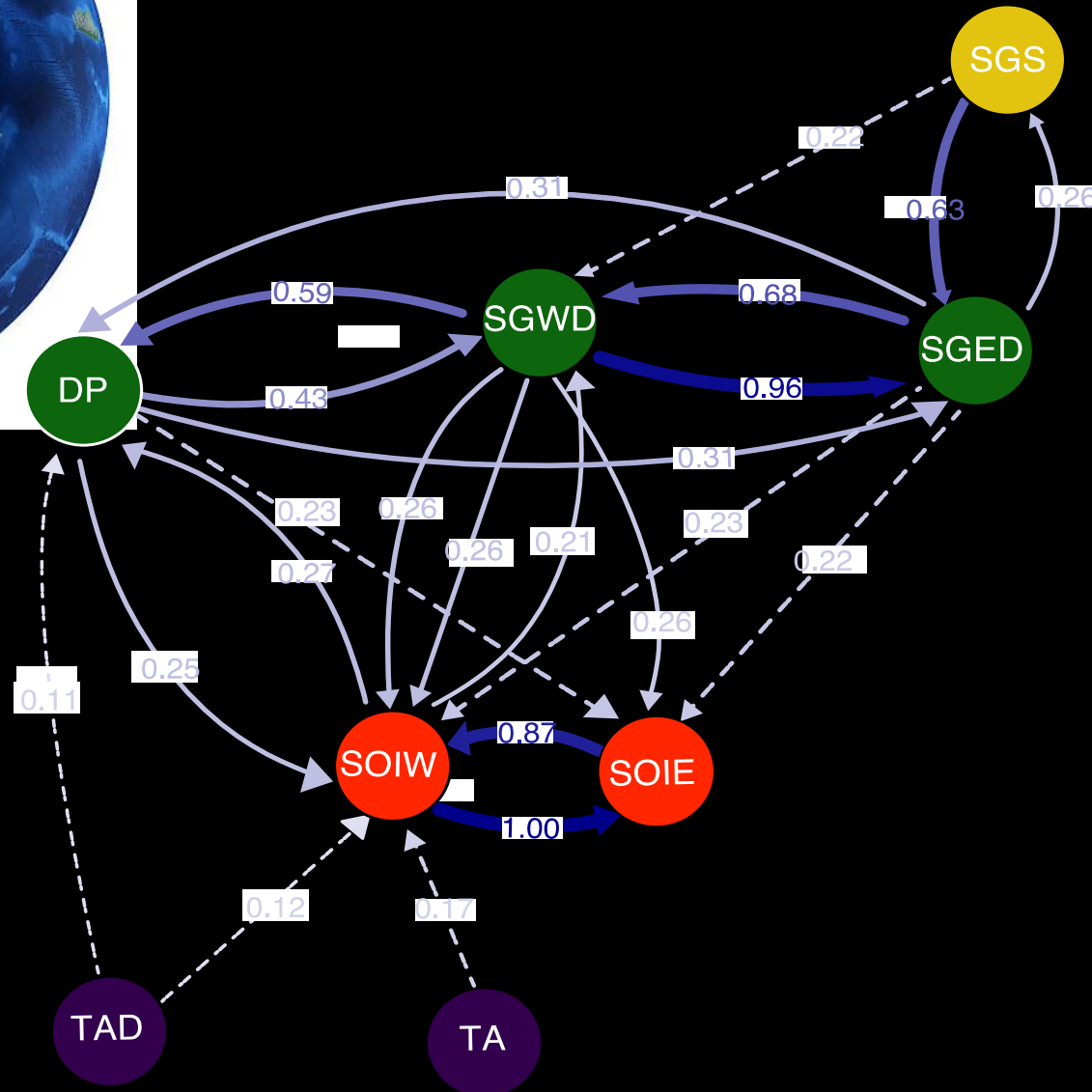
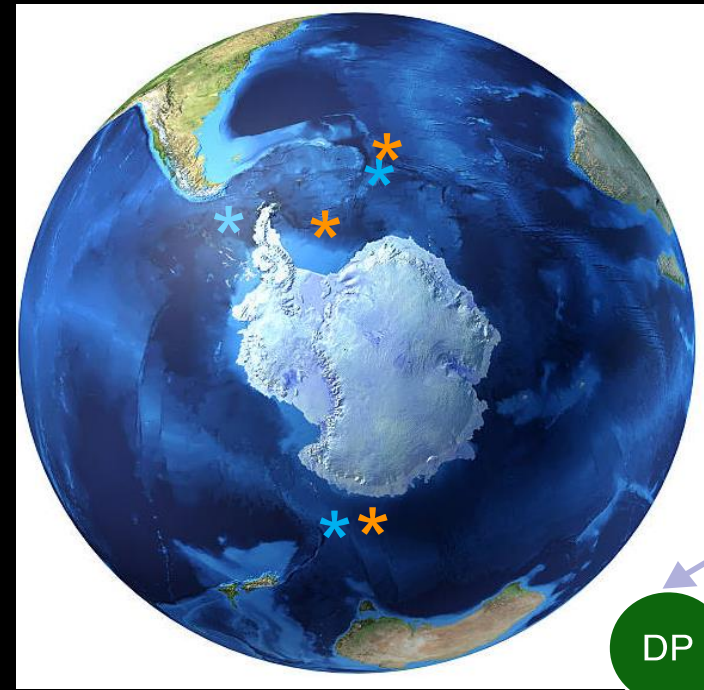
# Connectivity of *D. acanthina*

Brooder

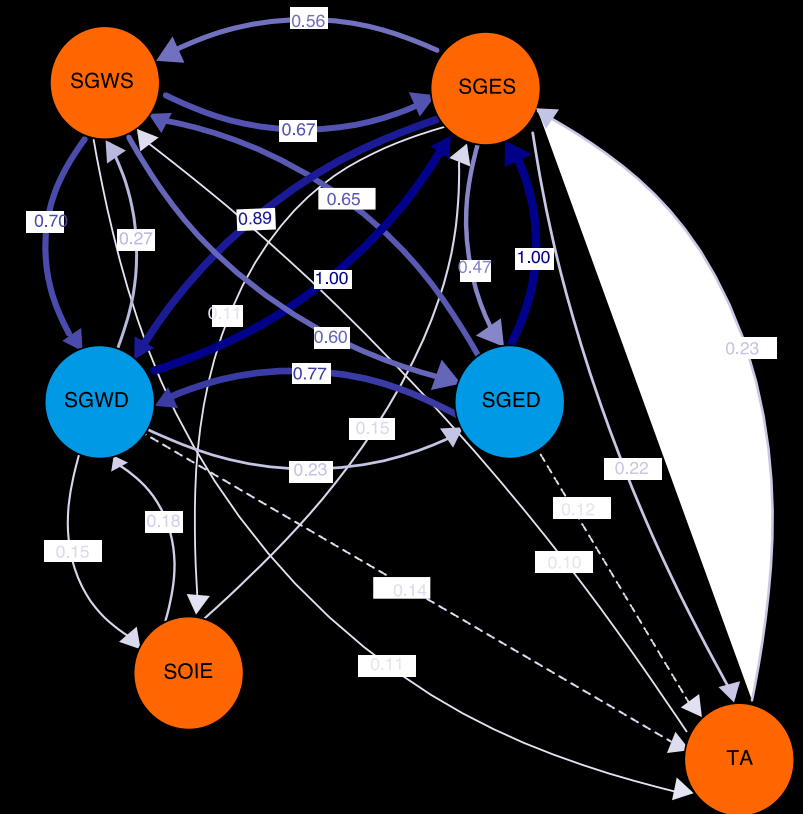
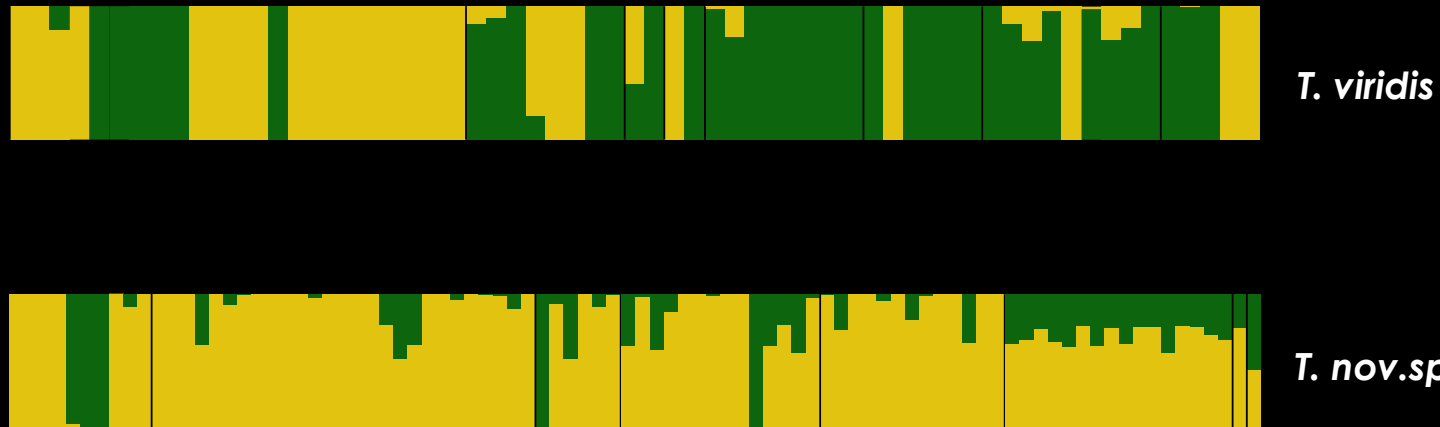
**Bidirectional migration** was detected among most of the sampling sites (**9000km!**)

**Strong** connectivity was identified **across bathymetric range** (Shallow to Deep).

**Moderate vertical connectivity** was identified from Shallow to Deep populations, especially S. Orkney Isl.



# Genetic clustering and connectivity of *T. viridis* and *T. nov.sp.*

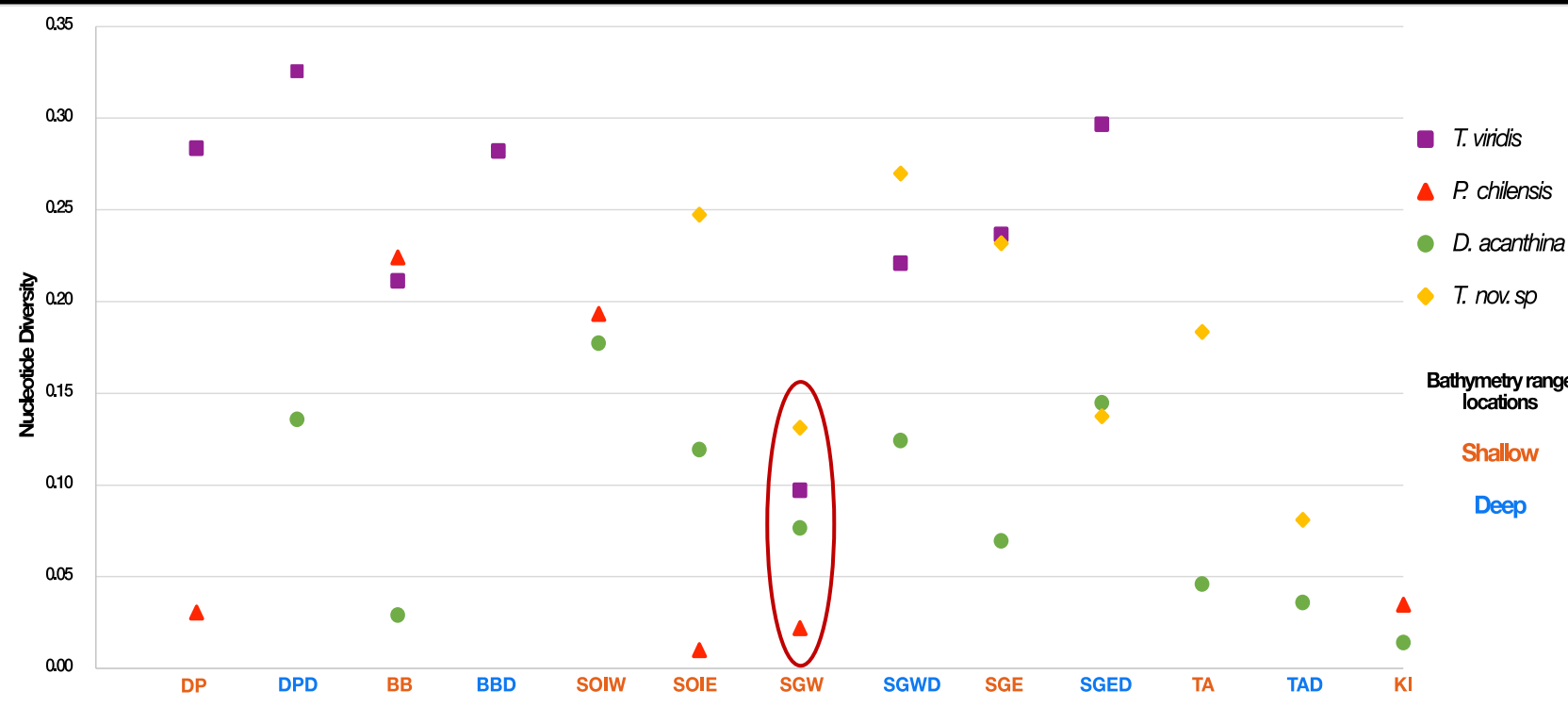


These species **showed panmixia across ~9,000 km despite multiple barriers** (i.e., oceanographic currents and oceanic features) among the sampling sites.

**Bidirectional migration**



# Genetic diversity



In **South Georgia Shallow** water present **low genetic diversity** that **might affect their capacity** to deal with **future environmental and human pressures**

*T. viridis* & *T. nov. sp.* presented the highest genetic diversity comparable *Acropora digitifera* (Av 0.3) (Adam et al. 2022)

*P. chilensis* & *D. acanthisa* presented similar diversity to **previous studies** in sponges **collected in Antarctic peninsula** using SNPs (Av 0.16; 0.2) (Leiva et al. 2019, 2022).

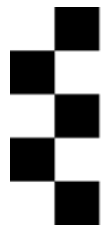
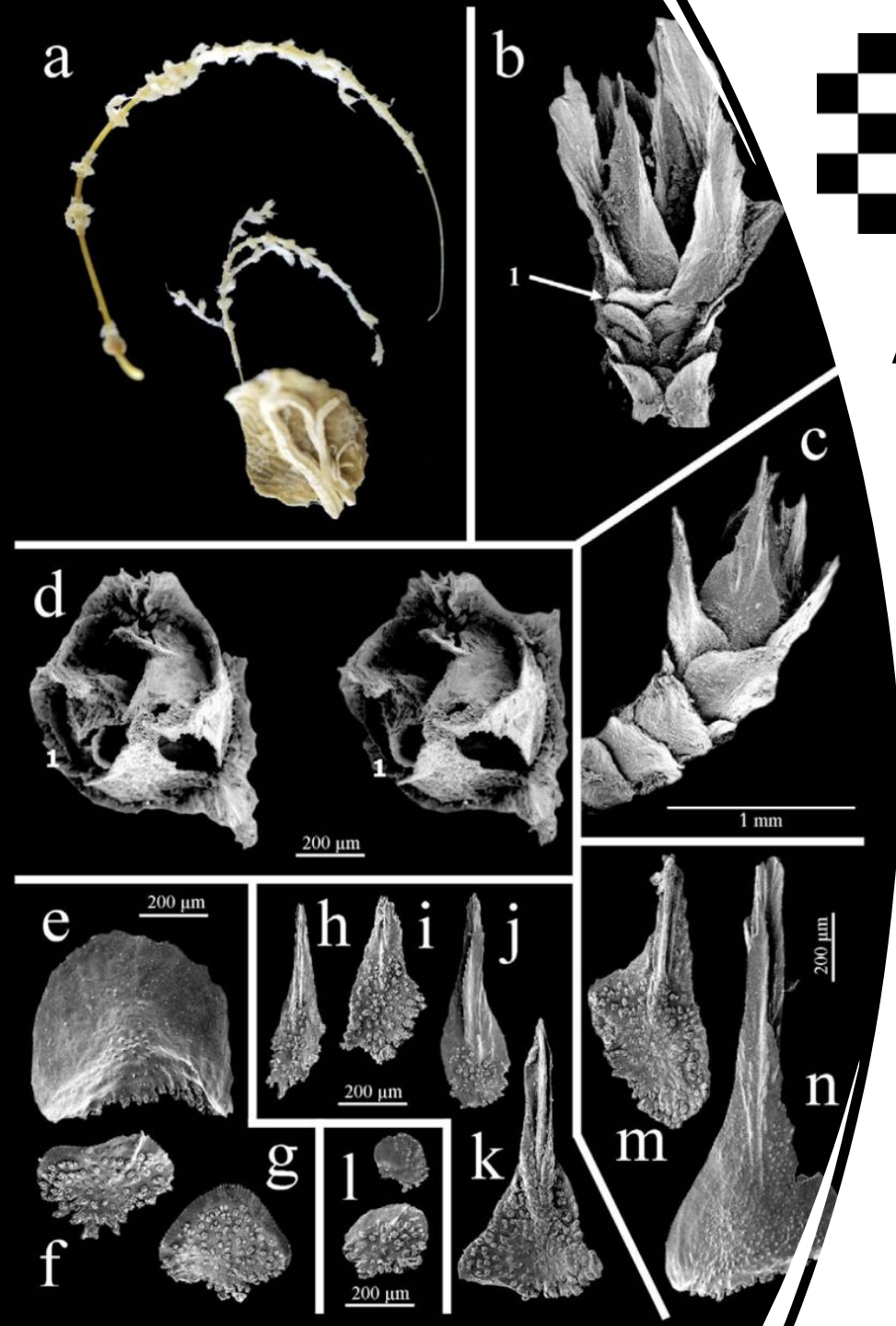
# Summary

- Targeted enrichment of **UCE successfully differentiate populations** of octocorals.
- **Depth** structuring genetic pattern in *P. chilensis* and the western sampling sites of *D. acanthina*.
- **Geography** (latitude) was the potential genetic barrier in eastern sampling sites of *D. acanthina*.
- **High genetic diversity and connectivity** of both *Thouarella* spp.
- **Lowest genetic diversity across the four spp** was identified in **South Georgia** shallow water = priority of this area for future conservation measurements?
- Reflect different life traits (larvae behaviour), complex demographic interactions (environmental/oceanographic conditions) or combination both?



Images from Blue Belt project





University  
of Essex

# Acknowledgements

Darwin Plus Grant for funding DPR7P\100040

Members of the Taylor's lab

Scientist and crew involved in the data collection:

Cefas

SGSSI Government

MRAG

BAS



**25 YEARS**  
of Cefas  
120 years of science



**British  
Antarctic Survey**

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL



**UK Government**



# Sabine Kasten

Alfred Wegener Institute



ESA

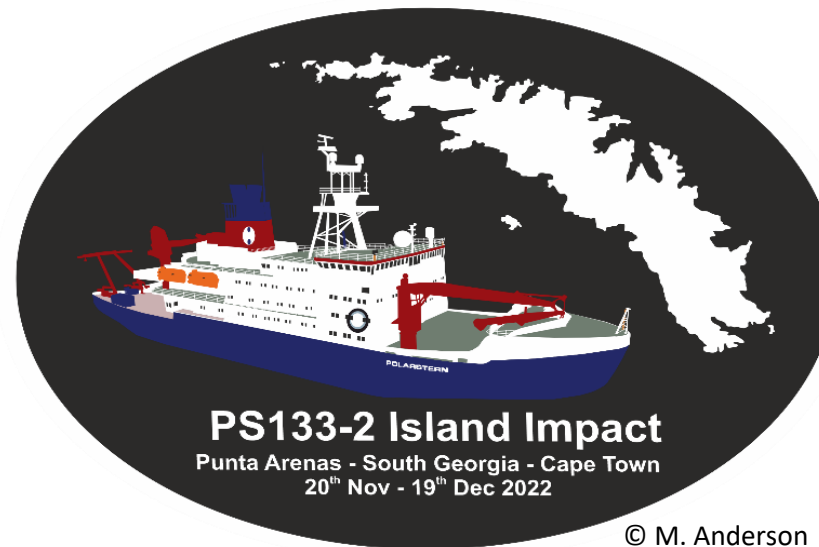


Sue G



AWI

**Expedition PS133-2 “Island Impact”**  
**Understanding the regional impact of islands**  
**(South Georgia)**  
**on Southern Ocean biogeochemistry and ecosystem function**



**Start:** 20.11.2022 in Punta Arenas (Chile)  
**End:** 19.12.2022 in Cape Town (South Africa)



## **Main objective of expedition “*Island Impact*”:**

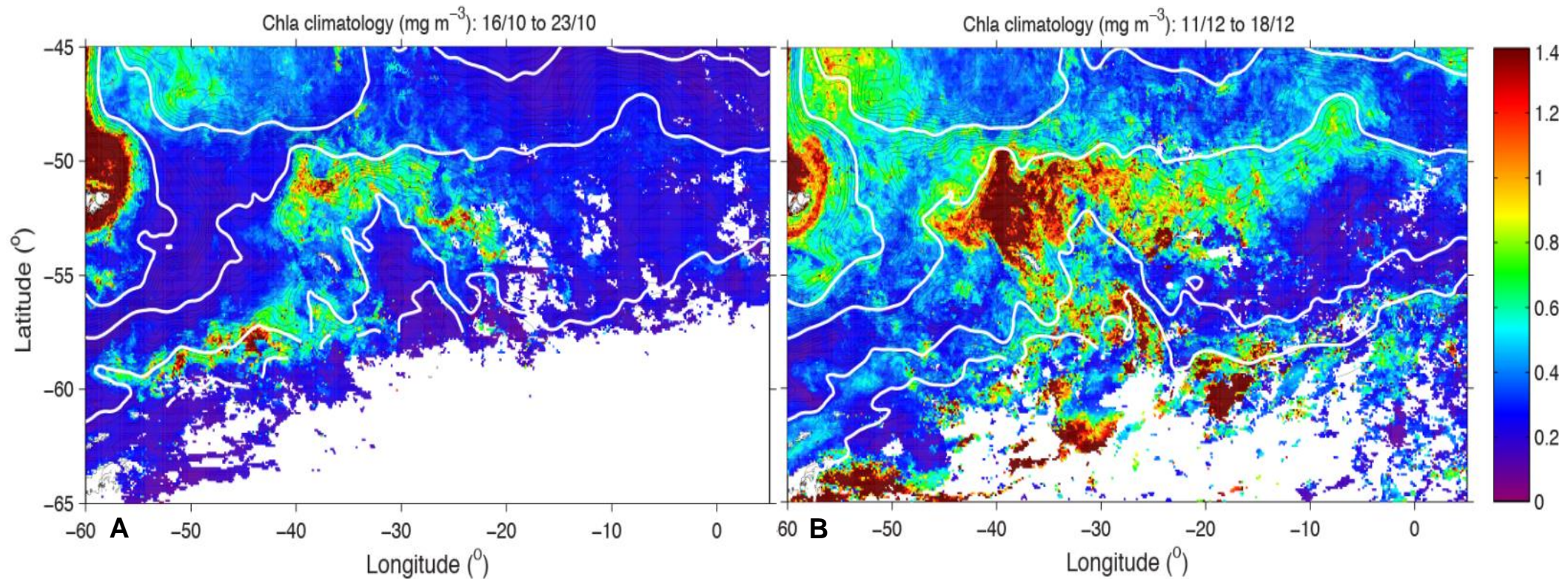
investigate and quantify the sources, transport pathways and fluxes of nutrients, iron, other trace elements and carbon over the whole terrestrial/coastal/open ocean continuum

-> combining work on different environmental compartments, namely terrestrial coast, sediment and water column, to trace nutrients, iron and carbon from source to sink



# Leg PS133-2 - Motivation

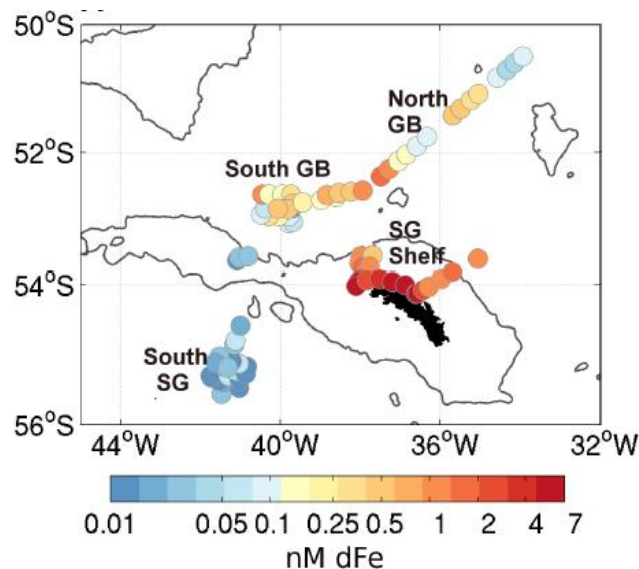
## Areas of high surface water productivity along flow path of ACC and downstream of South Georgia



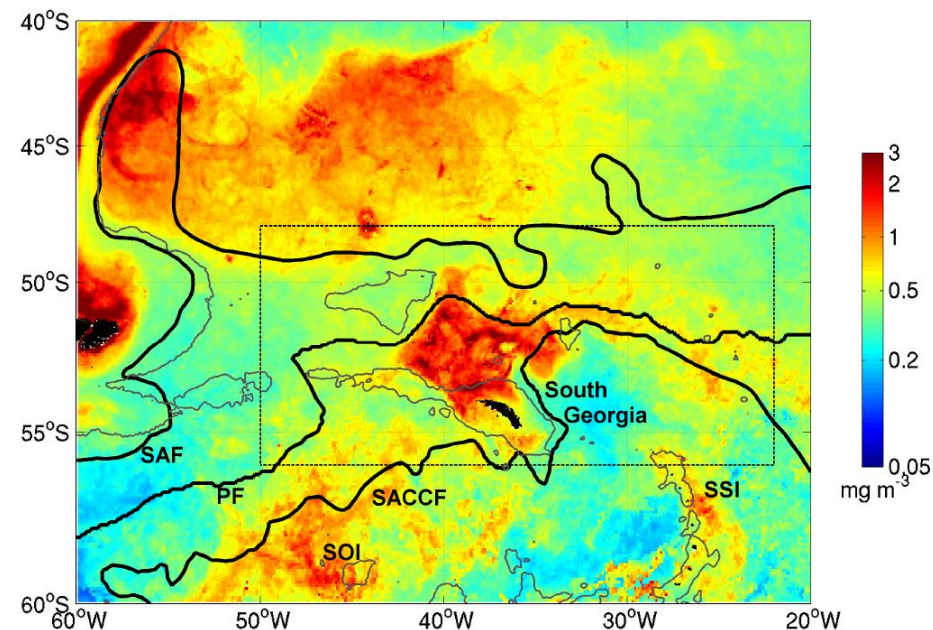
Inherent link between Leg1 PS133-1 (chief scientist: C. Klaas) and Leg2 PS133-2!

# Motivation: Iron input drives plankton blooms around/downstream South Georgia

- Southern Ocean (SO) accounts for 20% of the global annual phytoplankton production (Behrenfeld and Falkowski, 1997)
- Large part of SO is a high nutrient low chlorophyll (HNLC) region
- Significant plankton blooms occur downstream (north) of South Georgia due to Fe input
- Limited knowledge about respective Fe sources hampers assessing the sensitivity of the region under changing climate conditions



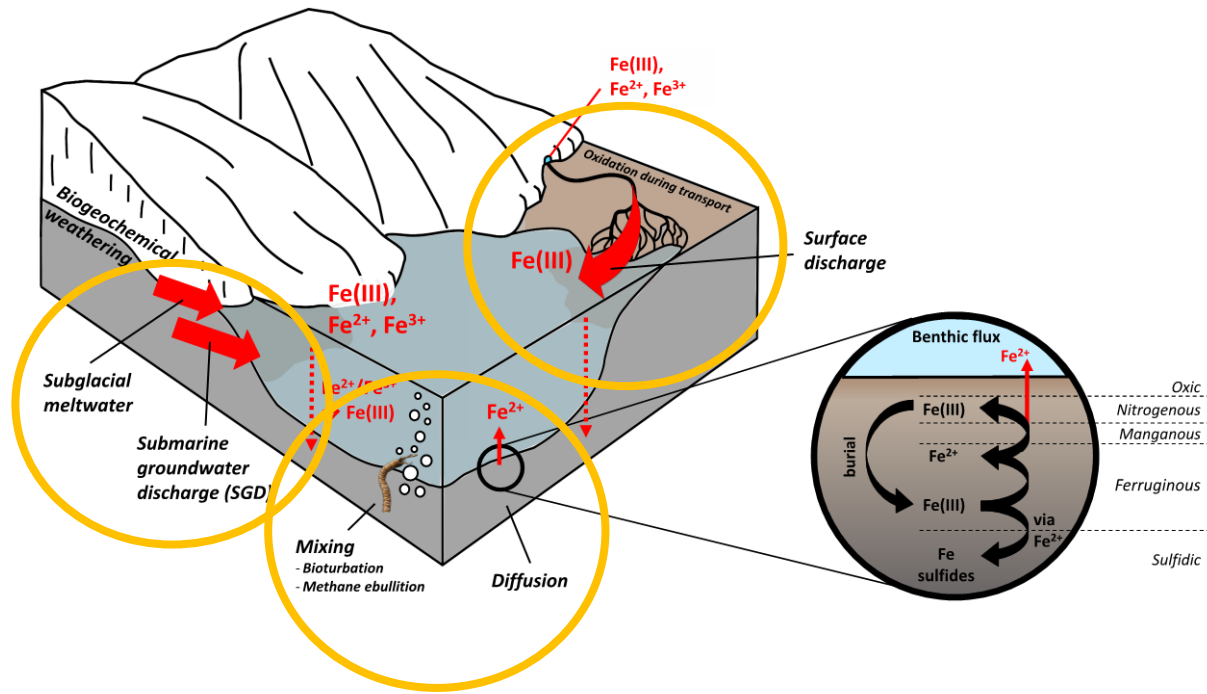
Underway measurements of dFe, Jan-Feb 2008 (Nielsdóttir et al., 2012), Mar. Chem.



Austral summer Chl a distribution around South Georgia 2007-2011 (MODIS data); Borrione et al. (2013), BGD



# Potential sources and transport pathways of iron (Fe)



Henkel et al. (2018)  
GCA, modified

>130 active methane seeps  
in South Georgia fjords and troughs  
(Römer et al., 2014; EPSL)

## (I) Input of Fe-rich freshwater:

- glacial and subglacial meltwater
- (submarine) groundwater discharge

## (II) Fe and nutrient release from fjord sediments :

- diffusion and advection
- macrobenthic mixing/bioturbation
- methane bubble ebullition



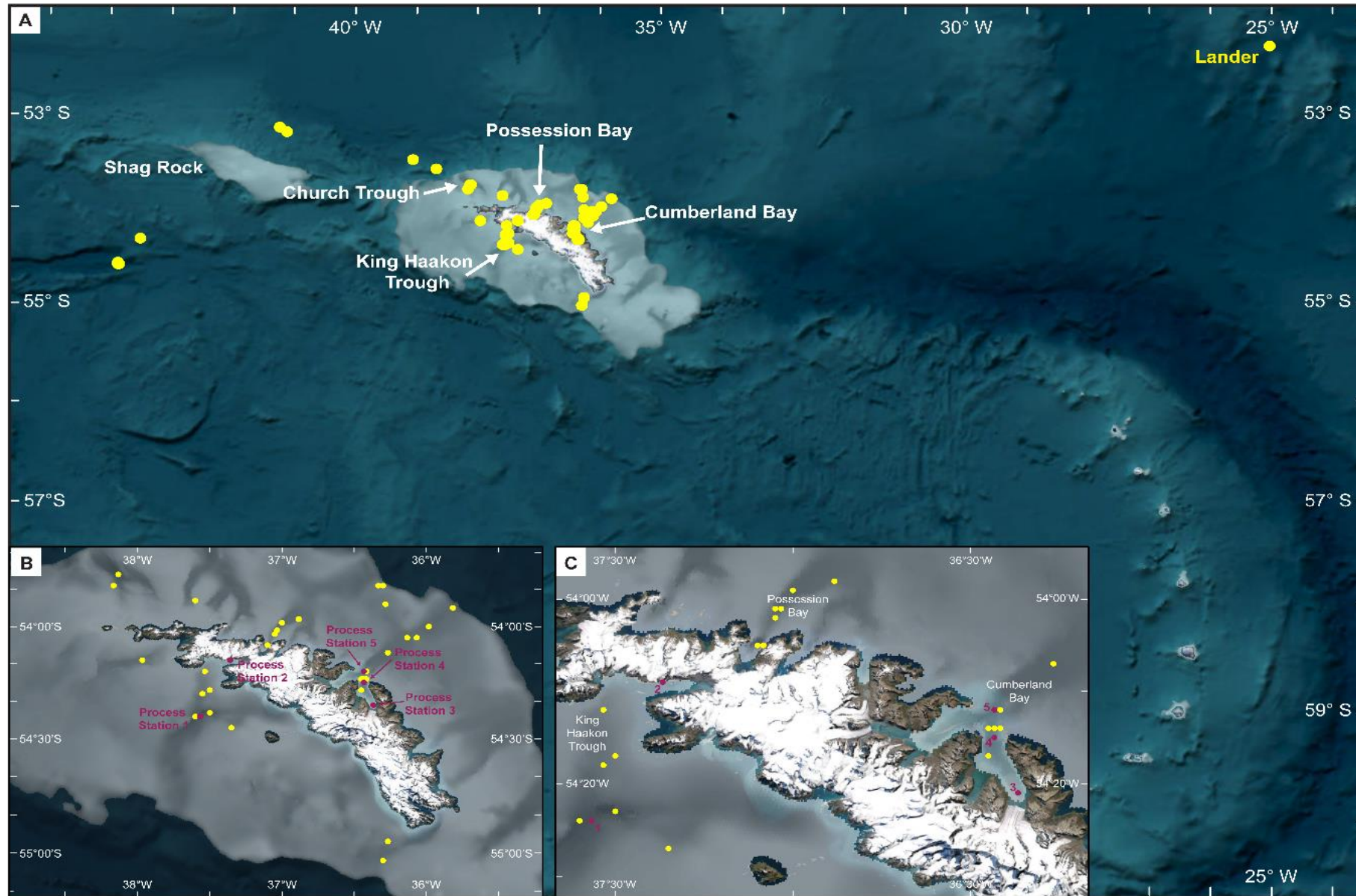
# International and Multidisciplinary Team on board



-> 13 working groups and different scientific disciplines



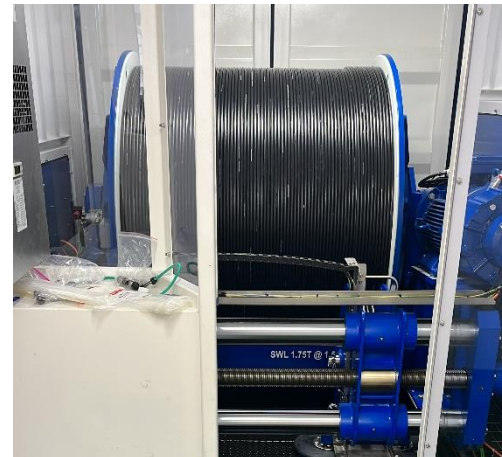
# Sampling Stations





# Sampling tools – Examples I

## Trace-Metal Clean CTD/Rosette System with Winch and Clean-Lab Container

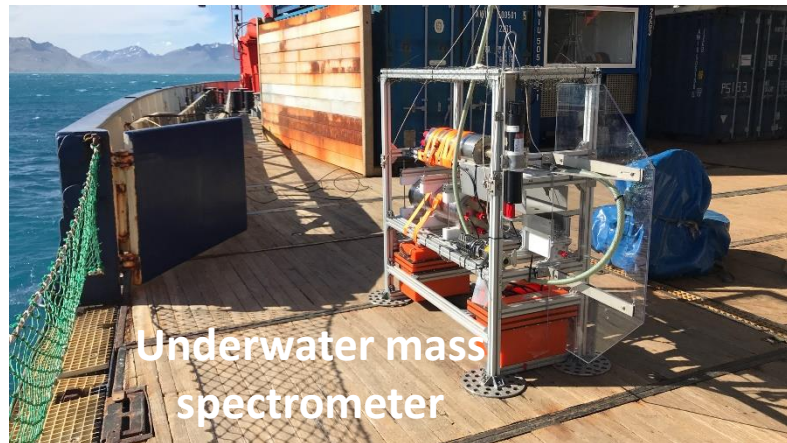
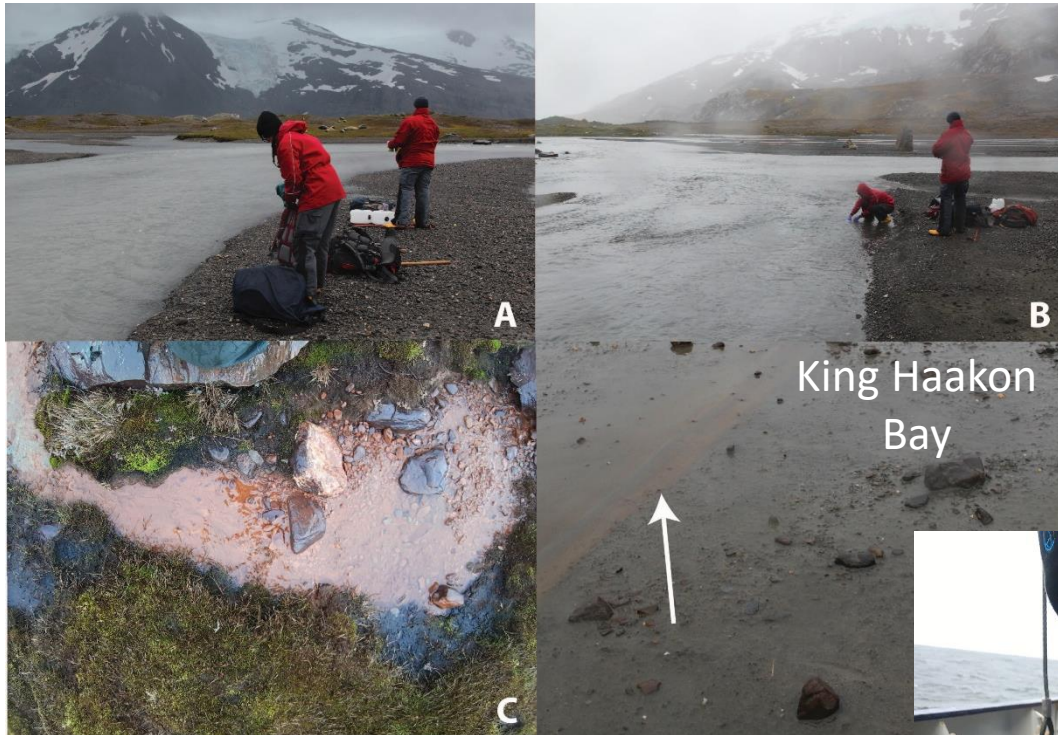


©Berenice Ebner

-> focus on dissolved Fe concentrations and stable iron isotopes in the water column



# Sampling tools – Examples II





# Sampling tools – Examples III





# Visit at Grytviken and King Edward Point Research Station



December 5th

-> Visit of Grytviken and KEP research station including **short presentation** of expedition PS133-2



# Leg PS133-2 „Island Impact“





# Madeline Anderson

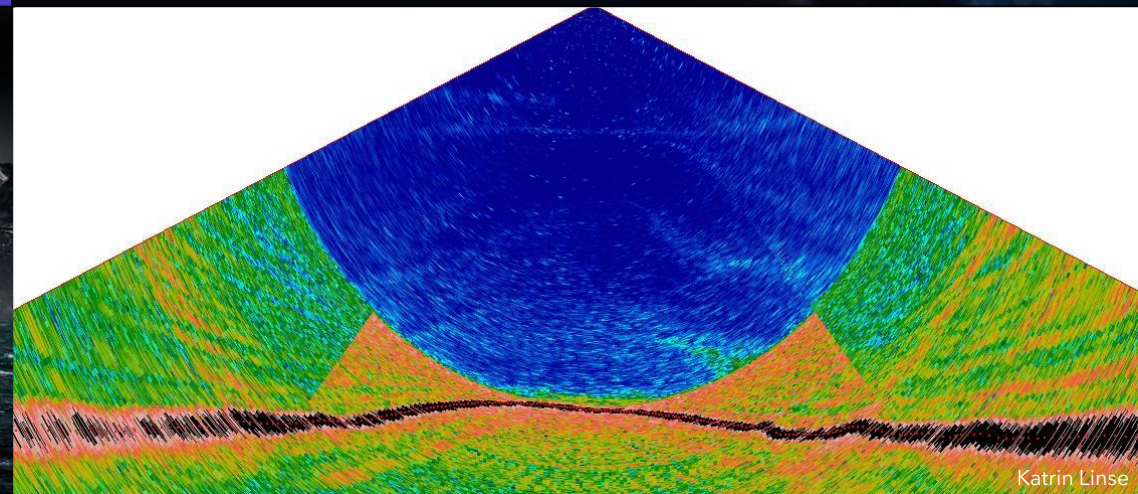
British Antarctic Survey



ESA



Sue G



Katrin Linse



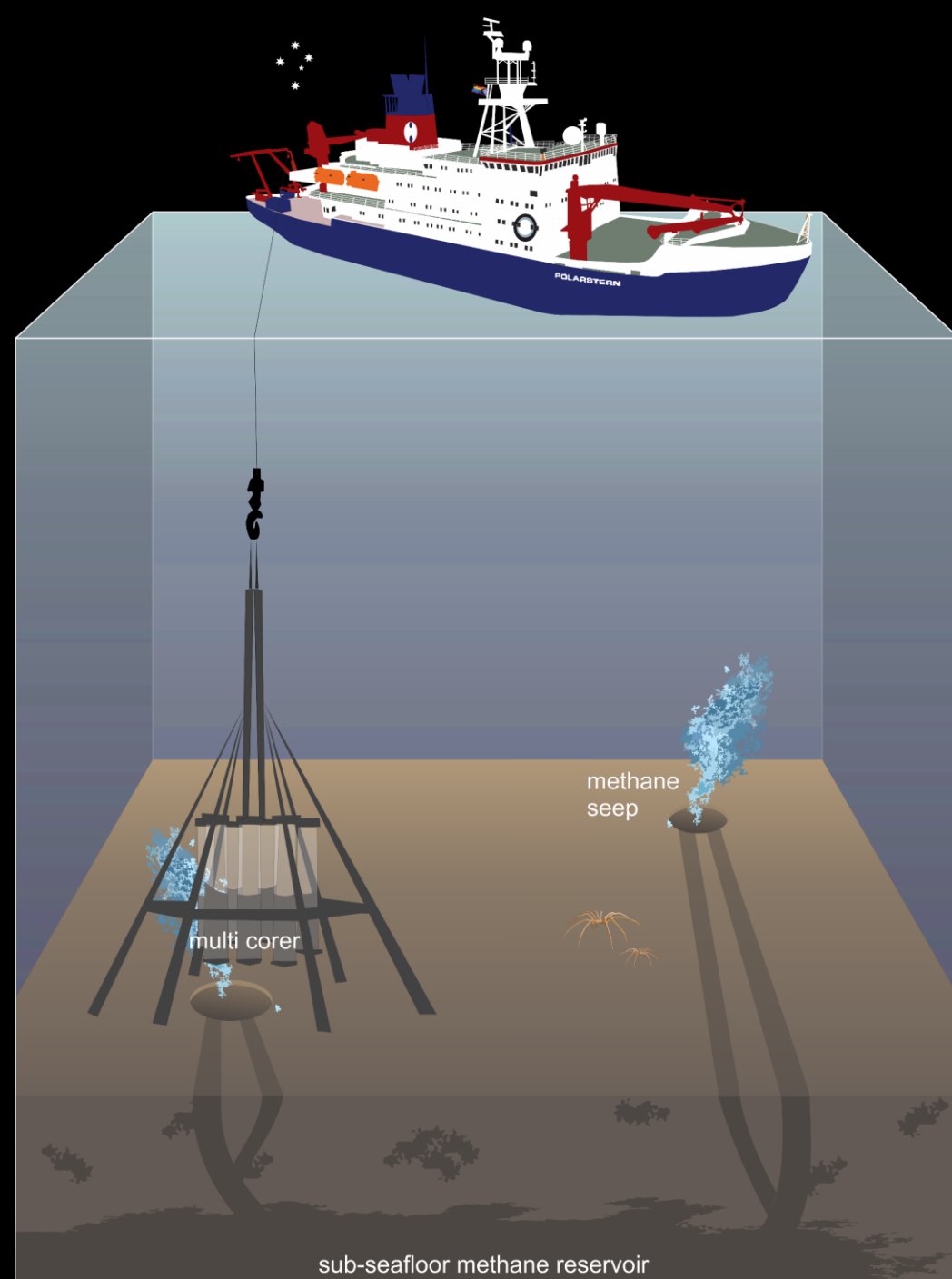
# FROM BUBBLES TO BIOLOGY

The impact of methane gas on  
South Georgia's seafloor animals



Mads Anderson

✉ [mason@bas.ac.uk](mailto:mason@bas.ac.uk) [@MarineMads](https://twitter.com/MarineMads)

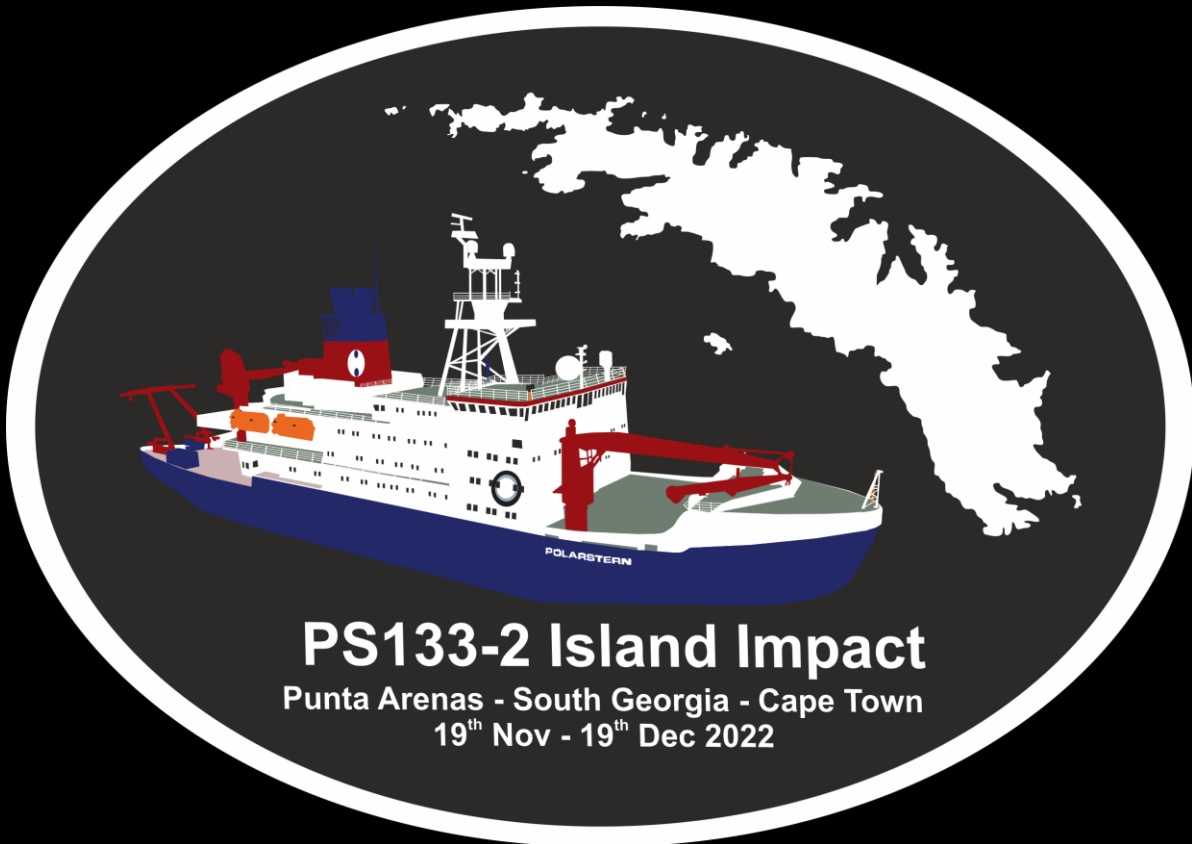
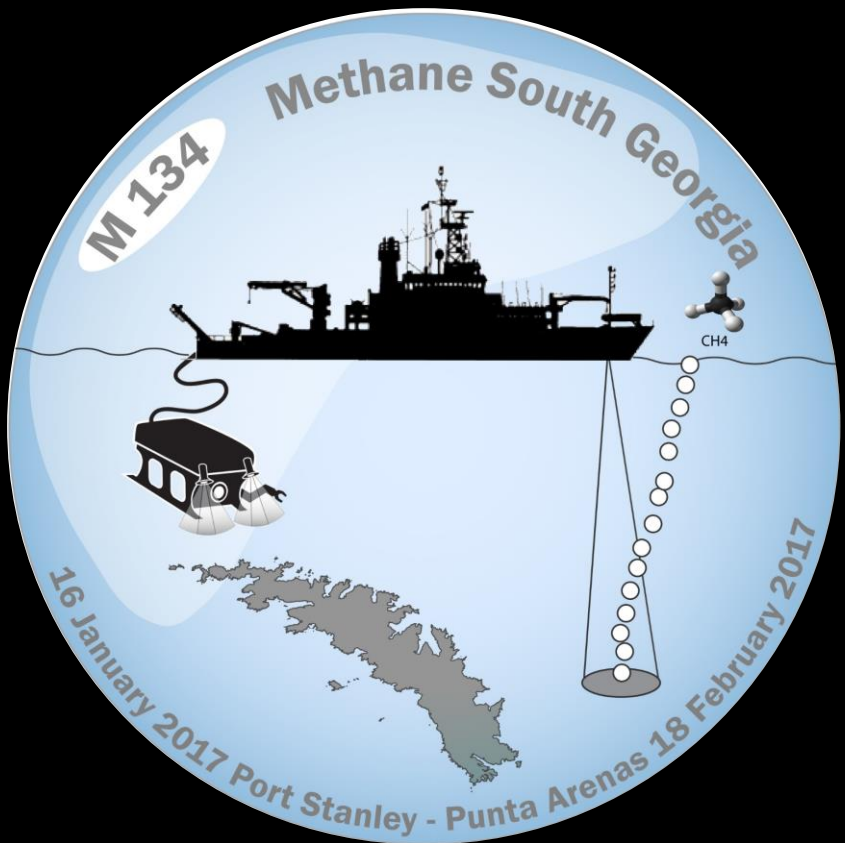


sub-seafloor methane reservoir

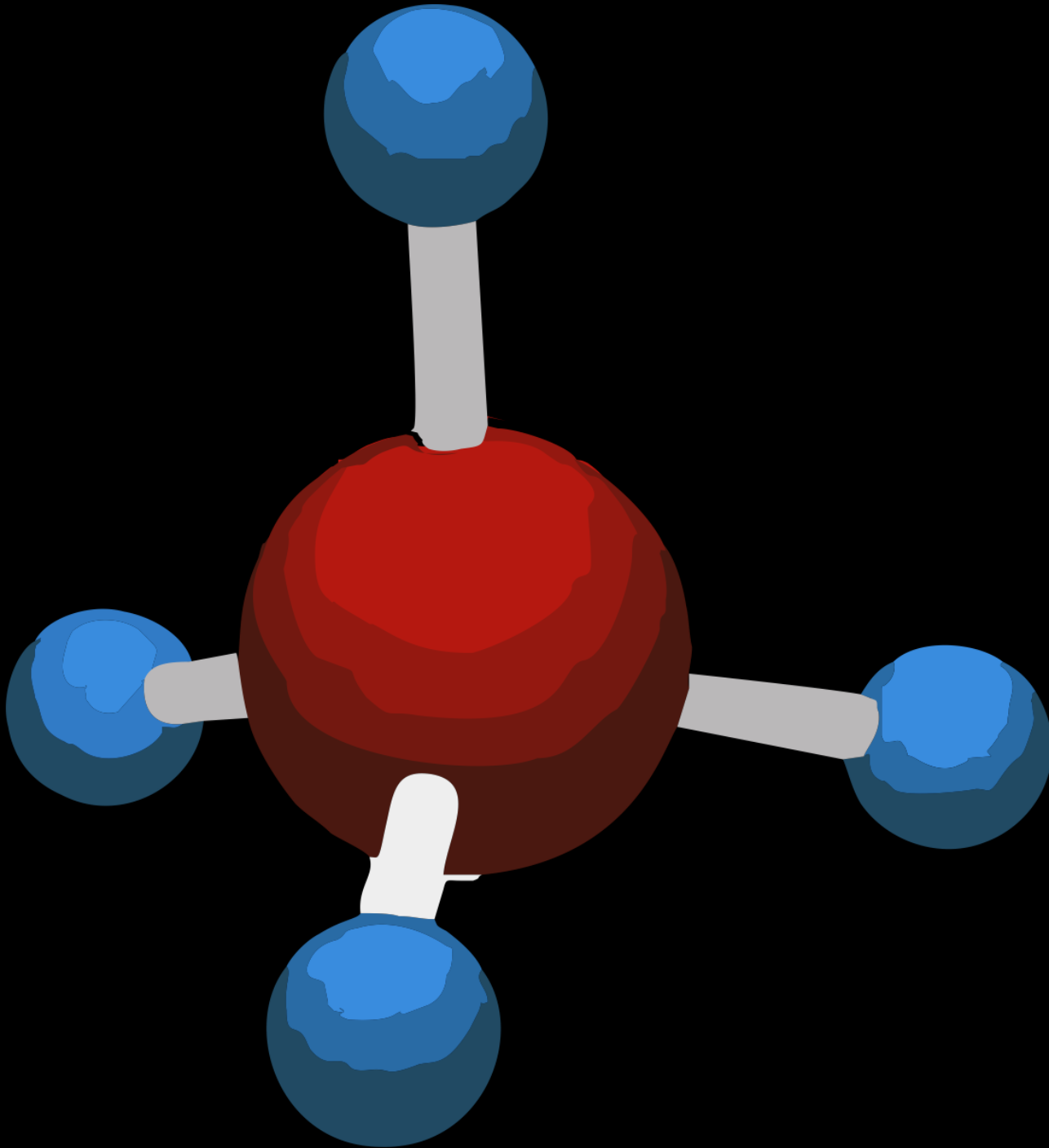


2017

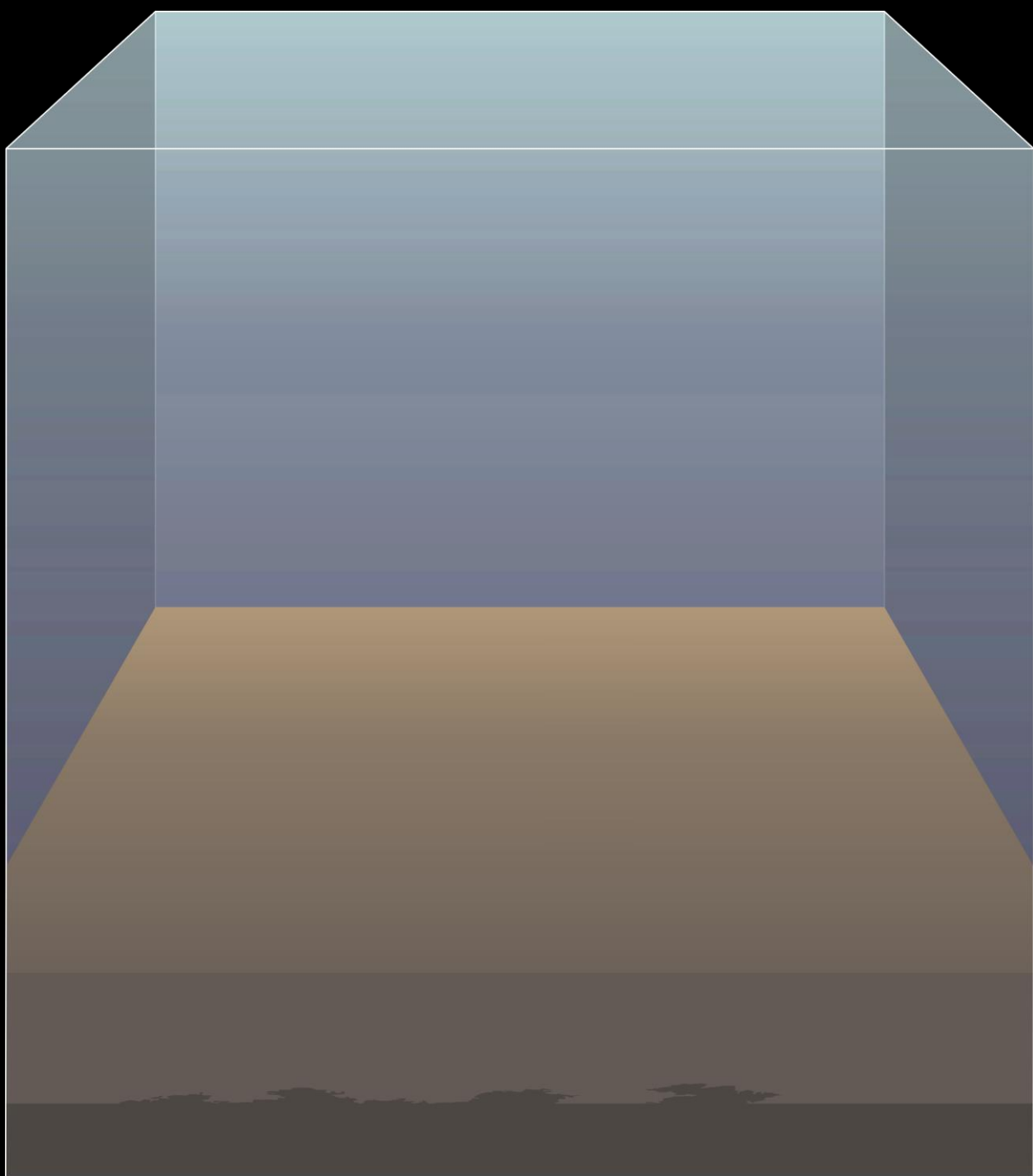
2022



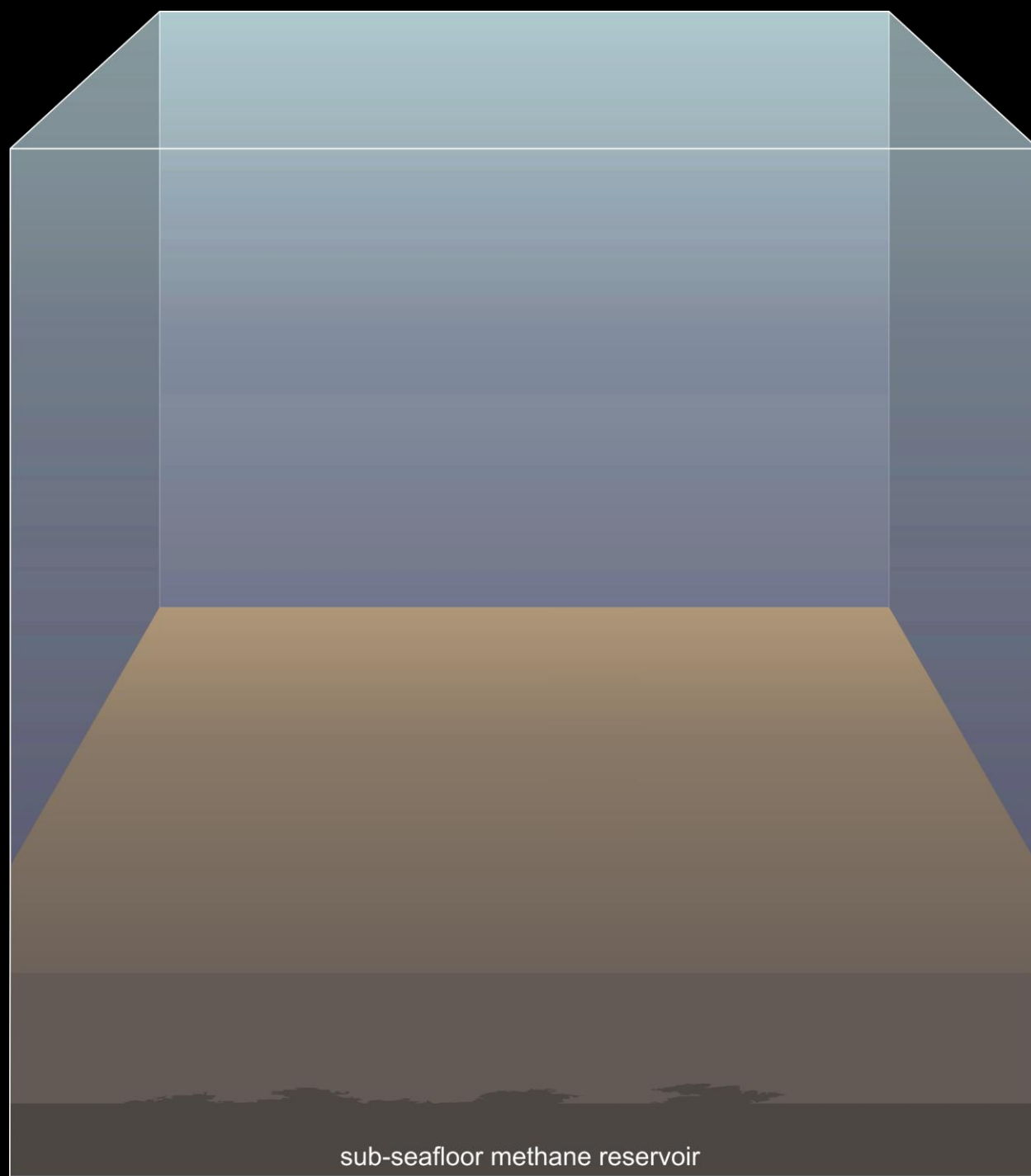




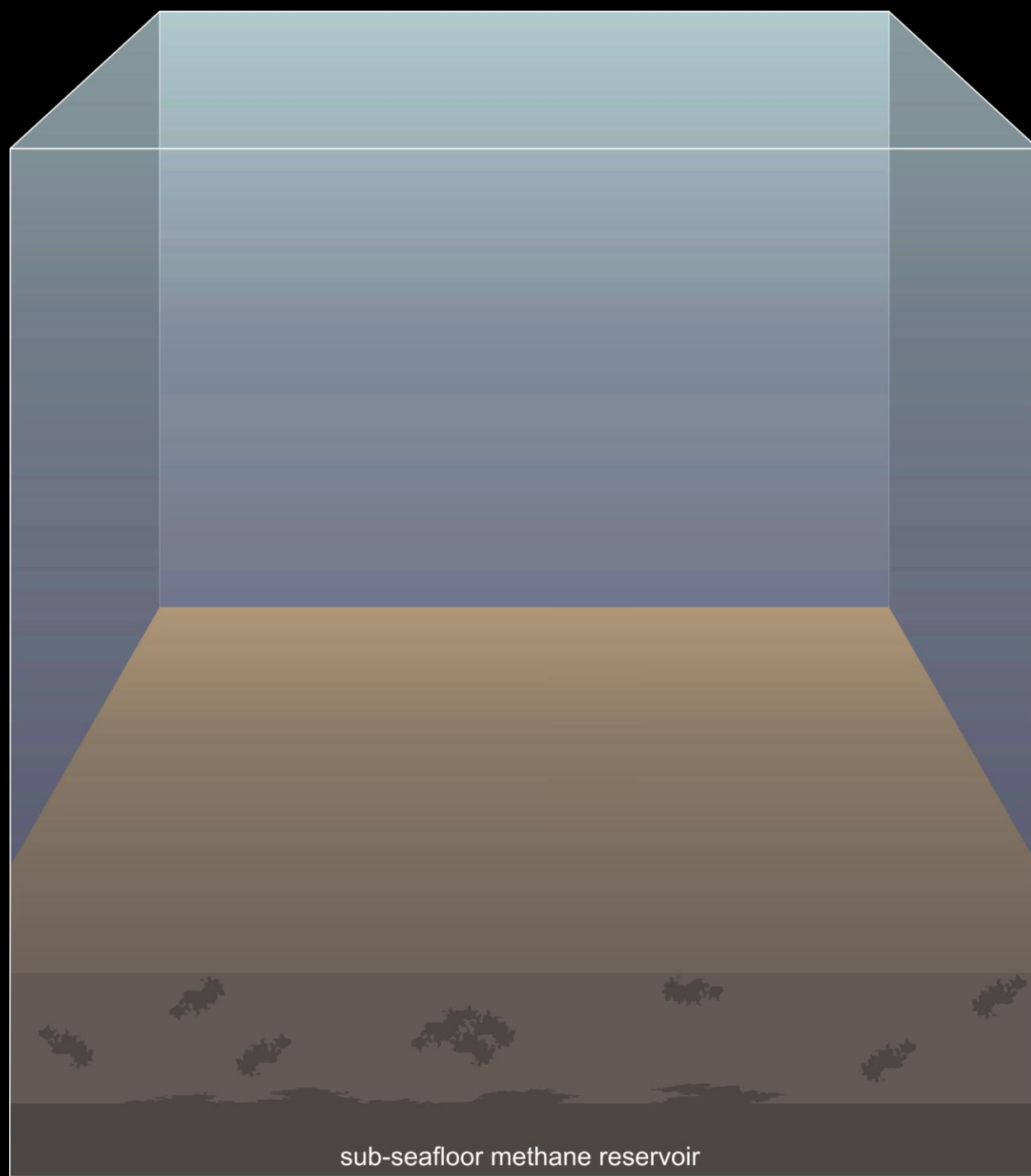
● H  
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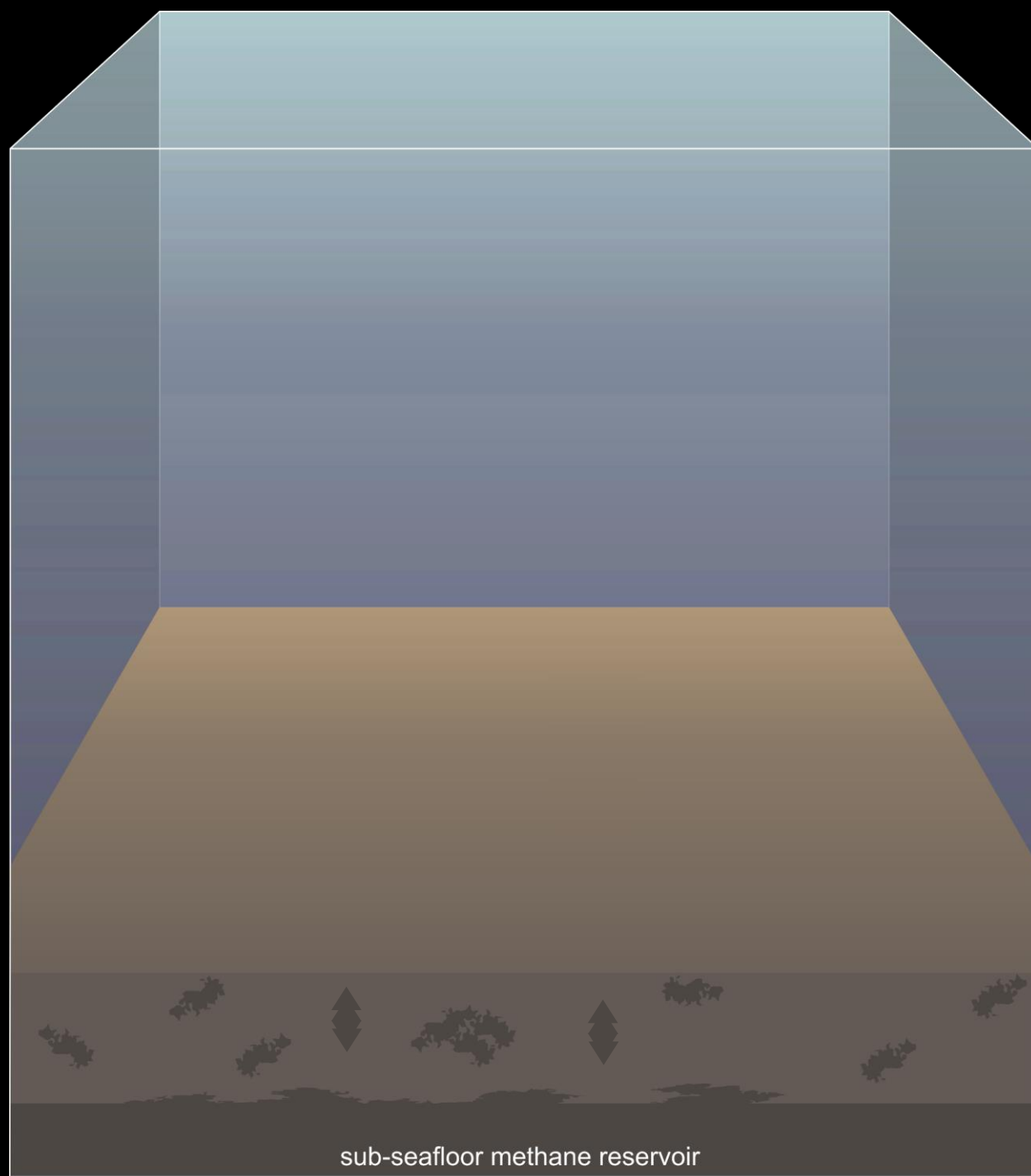




sub-seafloor methane reservoir

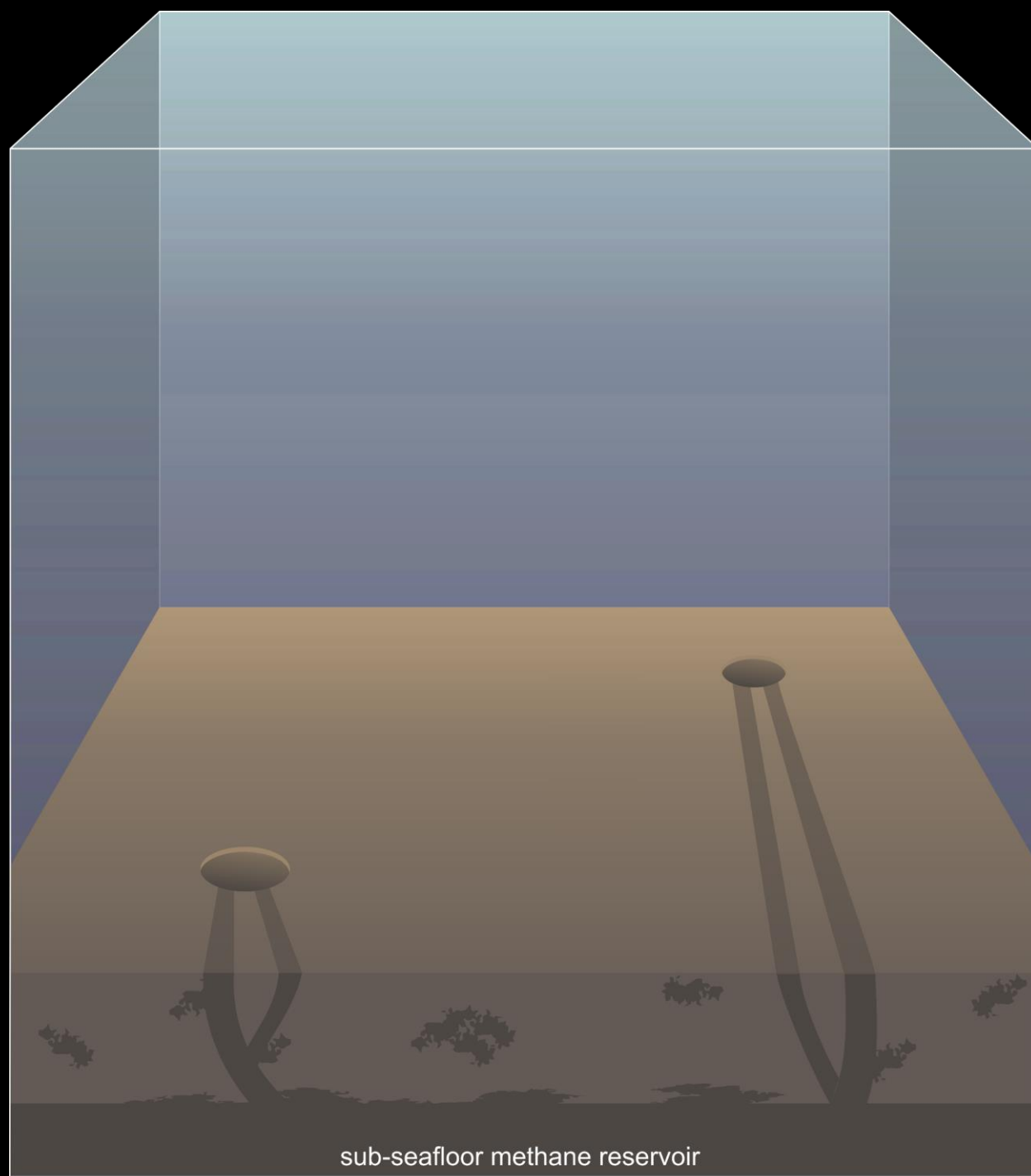


sub-seafloor methane reservoir

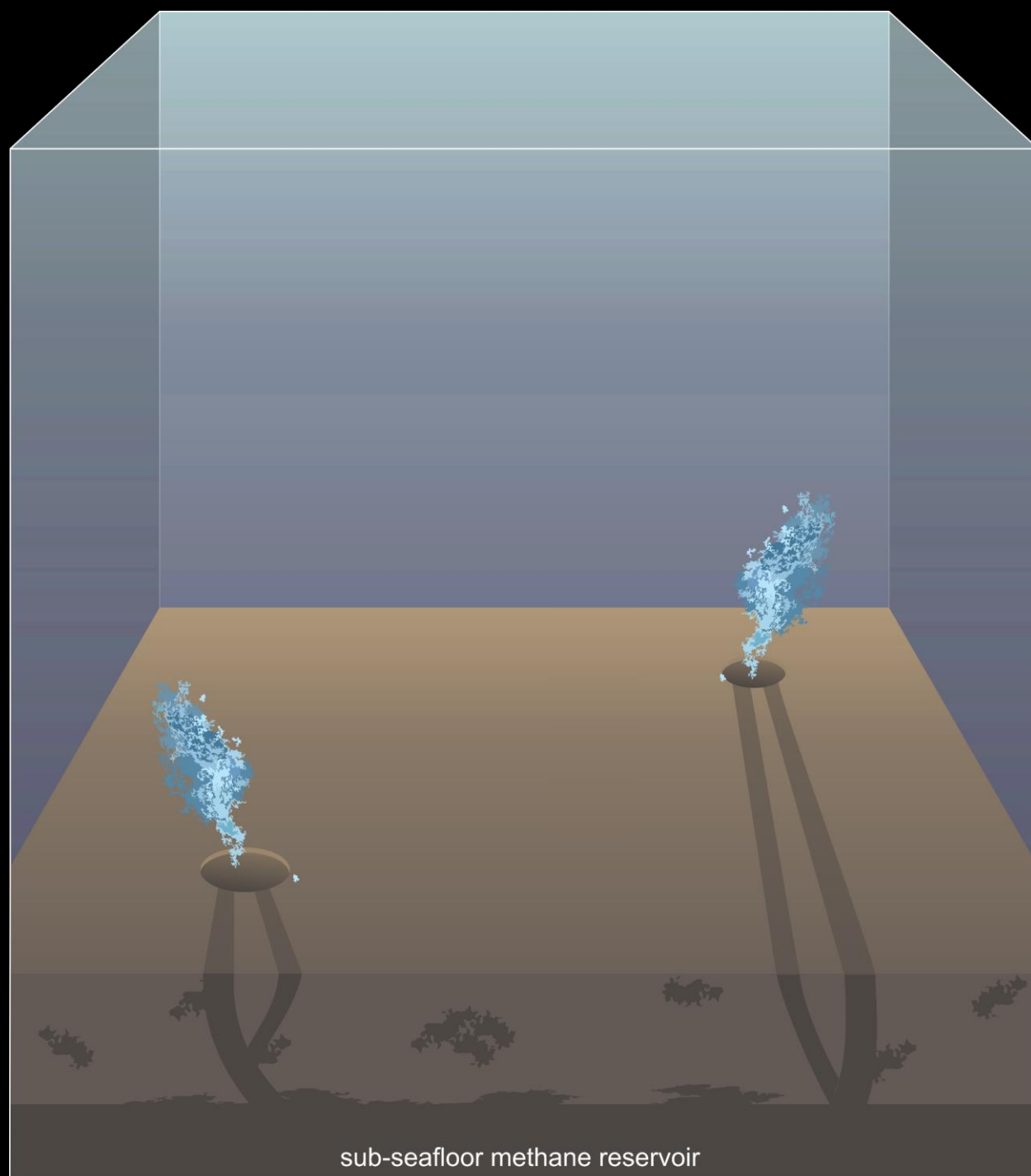


sub-seafloor methane reservoir

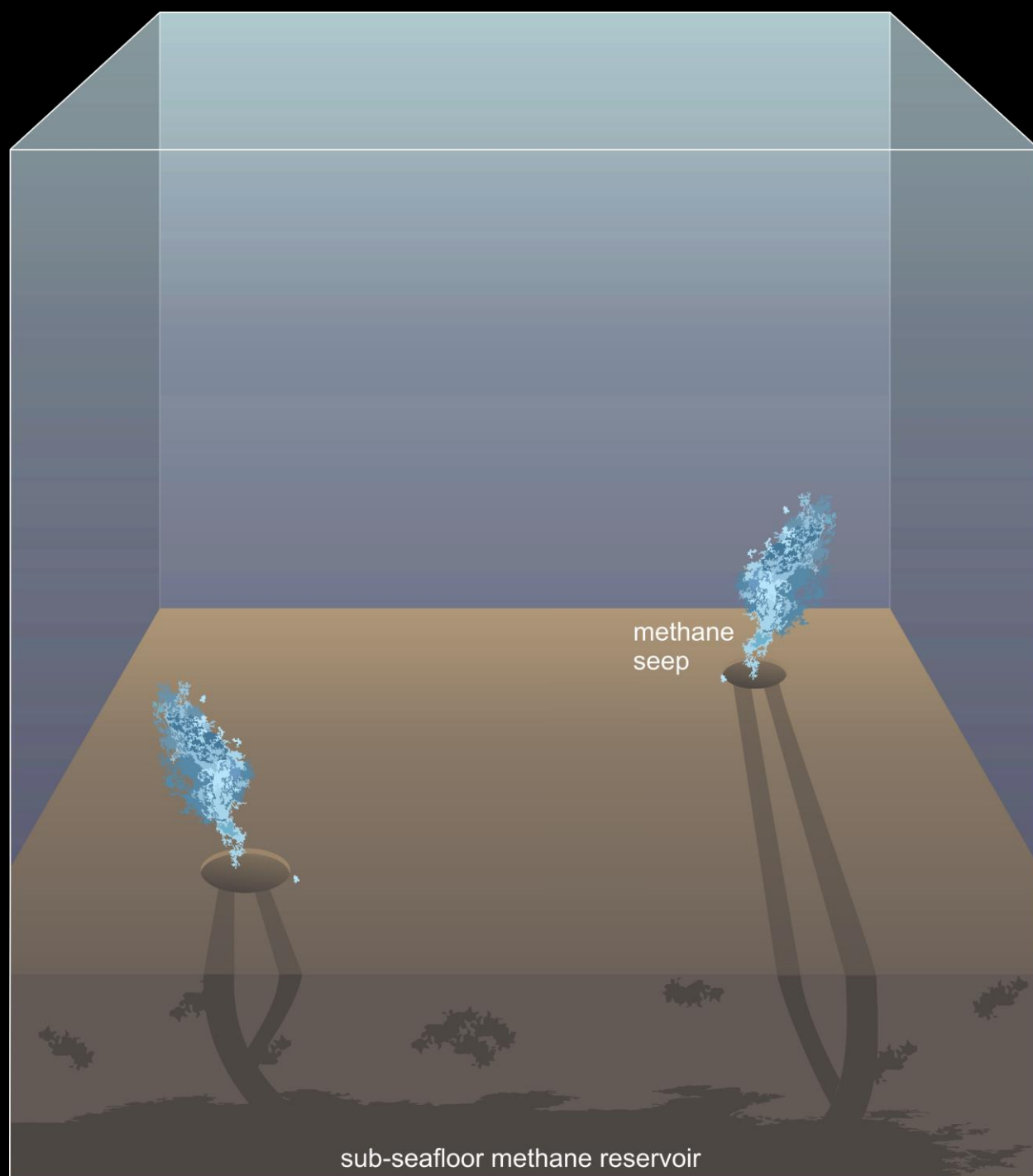




sub-seafloor methane reservoir



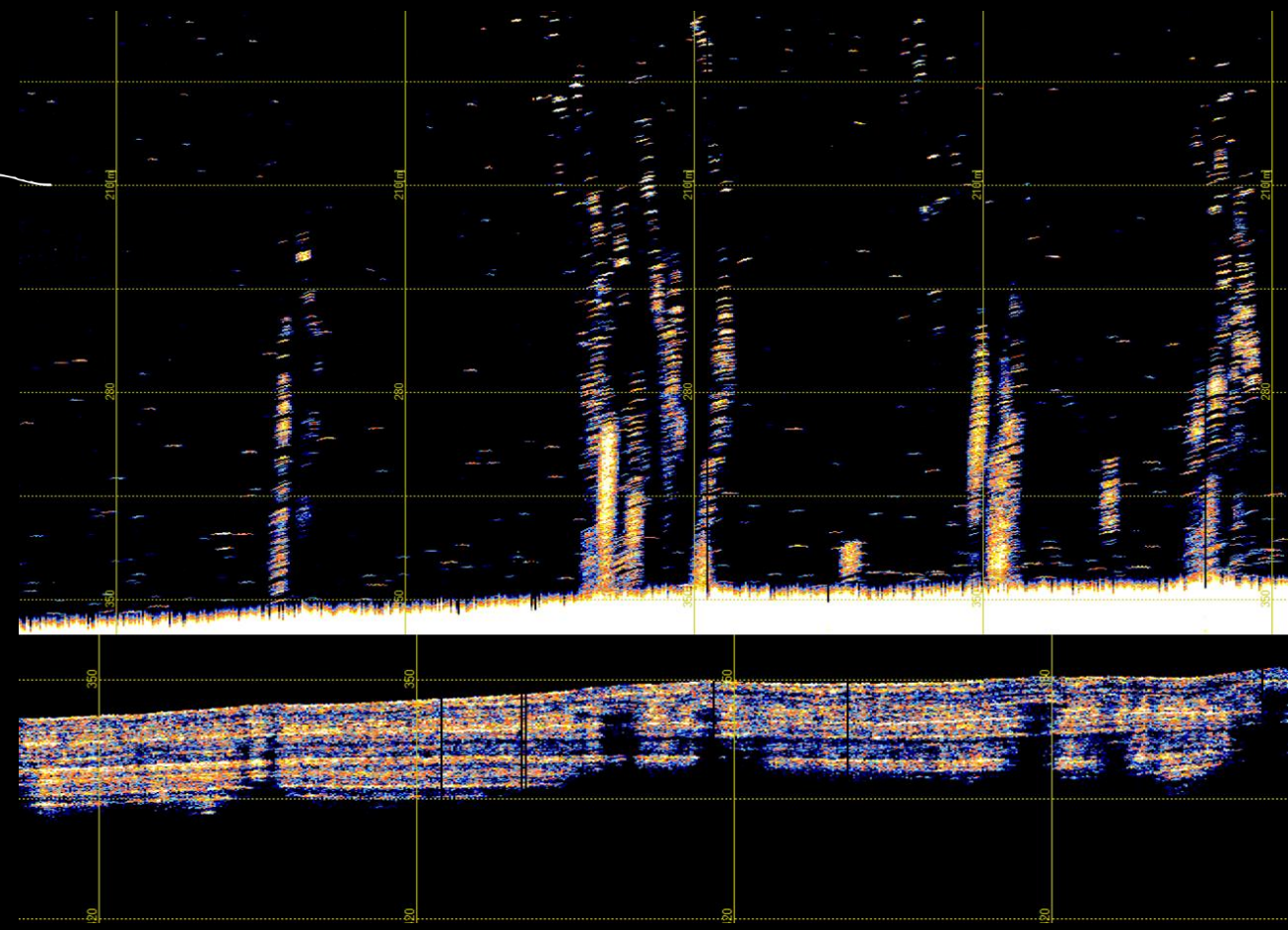
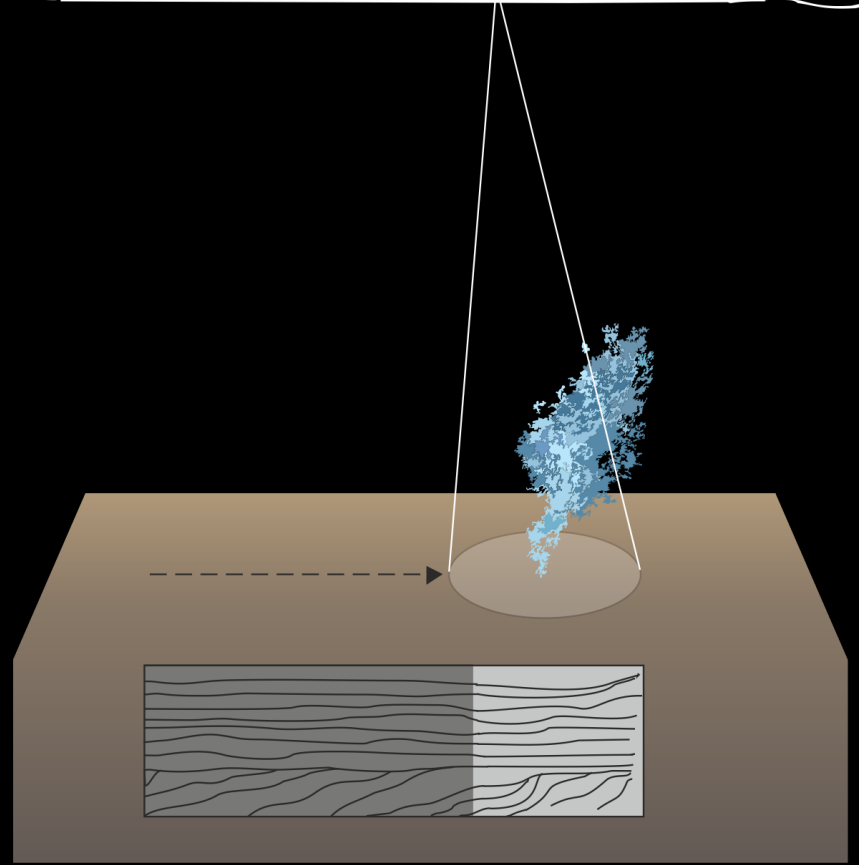
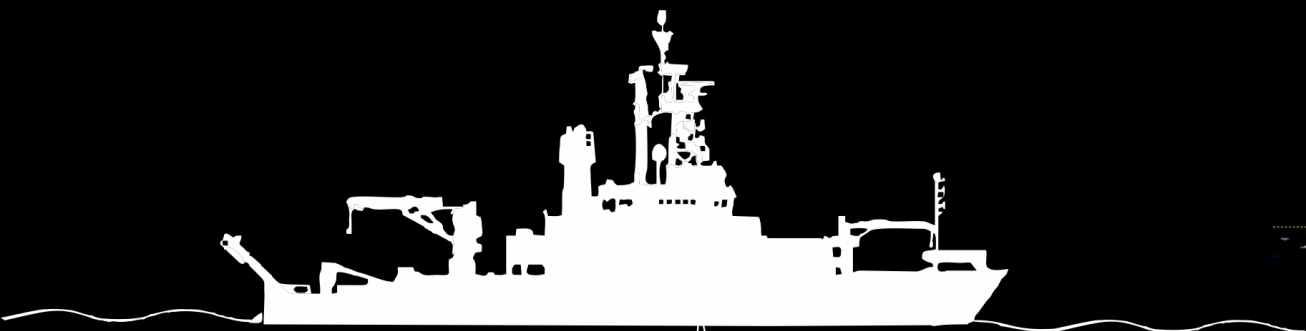
sub-seafloor methane reservoir



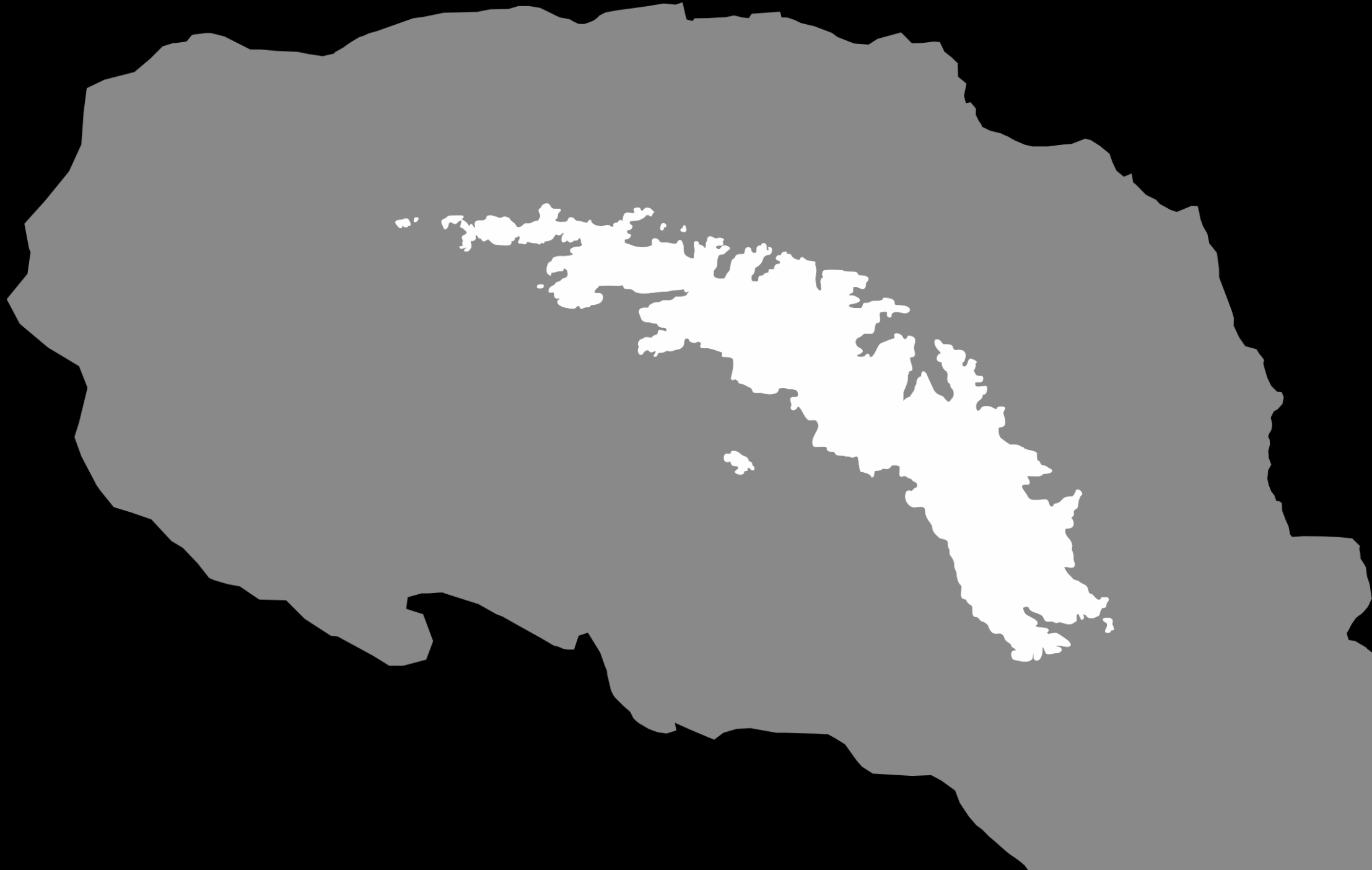
methane  
seep

sub-seafloor methane reservoir

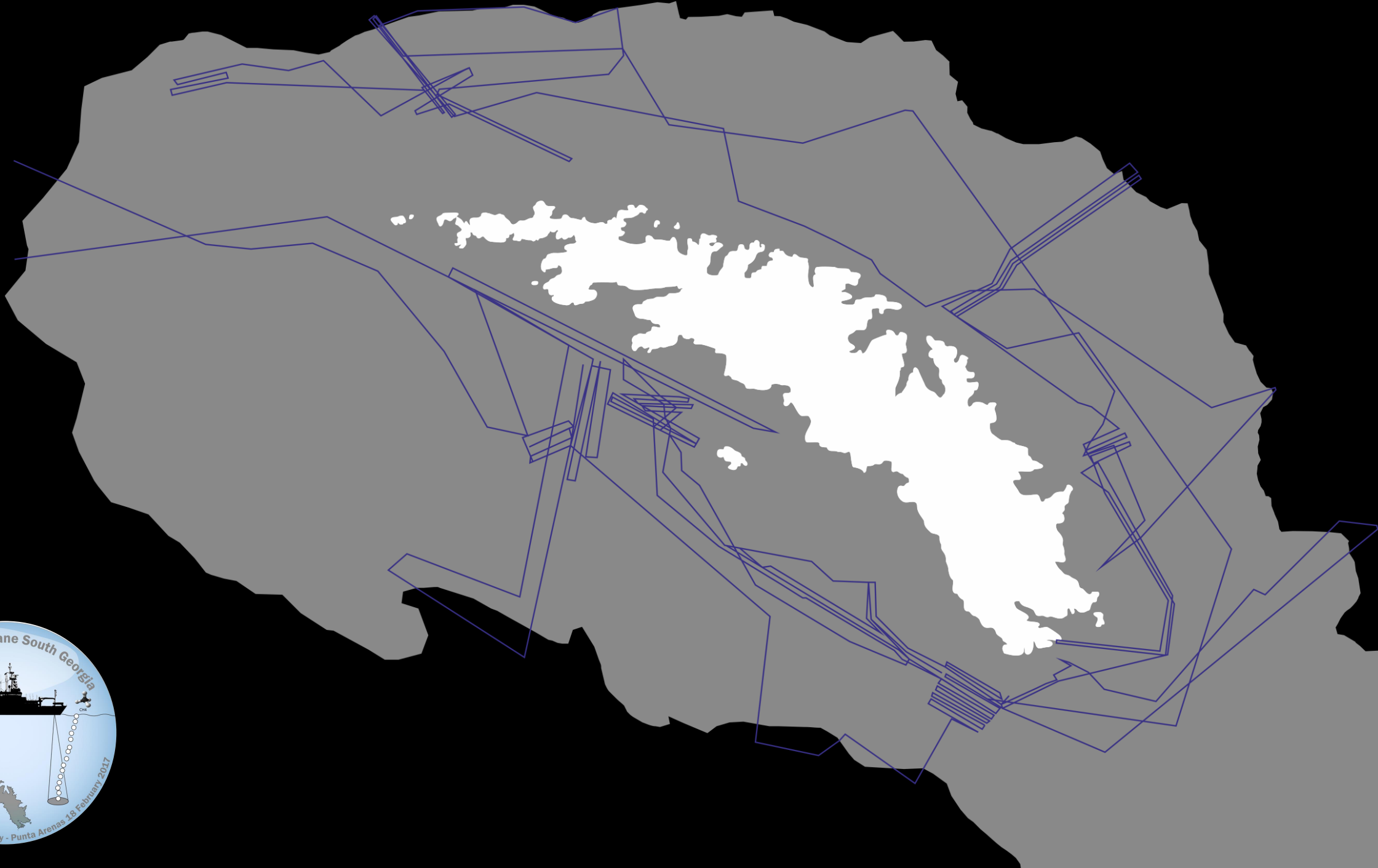
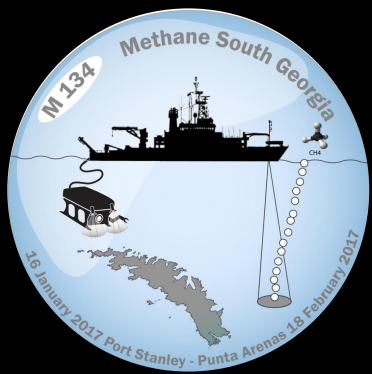


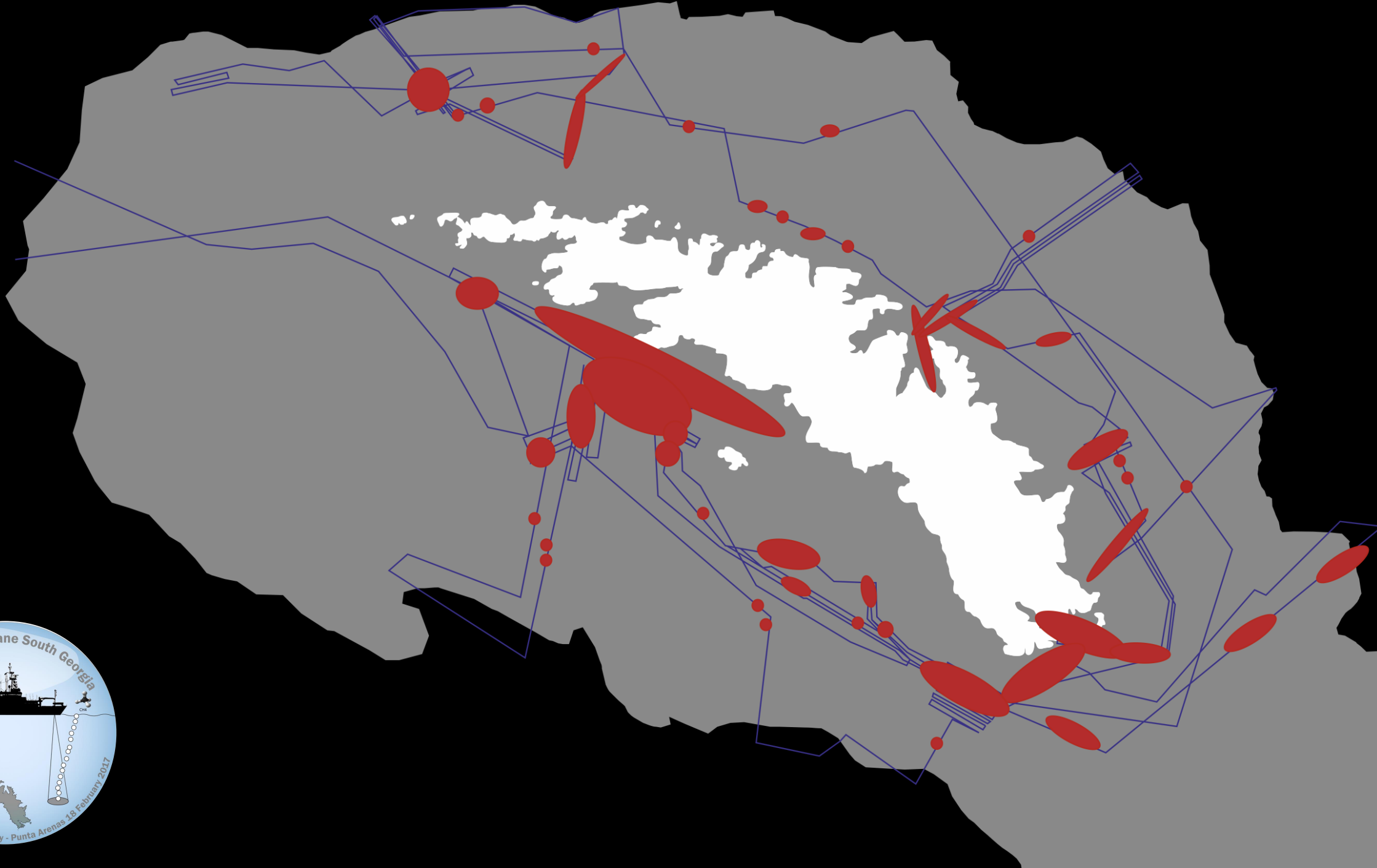
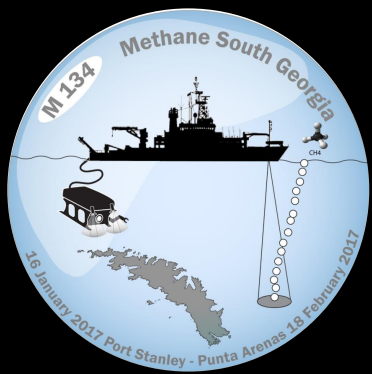


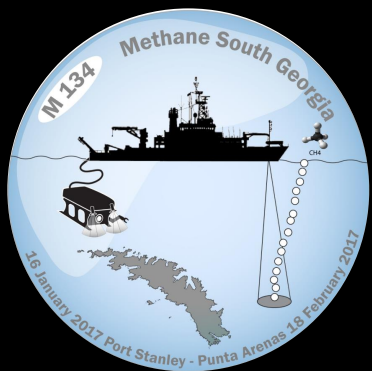




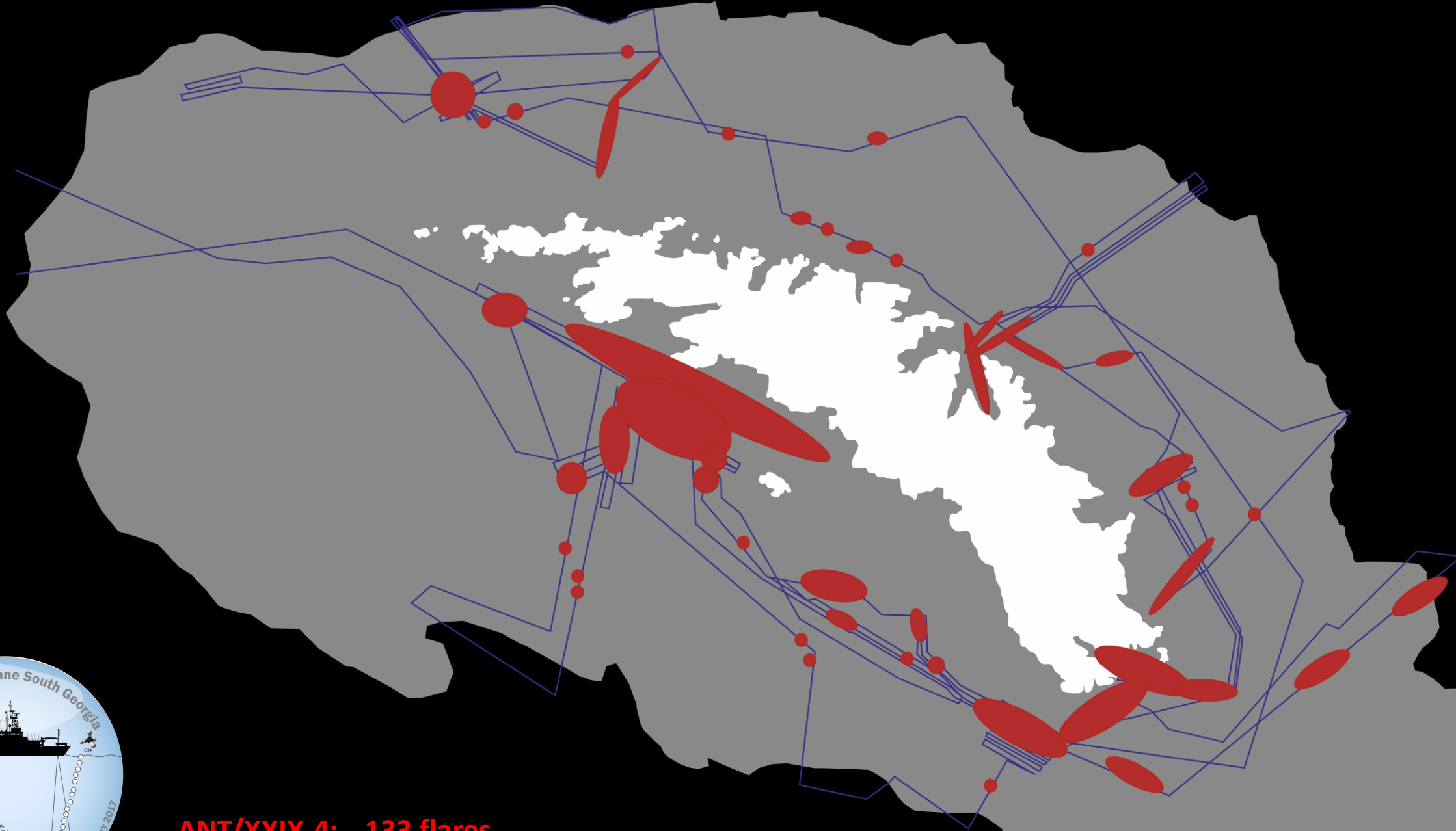




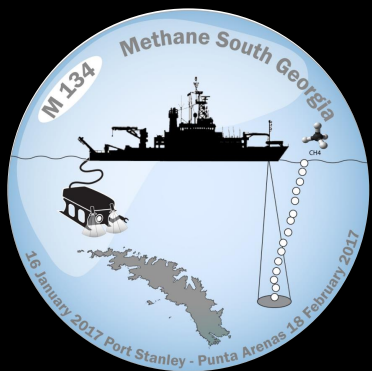




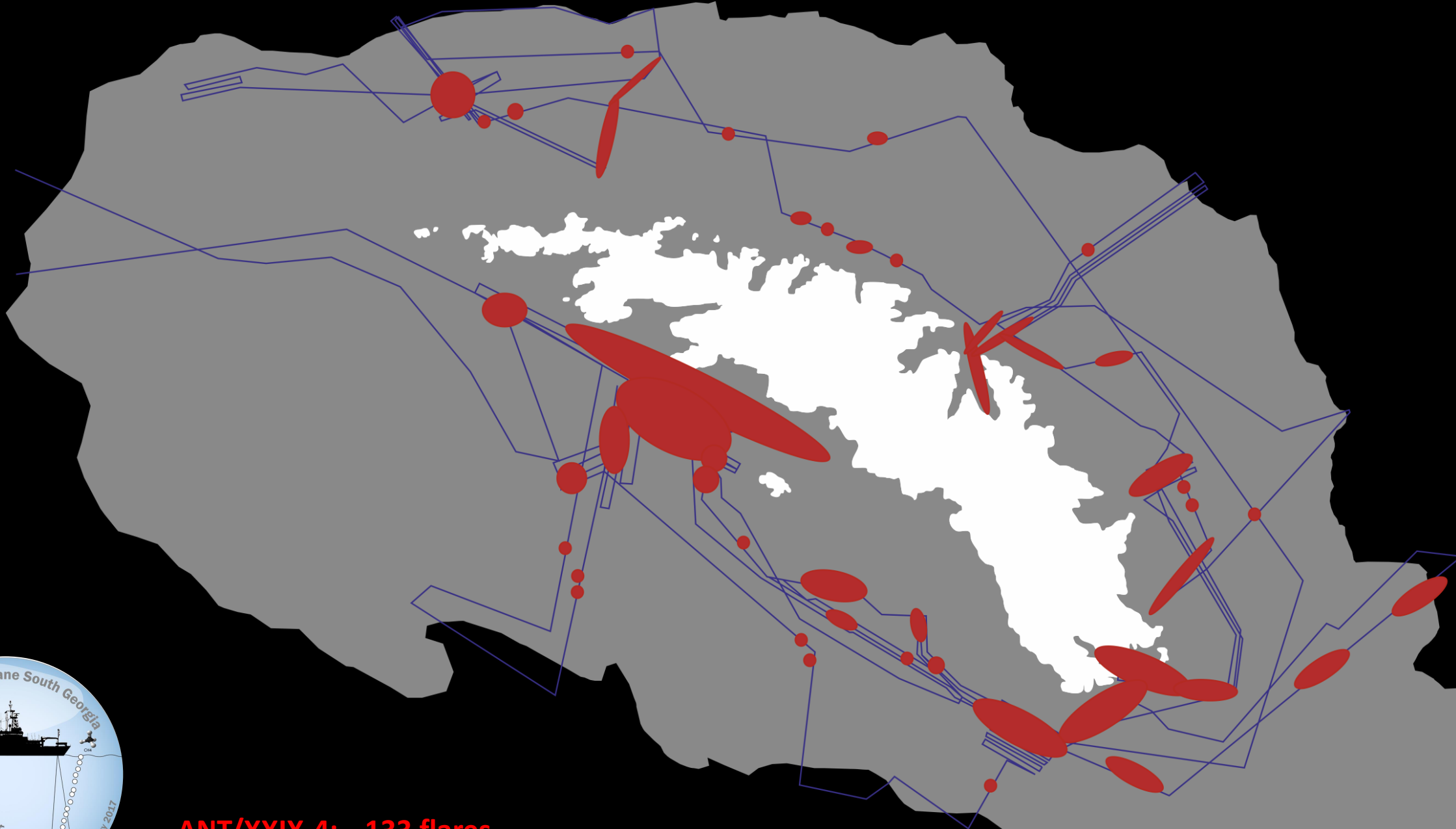
**ANT/XXIX-4: 133 flares**

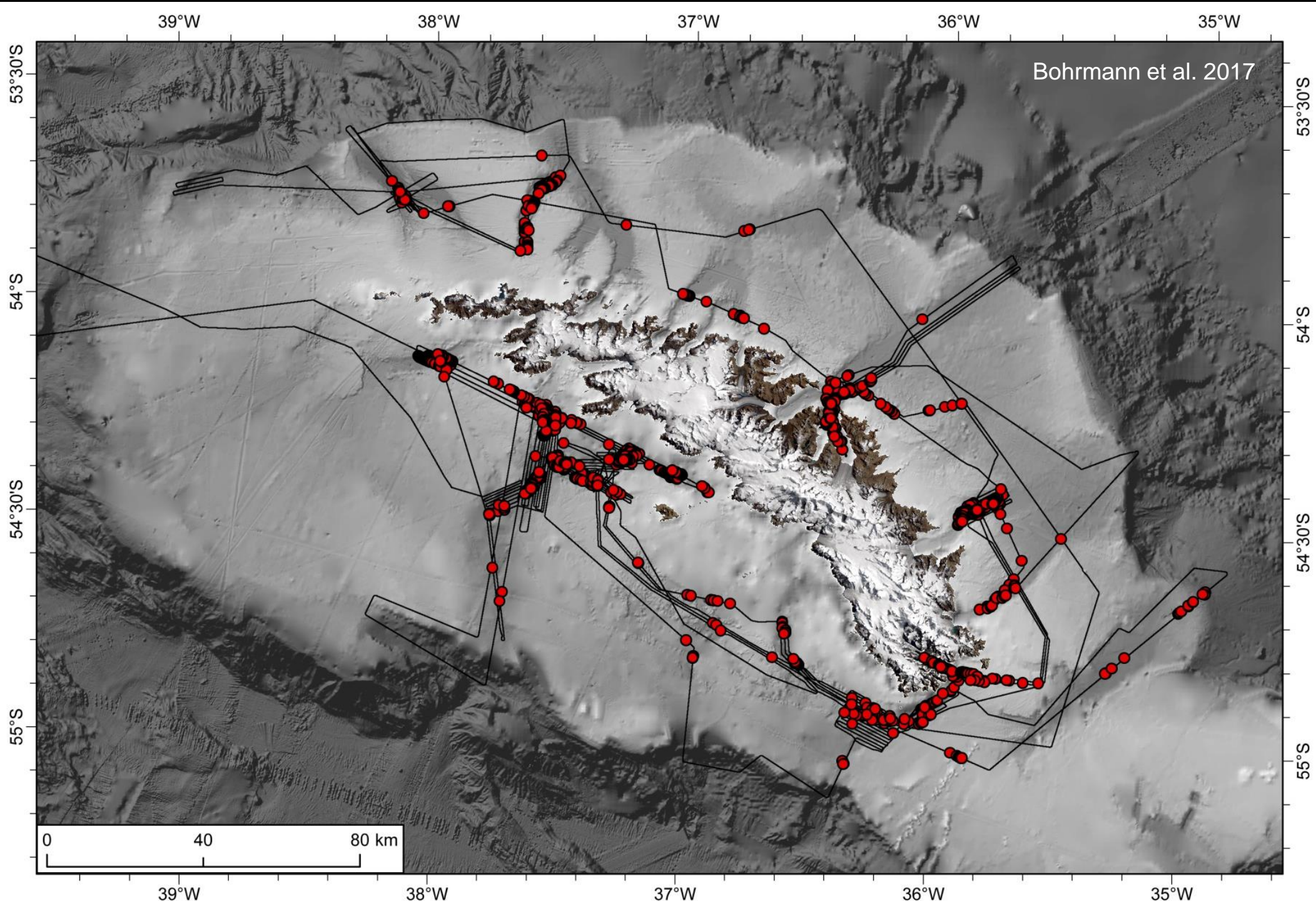






**ANT/XXIX-4: 133 flares**  
**M134: 1633 flare observations**



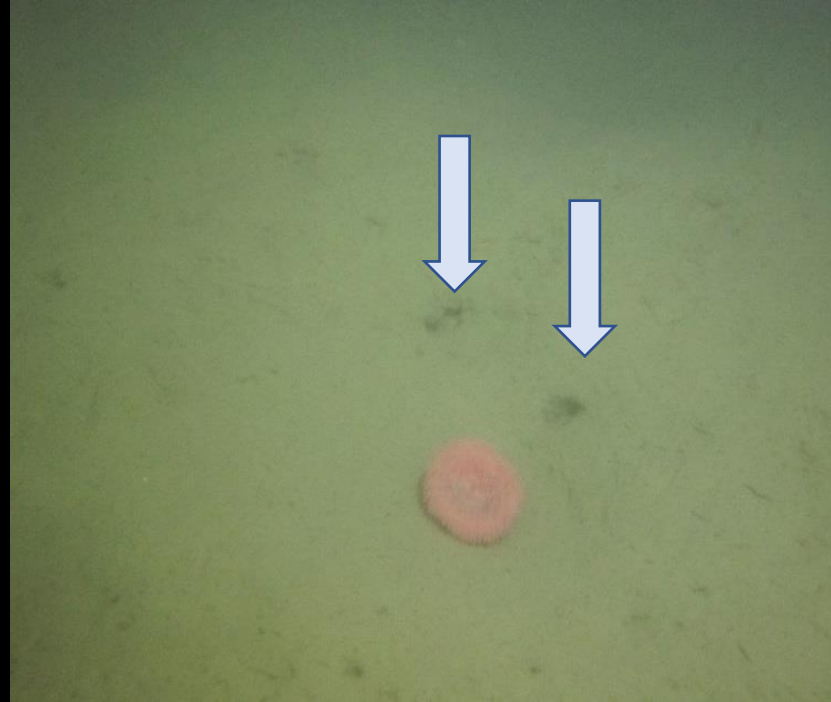








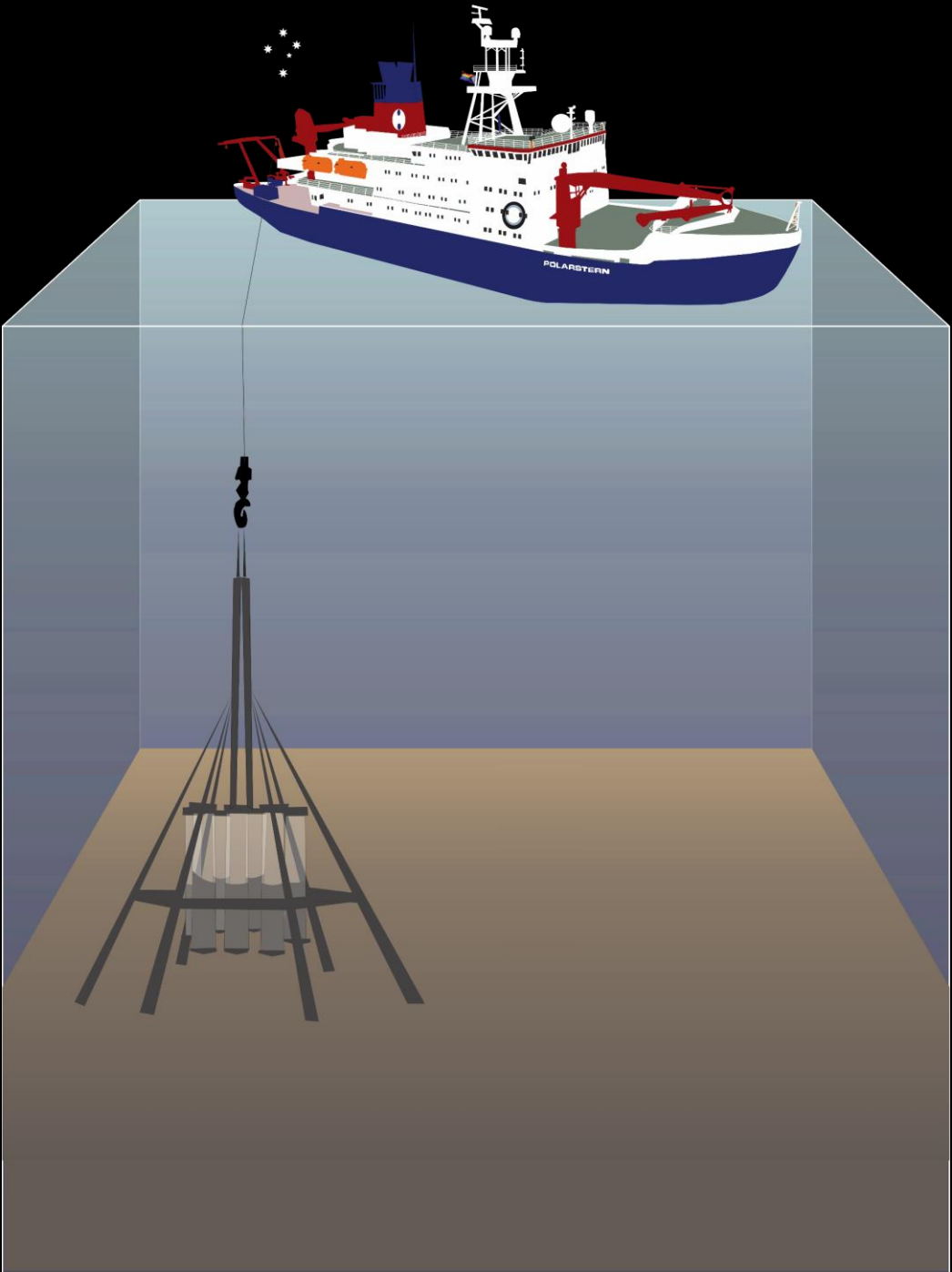


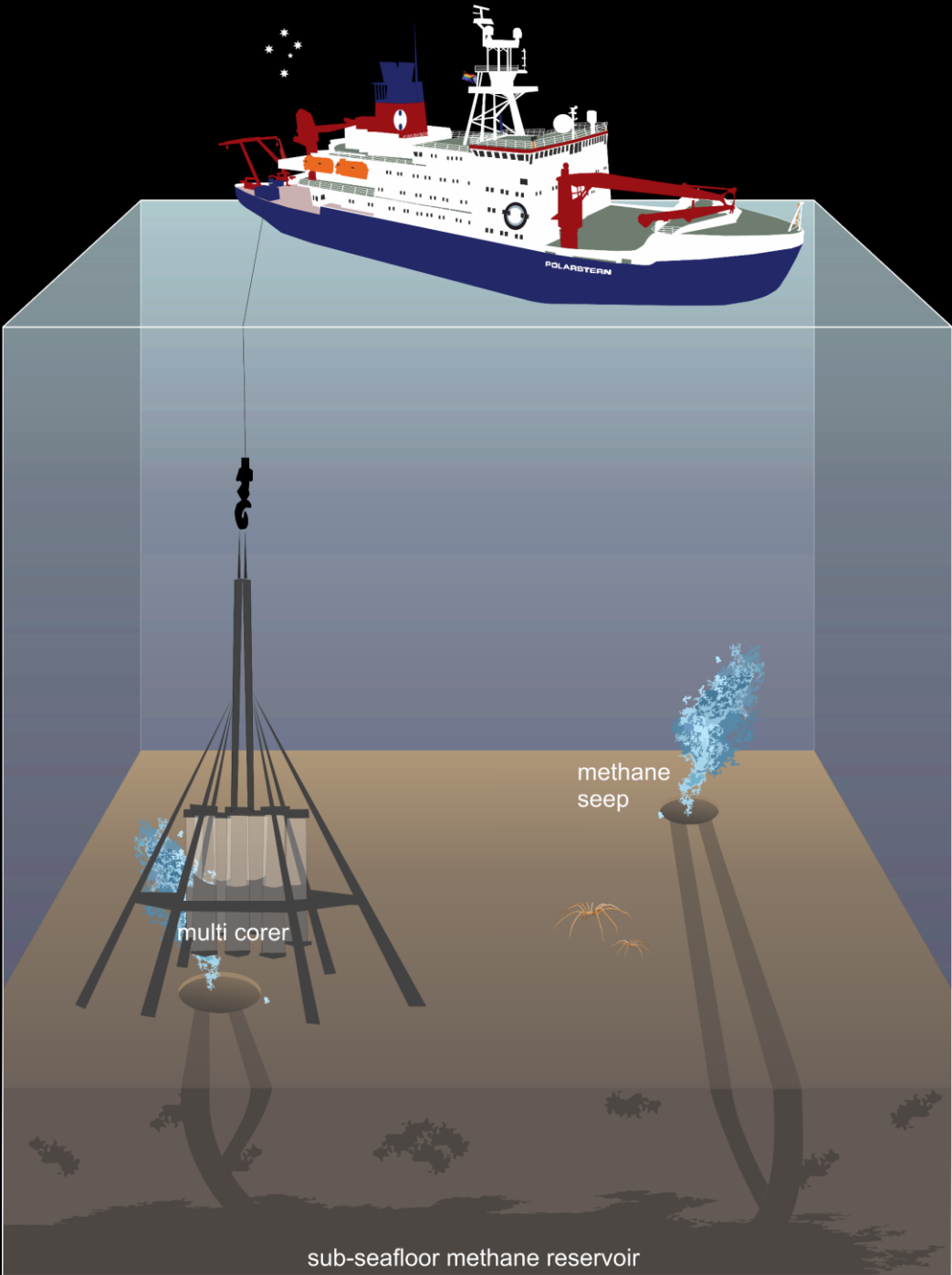


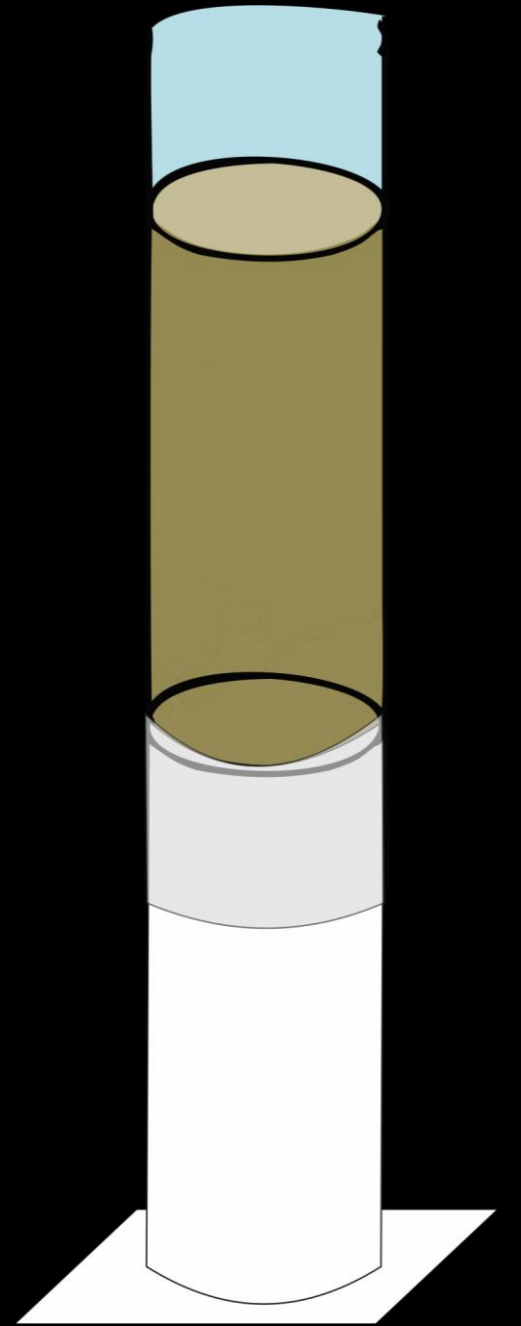




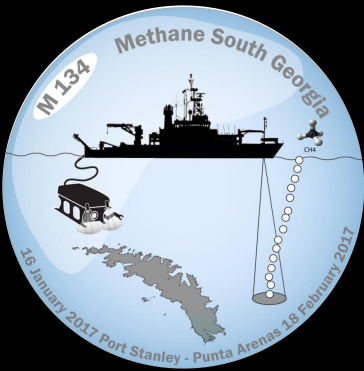
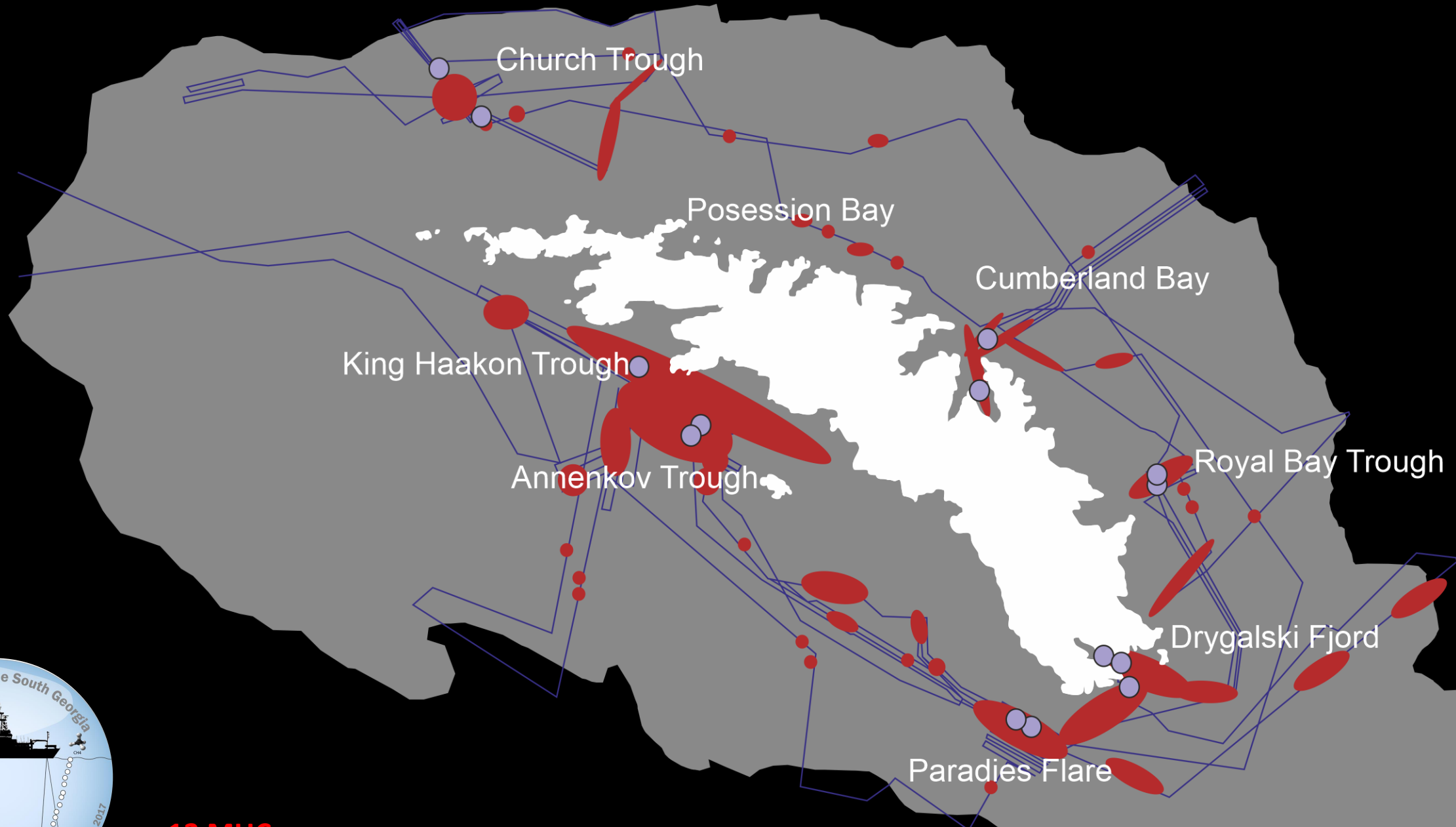










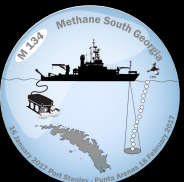


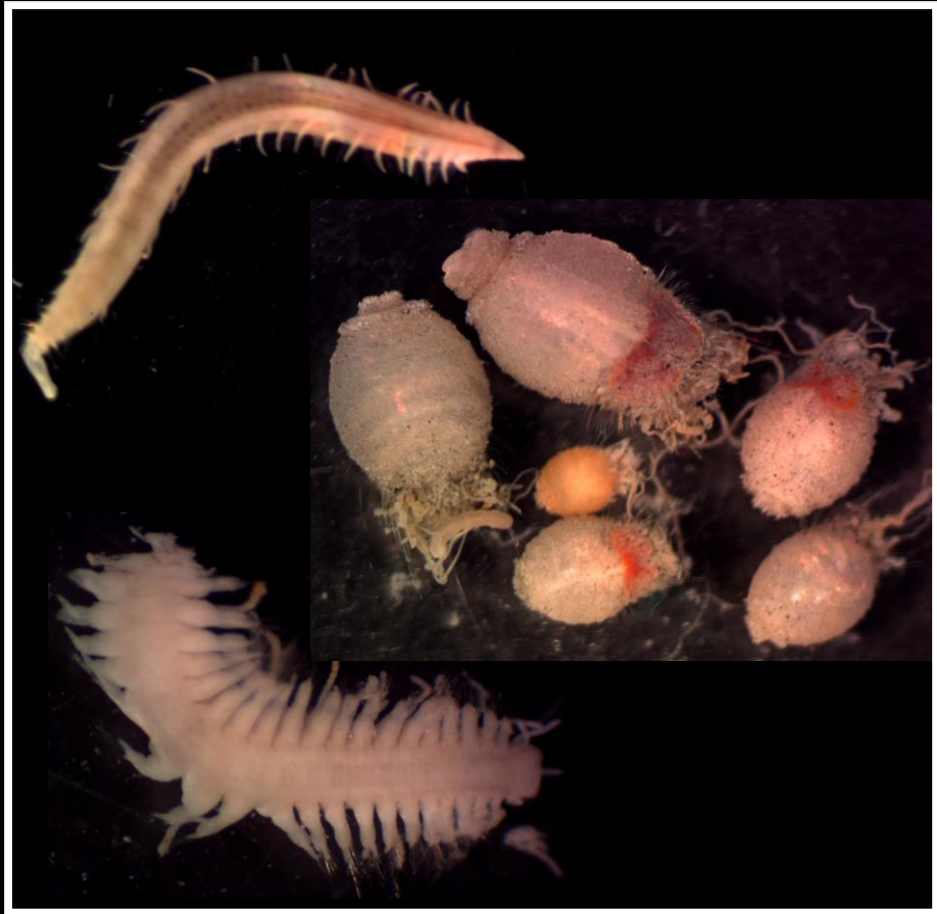
**12 MUCs**  
**44 Cores for macrofauna analysis**



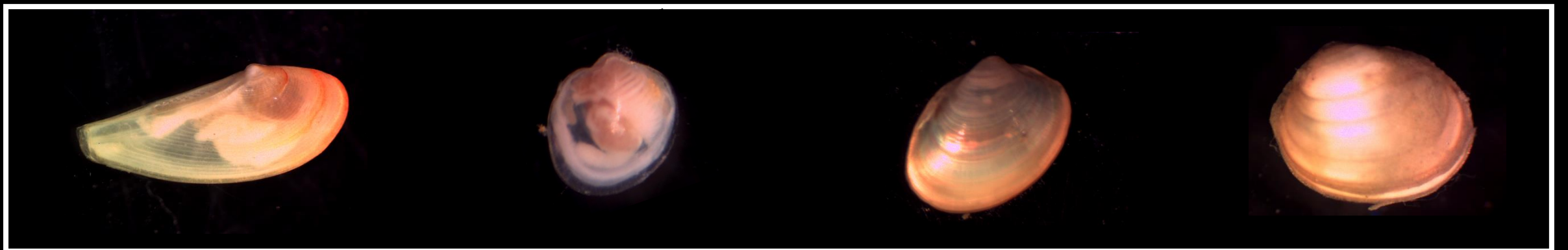
≥ 110 macrobenthic species

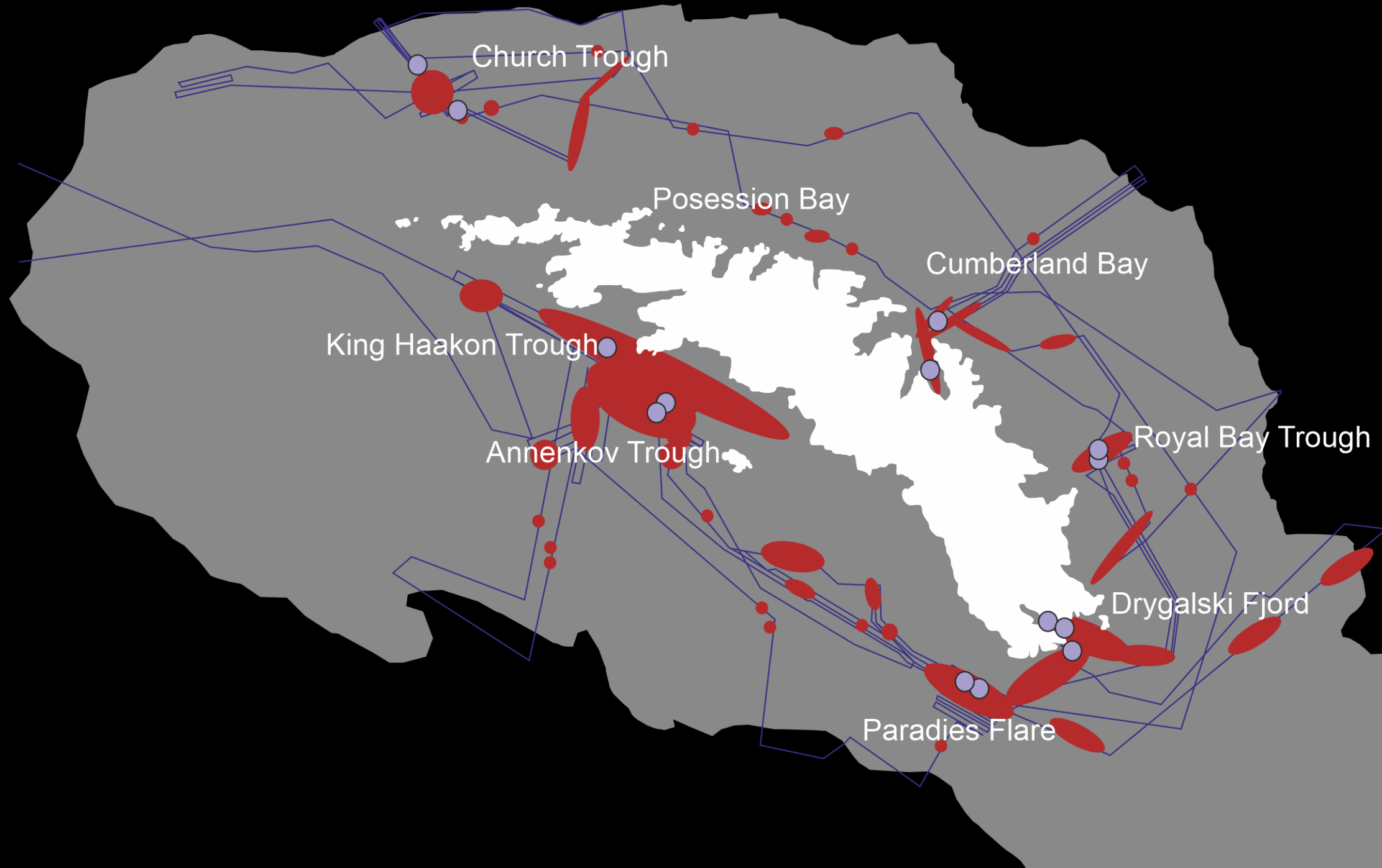
≥ 4000 individuals

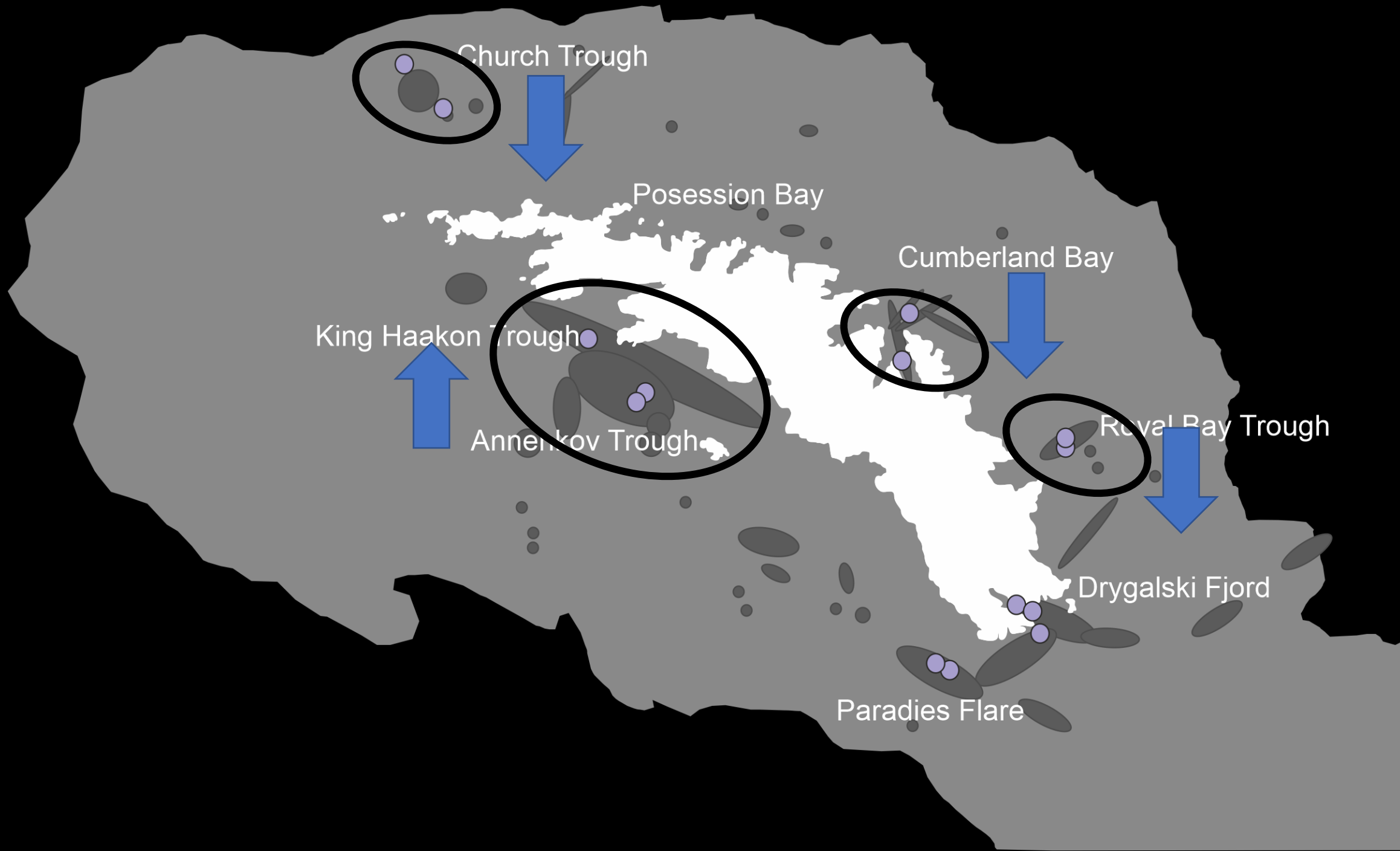












Church Trough

Possession Bay

Cumberland Bay

King Haakon Trough

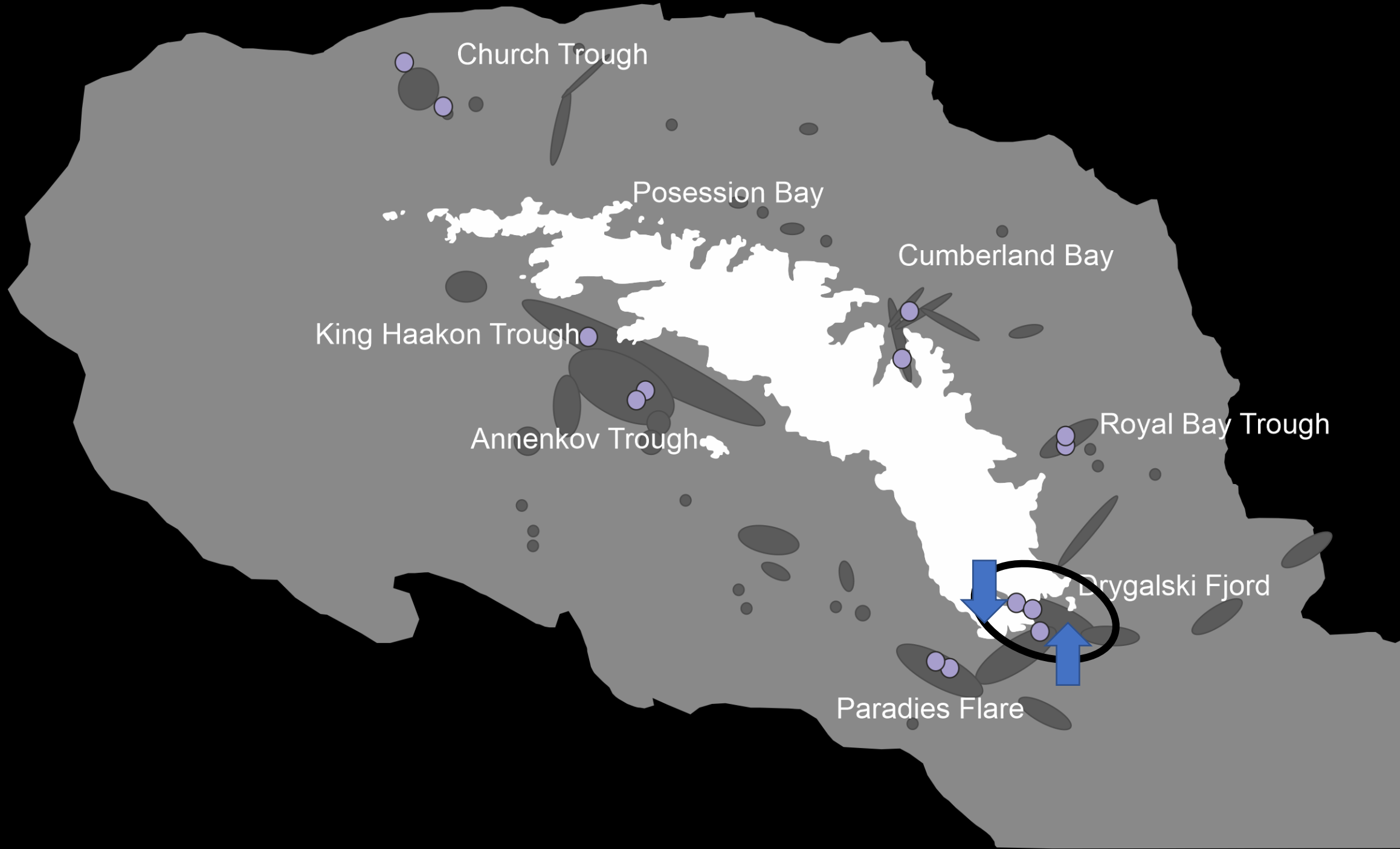
Annenkov Trough

Royal Bay Trough

Drygalski Fjord

Paradies Flare





Church Trough

Posession Bay

Cumberland Bay

King Haakon Trough

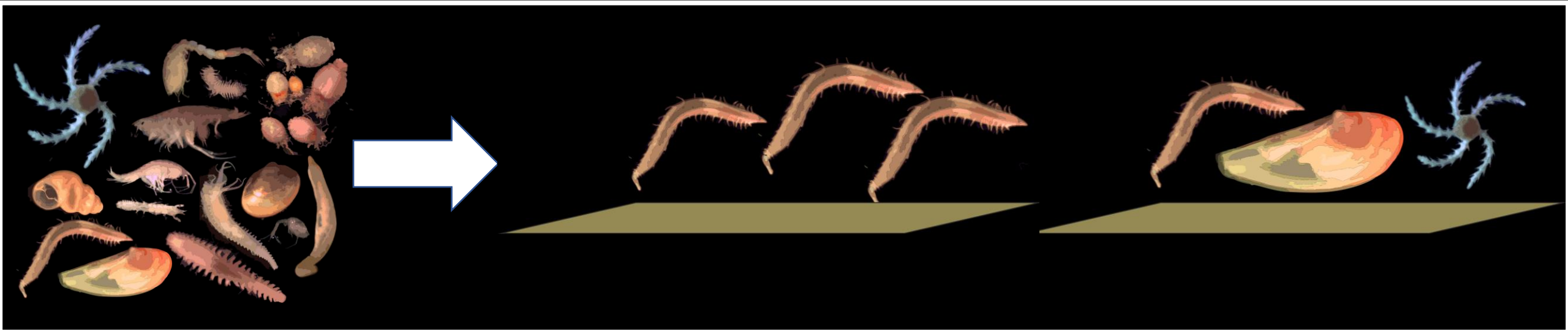
Annenkov Trough

Royal Bay Trough

Drygalski Fjord

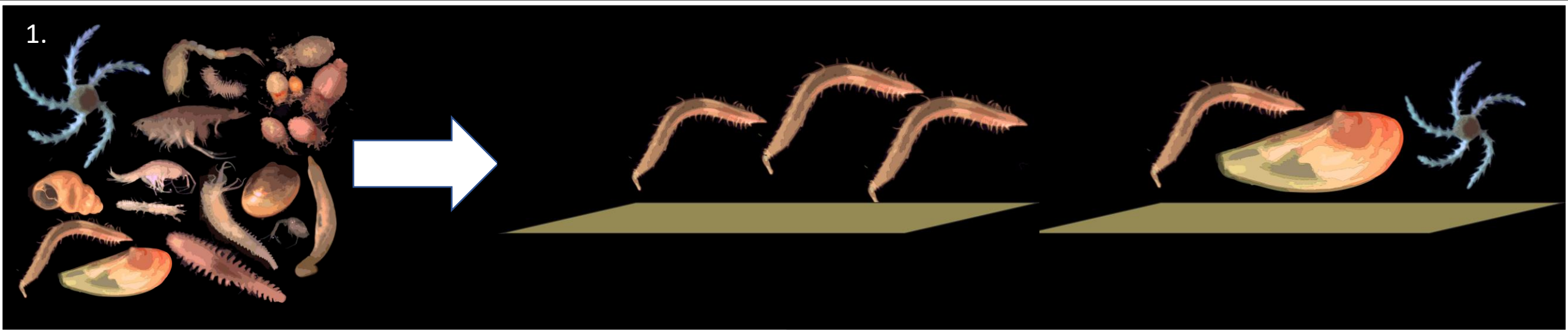
Paradies Flare



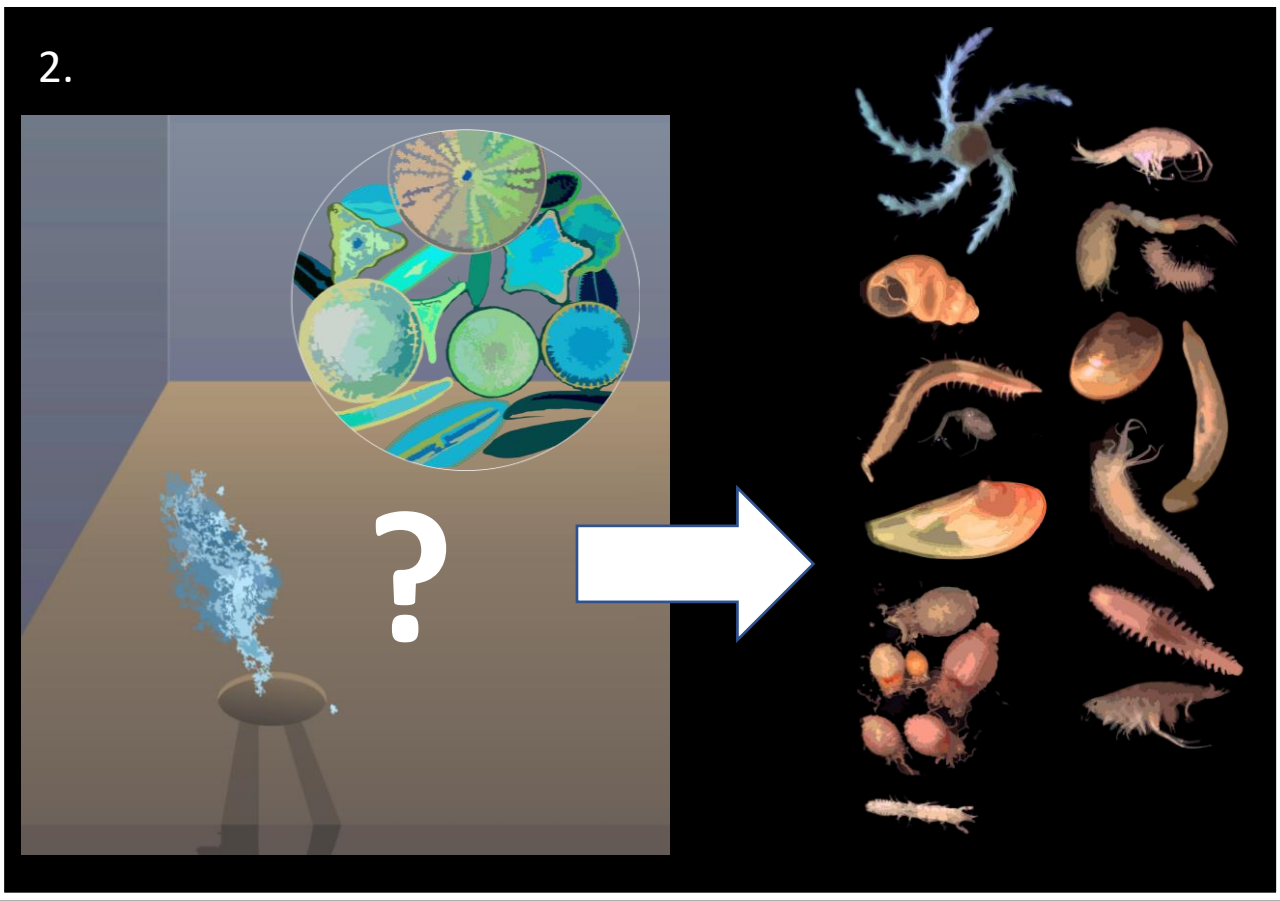


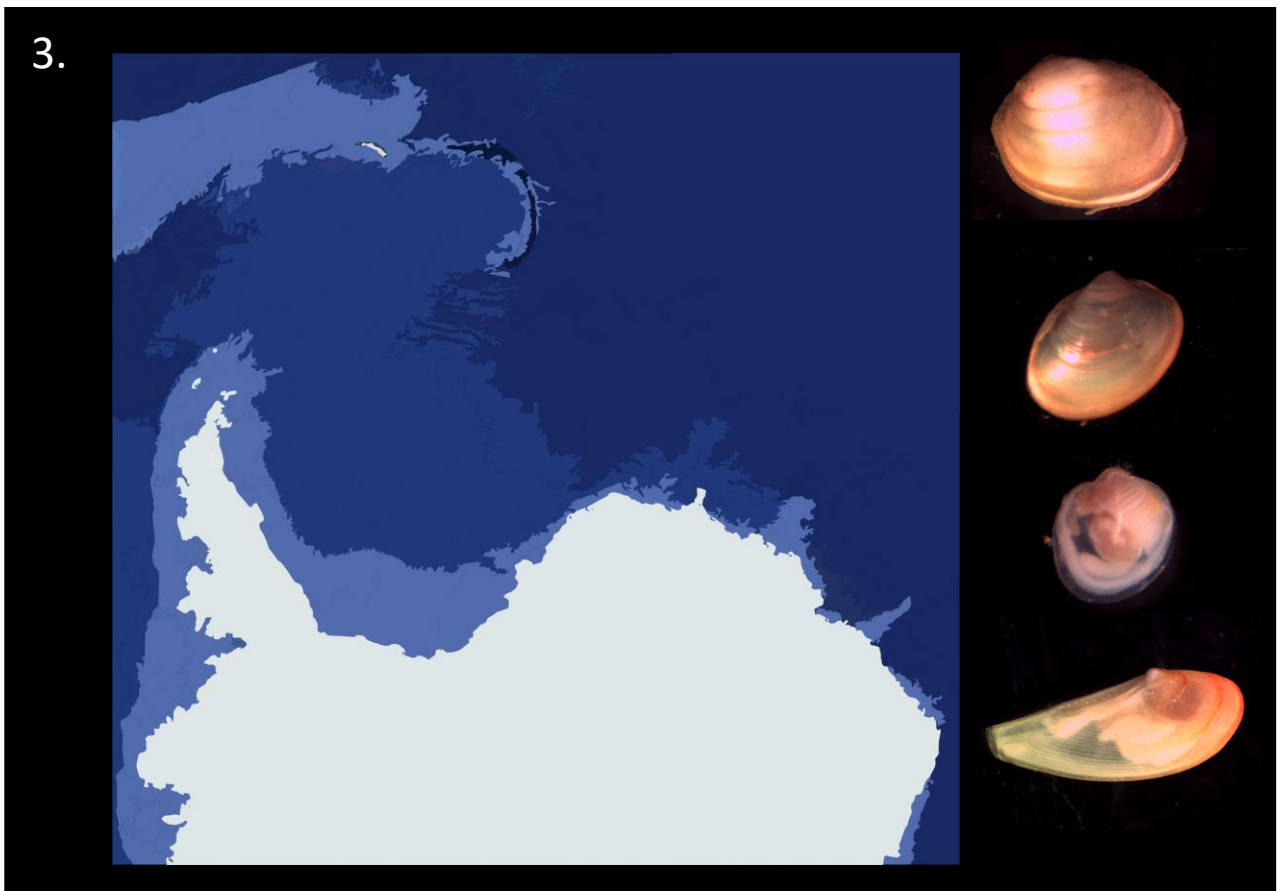
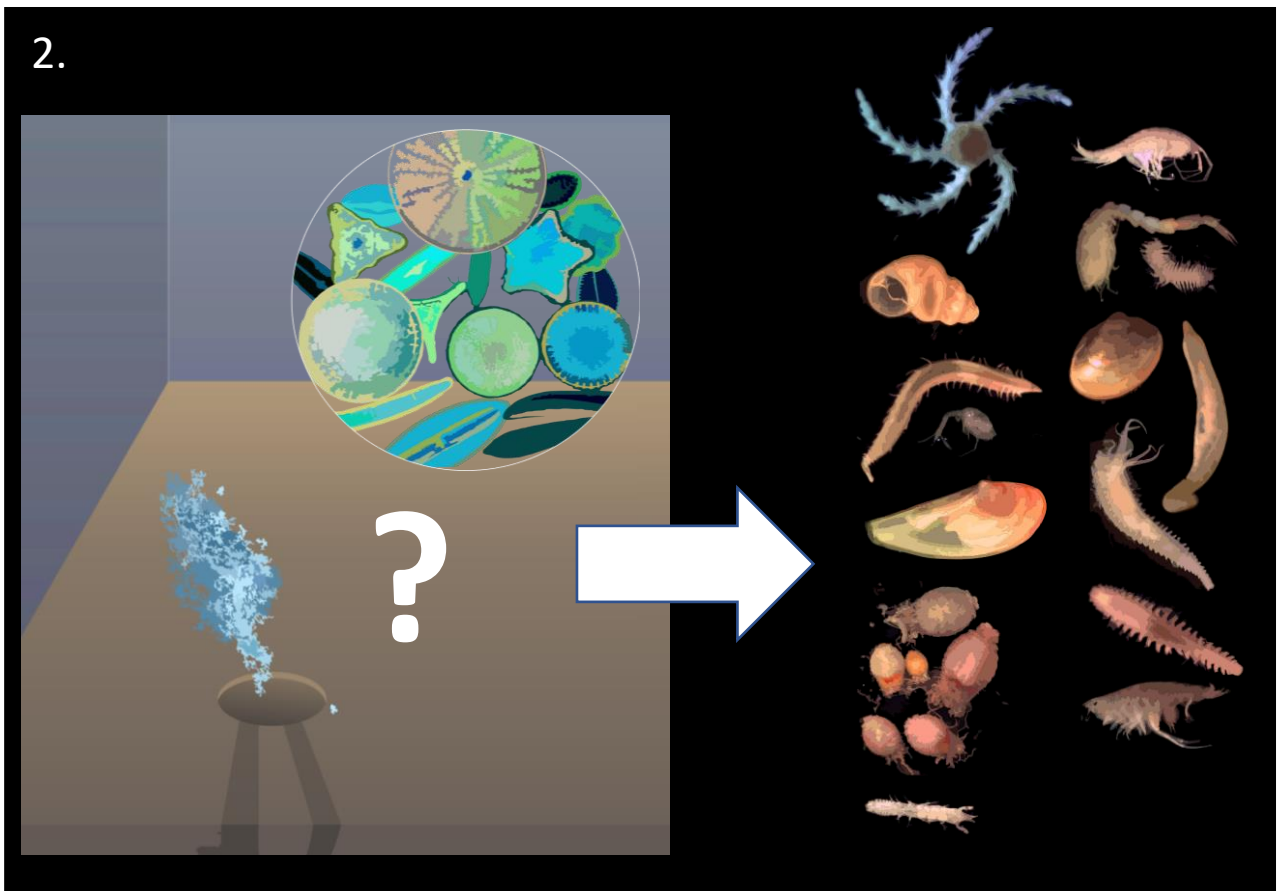
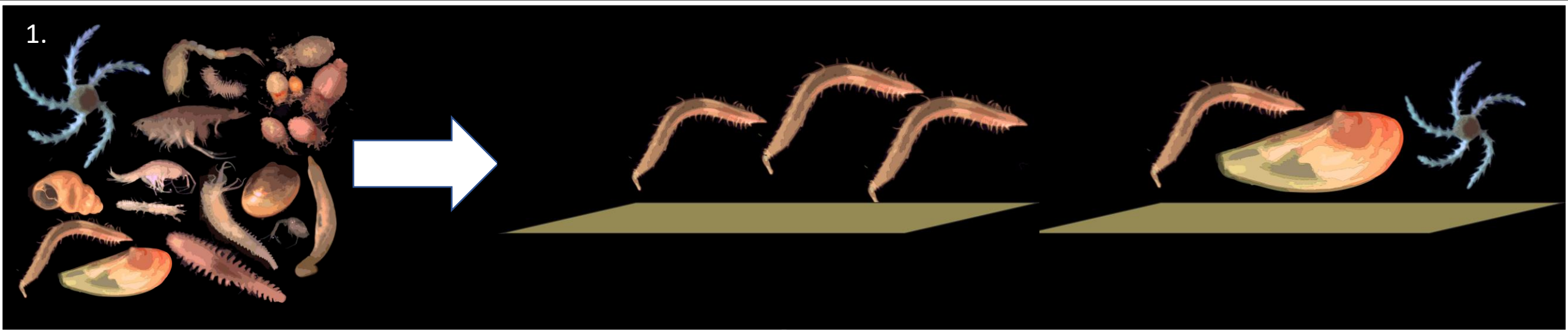


1.



2.





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