



IX

Science & Education Report

MS Fridtjof Nansen

Highlights of Antarctica
19 – 29 January 2026



History & Culture

On our voyage we discussed the explorers that visited the part of the Antarctic Peninsula we have been sailing in. We talked about how Charcot and many other explores researched and mapped the area.

On Half Moon Island we saw a little boat, probably from the whaling times, when resources in Antarctica were exploited.

On Portal Point we saw the remains of Reclus Hut, a British Hut occupied only a year and a half, from December 1956 to April 1958. The hut was dismantled and erected again in the Museum in Stanley, Falkland Islands {Islas Malvinas}.

While expedition boat cruising in Paradise Bay we saw the González Videla research base and discussed how science programs are being taking place all over Antarctica in a collaborative and peaceful way thanks to the Antarctica Treaty signed 1959.





GLOBE Cloud Observer for NASA

On this Highlights of Antarctica expedition we conducted six GLOBE Cloud Observation sessions and sent our data off to NASA!

Thank you to the 24 Cloud Observers who participated in the program, and remember, you can continue to do this at home!

Observations from the Drake Passage are critical, as they reflect the ocean-atmosphere interface of the Circumpolar Current and winds.

Thank you for your active participation

[View our data on the global map](#)



Here is a map of our observations during this trip

[View our data](#) on the global map



S O U T H
A T L A N T I C
O C E A N

S C O T I A S E A

South Orkney
Islands

South
Sandwich
Islands
(U.K.)

South Georgia
(U.K.)

S O U T H E
O C E A N





GLOBE Cloud Observations Paired with NASA Satellite Data

Total Satellite Comparisons: 67

Useful Resources: [How to Read My NASA GLOBE Clouds Satellite Comparison Table](#), [How to Compare My Cloud Observations with Satellite Data](#), [Cloud Cover](#), [Cloud Type](#), [Cloud Opacity](#), [Satellites](#)

Observation	GLOBE	NOAA-20 Satellite
Universal Date/Time	2025-12-14 19:21:00	2025-12-14 19:26
Latitude	-64.89	-65.29 to -64.49
Longitude	-62.87	-63.31 to -62.51
Total Cloud Cover	Scattered (25-50%)	Scattered 46.97%
High Clouds	 Cirrus Cirrocumulus Cover: Scattered (25-50%) Opacity: Translucent	Cover: Few (0.37%) Altitude: 6.45 (km) Phase: Ice 238.26 (K) Opacity: Transparent
Mid Clouds		Cover: Scattered 44.51% Altitude: 3.96 (km) Phase: Ice/Water Mix 256.48 (K) Opacity: Translucent
Low Clouds		Cover: Few (2.09%) Altitude: 1.31 (km) Phase: Ice/Water Mix 287.85 (K) Opacity: Transparent
GLOBE Cloud Photos and Corresponding NASA Satellite Images.	GLOBE Photos North East South West Up Down	VIIRS NOAA-20 Worldview Worldview Tutorial
Click image to view -->		

Register Your Email with GLOBE

By registering your email address with NASA Globe Observer, and if you time your satellite observations to match a satellite flyover, you will be sent a matching report similar to this one. We have not yet received any matching reports for this voyage, but this example gives you an idea of what you can expect, and this will help you improve your observational skills.

We do hope you continue to support this Citizen Science project at home; it is always good to look at the sky!



Event in progress

2026 Jan 19 - Highlights of Antarctica - MS Fridtjof...

Jan 19, 2026 - Jan 29, 2026

12 **OBSERVATIONS** 9 **SPECIES** 16 **IDENTIFIERS** 4 **OBSERVERS**

About Members 7

Shared observations from guests and Expedition Team onboard MS Fridtjof Nansen during the expedition cruise "Highlights of Antarctica" from 19th to 29th of January 2026.

[Read More >](#) [Your Membership](#)

[Edit Project](#) [Project Journal](#)

[Export Observations](#)

Kelp Gull · Dominikanermöwe
Larus dominicanus

1 1d RG

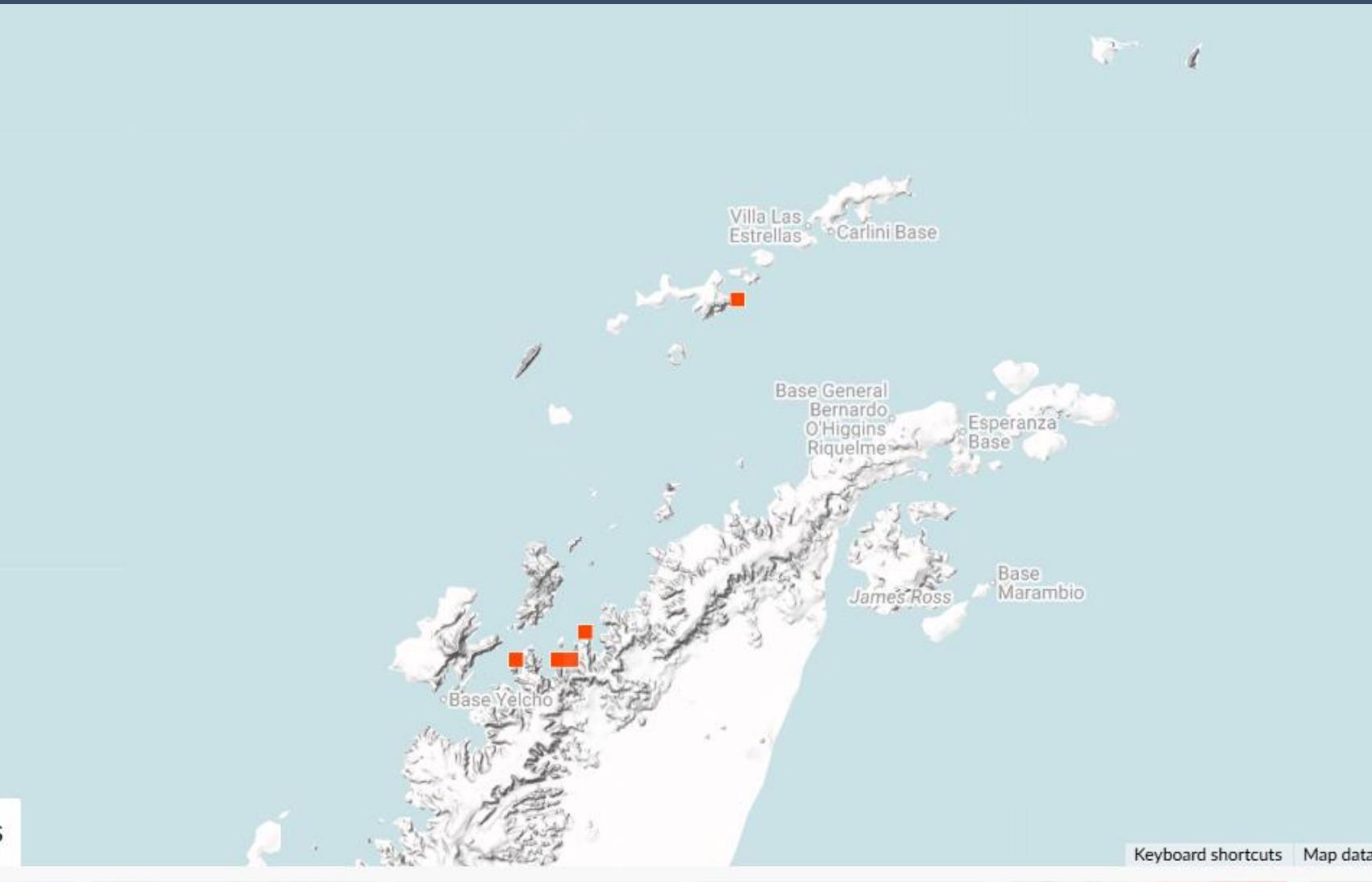
iNaturalist

iNaturalist

During this trip we uploaded 12 observations of nine different species in our iNaturalist project. By joining this initiative, our four observers recorded precious data points indicating the presence of these living organisms on the Antarctic Peninsula.

By uploading pictures of living organisms (or proof of presence) of all sorts, from fungi to trees to birds, mammals and phytoplankton, you can help scientists understand the distribution patterns of wildlife and in return get immediate AI identification and scientific confirmation of all living things you see.

You can still participate from home! Create an account to join iNaturalist and [join our iNaturalist project](#).





Science Boat

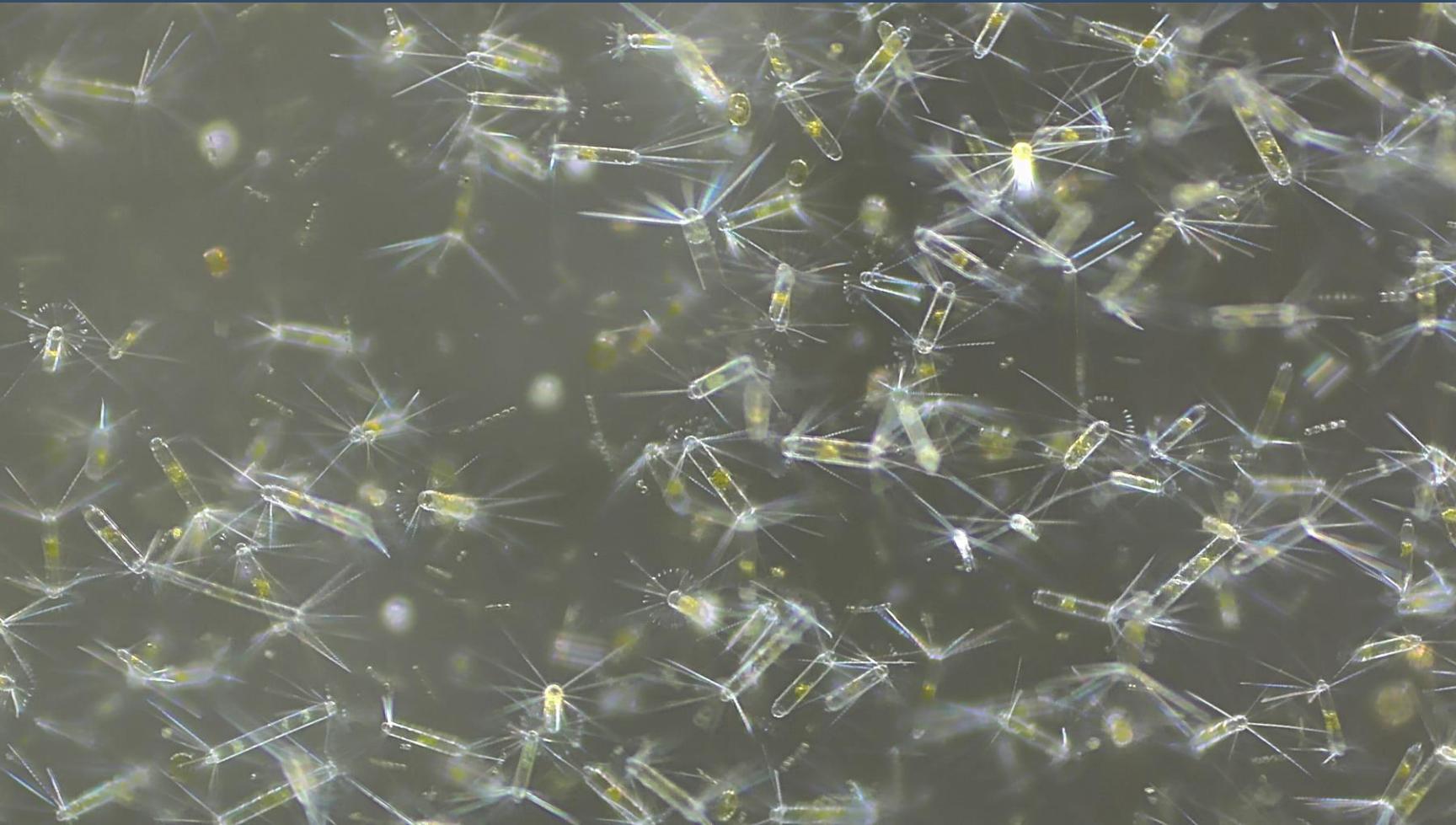
Across 14 science boat sessions at Petermann Island, Pléneau, Paradise Bay, and Whalers Bay, we moved beyond observation into hands-on exploration of Antarctic coastal waters. With each plankton net tow, CTD cast, and Secchi disk reading, you became active participants in the scientific process.

The plankton net revealed the microscopic life supporting Antarctic food webs, the CTD uncovered the water column's temperature and salinity structure, and the Secchi disk provided a simple but powerful measure of water clarity linked to phytoplankton abundance.

These sessions were about curiosity, discovery, and connection, showing that science is not distant, but a way of observing and understanding the world around us.

[View our data submitted to the Secchi Disk Project](#)
[Listen to our recordings on Soundcloud](#)

Plankton Samples



Corethron pennatum (diatom)

Back in the Science Centre, we brought the ocean into focus examining our water samples under the microscope to uncover the hidden world of phytoplankton and zooplankton.

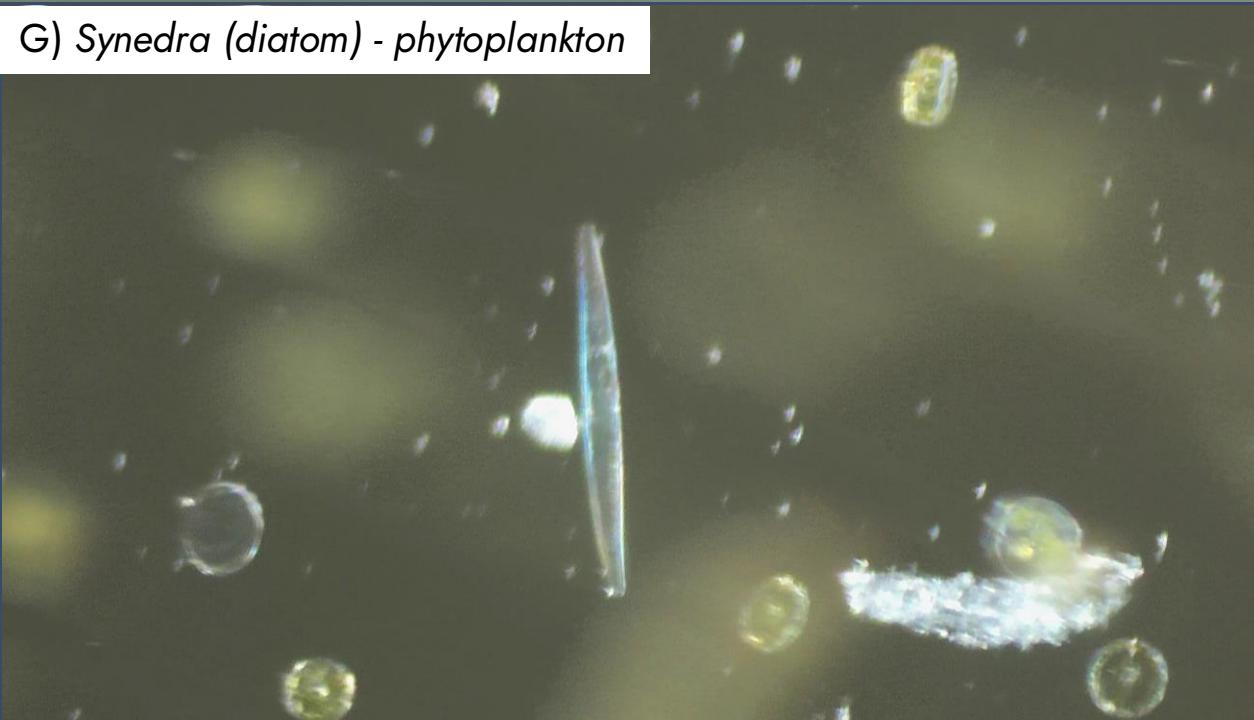
Using microscopes, we projected magnified images onto the screen, allowing everyone to see the intricate details of these tiny organisms. Smaller microscopes offered a hands-on experience, inviting our guests to search for life in each drop of water.

The samples revealed a world dominated by phytoplankton and zooplankton, forming the foundation of the marine food web. What was invisible to the eye became a vivid reminder that even the smallest life forms shape this vast and wild ecosystem.

E) *Corethron pennatum* (diatom) - phytoplankton



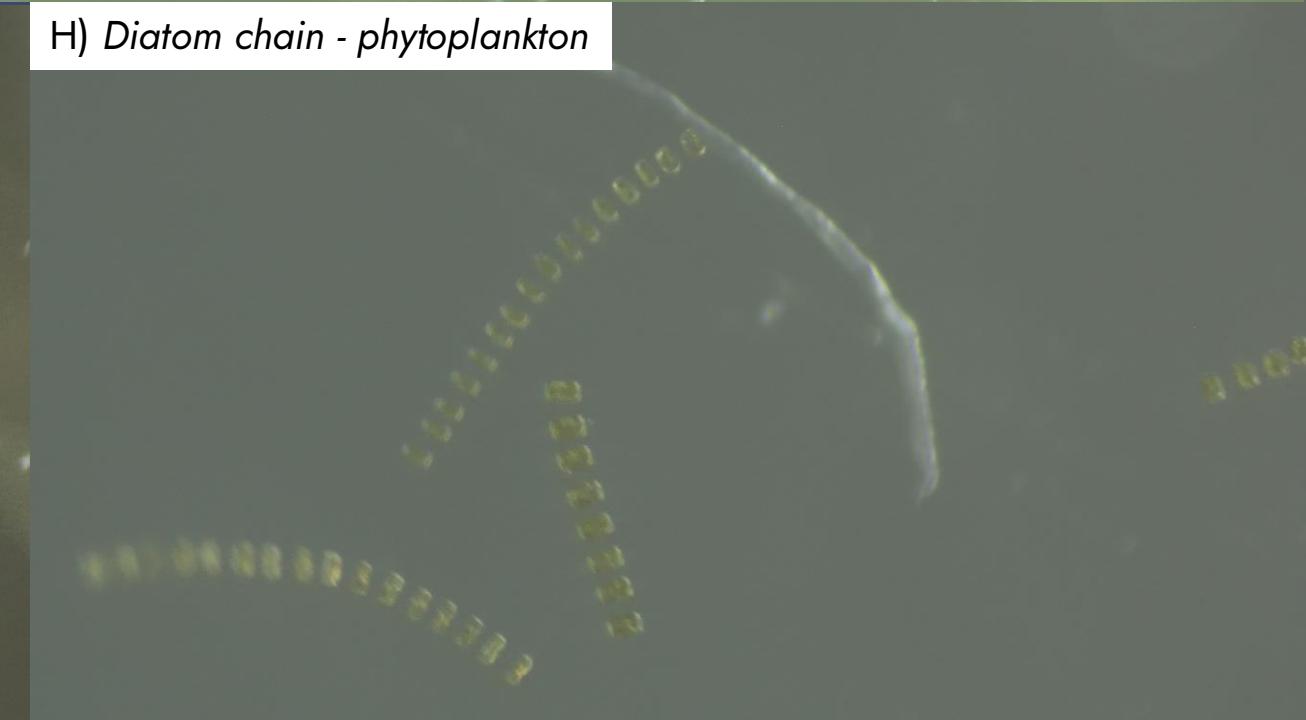
G) *Synedra* (diatom) - phytoplankton



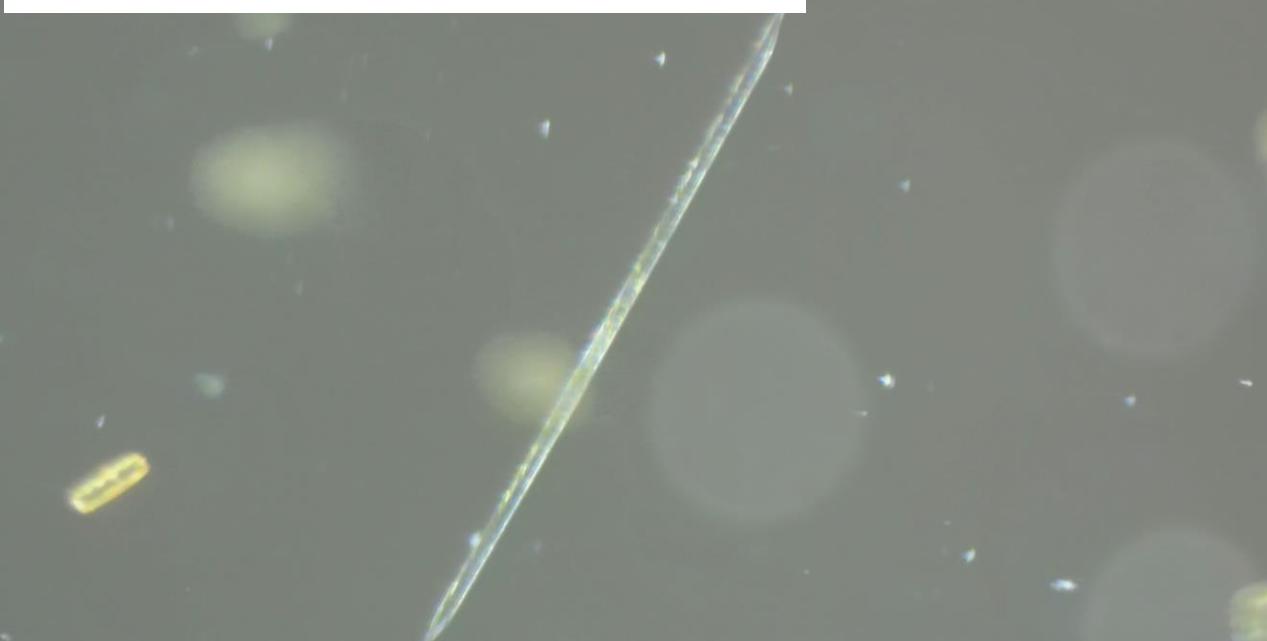
F) *Licmophora* (diatom) - phytoplankton



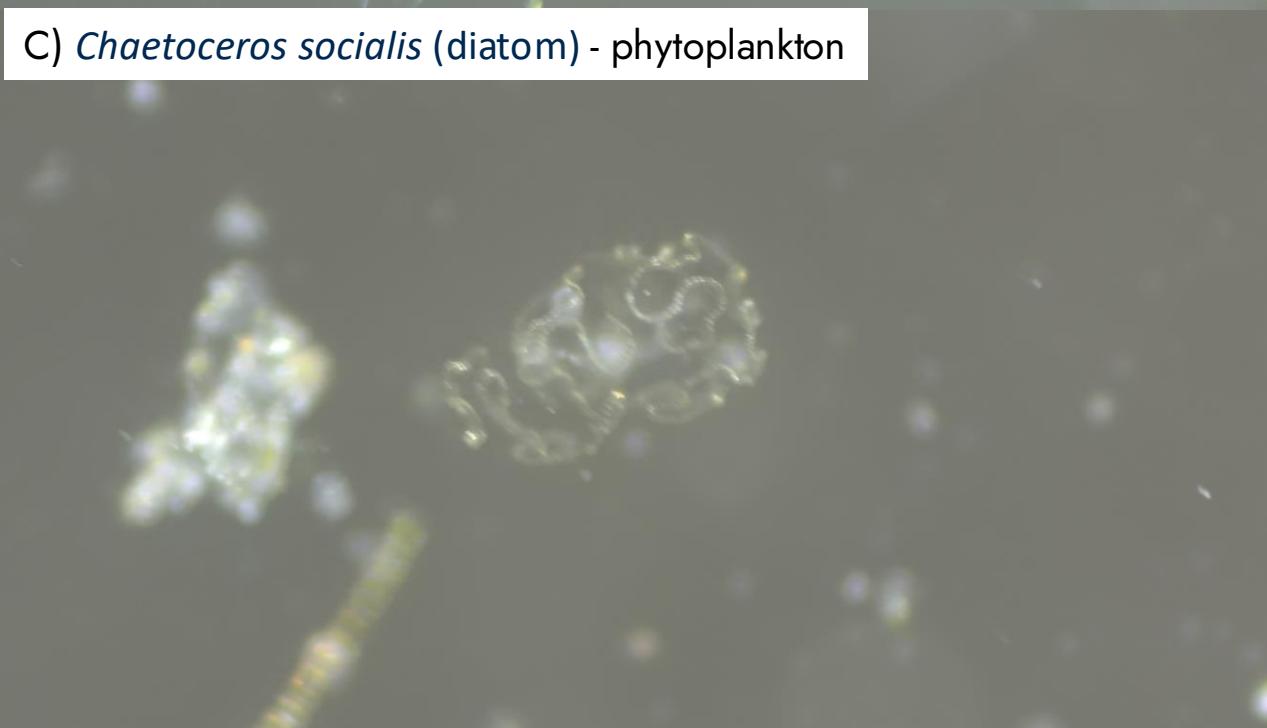
H) Diatom chain - phytoplankton



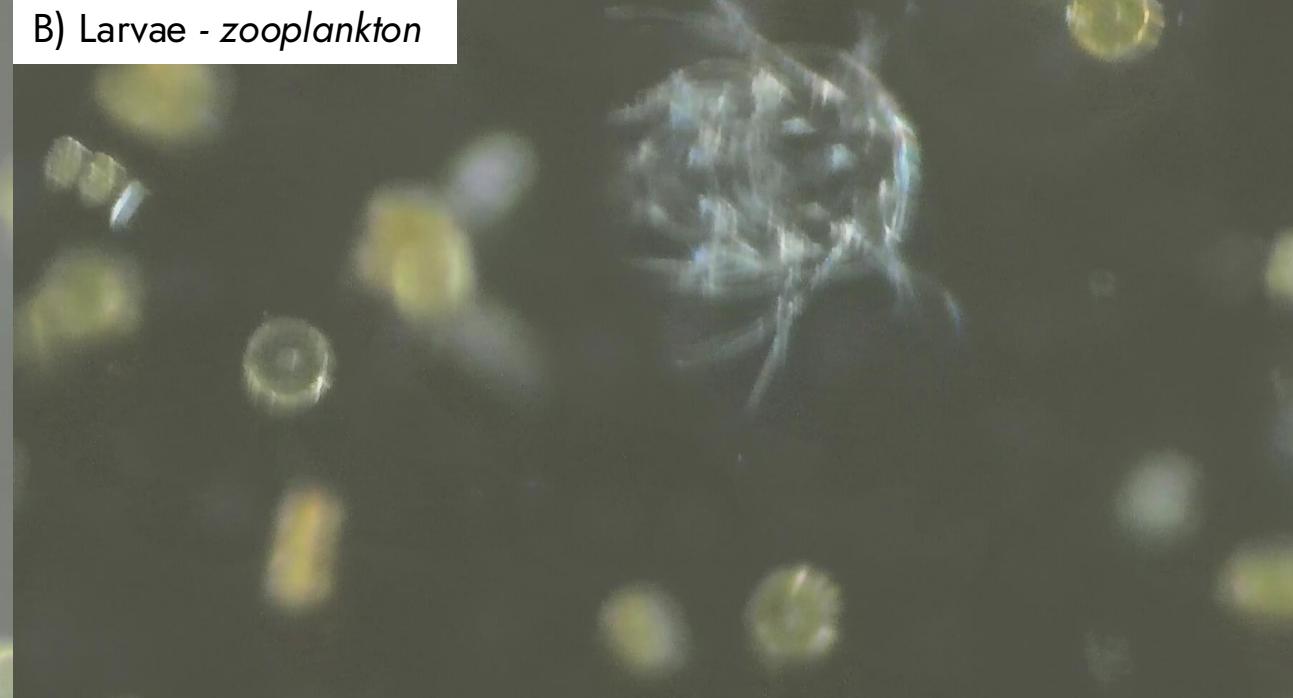
A) *Pseudo-nitzschia* (diatom) - phytoplankton



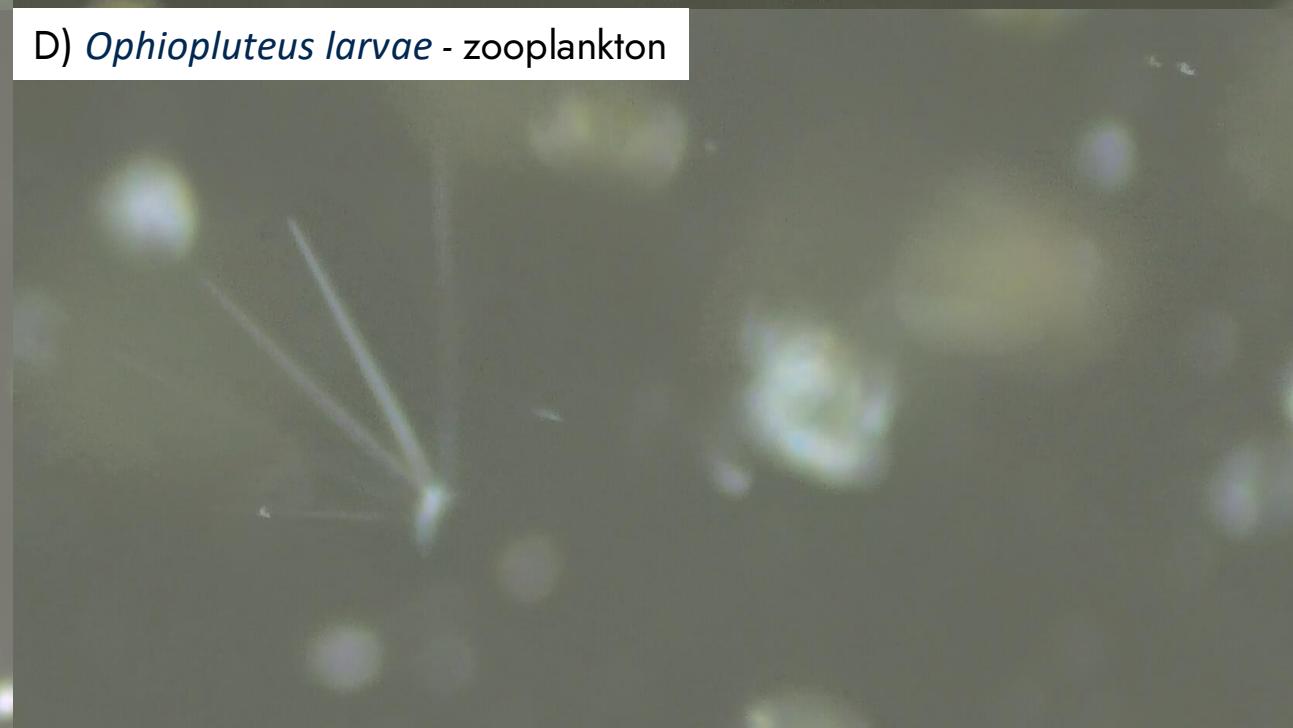
C) *Chaetoceros socialis* (diatom) - phytoplankton



B) Larvae - zooplankton



D) *Ophiopluteus* larvae - zooplankton



Underwater Drone

We explored the underwater depths of Orne Harbour, reaching a depth of 17m. The slopes we saw were covered with various seaweeds, which protect a rich ecosystem of sea stars.



View the highlights from our underwater drone footage [on YouTube](#)

MS Fridtjof
Nansen

January
9 – 19,
2026

Sounds Good! HX Expeditions & Universidade de São Paulo

Summarized Results: Season #2; Expedition #2

243 min. (Aprox. 4h)	53 RECORDINGS	5 LOCATIONS
LANDINGS 123 min.	Cuverville Island (28 min.) Half-moon Island (95min.)	2
ZODIAC SURVEYS 120 min.	Paradise Bay/Gerlache (17min.) Wilhelmina Bay (62 min.) Charlotte Bay (41 min.)	3

4 and a half days in Antarctica

Main Stars – 2 Landings

Gentoo and Chinstrap Penguins



© Marcos Santos



© Marcos Santos

Main Star – 3 Expedition Boat Cruises

Humpback Whales Recorded on One of the Cruises



© Marcos Santos

Highlights of Expedition #2

Half Moon Island – 7 November 2025

Adults Only!



© Marcos Santos



© Marcos Santos

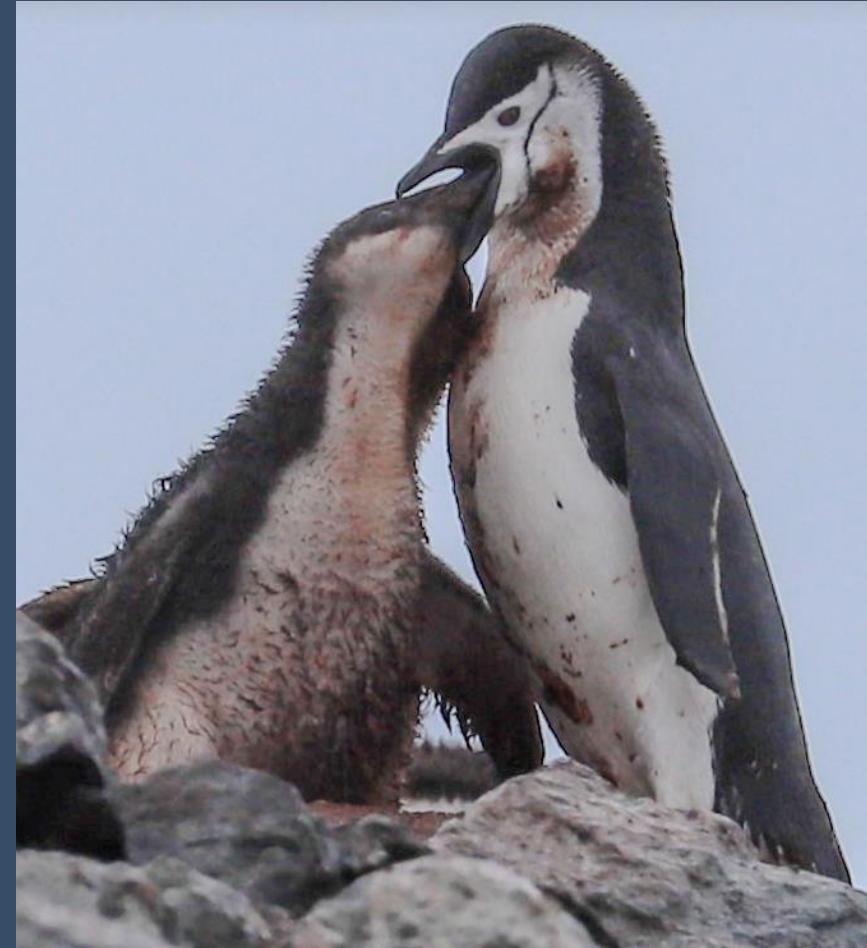
Highlights of Expedition #2

Half Moon Island – January 26th, 2026

Adults and Chicks



© Marcos Santos



© Marcos Santos

Highlights of Expedition #2

Paradise, Wilhelmina, and Charlotte Bays: First expedition boat cruises conducted by *Sounds Good!* Underwater recordings



© Marcos Santos

Highlights of Expedition #2

Charlotte Bay:

First underwater recordings of humpback whales



© Marcos Santos

Highlights of Expedition #2

Missions Accomplished!

- Expanding operations to all three HX vessels operating in polar and subpolar waters during the austral summer, ensuring broader reach and logistical versatility; 
- Training and integrating two new collaborators into the *Sounds Good!* initiative, introducing them to the operational dynamics of HX cruises and strengthening the team's interdisciplinary capacity; 
- Continuing the collection of acoustic recordings in both marine and terrestrial environments, with improved techniques and broader geographic coverage; 

Highlights of Expedition #2

Missions Accomplished!

- Strengthening collaboration between guest scientists and Expedition Leaders, as well as other onboard team members, to refine data collection efforts and explore ways to enhance guest engagement; 
- Enhancing and diversifying onboard educational efforts, sharing knowledge with guests through dynamic and accessible formats, including lectures, sound-based experiences, and informal interactions. 

Sounds Good! – Season # 2

- MS Amundsen: October 29 to November 15, 2025 (MS & LK) 
- MS Nansen: January 19 to 29, 2026 (MS & LK) 
- MS Nansen: February 8 to 18, 2026 (LK & NR)
- MS Fram: February 7 to 28, 2026 (MS only)

MS: Marcos Santos; LK: Laura Kloepper; NR: Nerea Royo



Follow *Sounds Good!* through
mother.nature.serenade
from October 2026 on

Acknowledgements

- ✓ HX Expeditions
- ✓ HX's splendid staff!
- ✓ Katrin & Jeanne (safe expedition boat cruises)
- ✓ MS Fridtjof Nansen crew (Captain to Hotel Manager and all teams)
- ✓ Guests: companionship on Decks 7 and 10, participation in lectures, workshops, daily greetings, happy moments, and feedback.

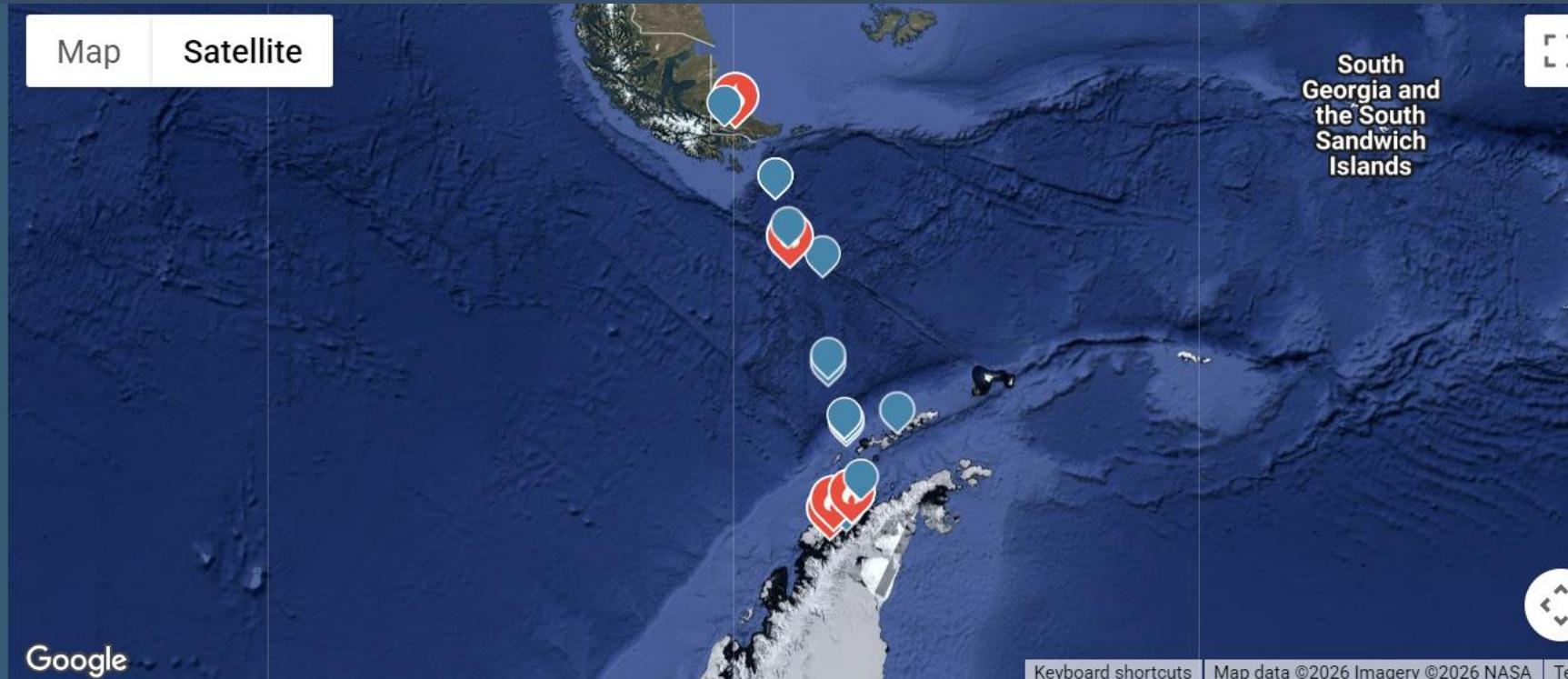
FNANT2525 # MS Fridtjof Nansen - Highlights of Antarctica - 19th January - 29th January 2026

19 – 29 Jan 2026 (11 days)

Public

 Antarctica |  Argentina |  Chile |

High Seas 



 27

Species Observed
+4 other taxa

 19

Checklists

Species Observed

3 Snowy Sheathbill

1 Southern Lapwing

4 Chilean Skua

7 South Polar Skua

4 Dolphin Gull

126 Kelp Gull

27 South American Tern

12 Antarctic Tern

590 Gentoo Penguin

137 Chinstrap Penguin

197 Magellanic Penguin

2 Southern Royal Albatross

1 Light-mantled Albatross

2 Gray-headed Albatross

10 Black-browed Albatross

15 Wilson's Storm-Petrel

4 Black-bellied Storm-Petrel

29 Southern Giant-Petrel

7 Southern Fulmar

74 Pintado Petrel

1 Snow Petrel

1 Soft-plumaged Petrel

14 Blue Petrel

14 Blue Petrel

2 Antarctic Prion

1 White-chinned Petrel

48 Sooty Shearwater

6 Imperial Cormorant

ADDITIONAL TAXA

9 skua sp.

2 Arctic/Antarctic Tern

4 penguin sp.

14 prion sp.

Highlights of some of the birds we saw fly by...







... and some that did not...









Wildlife

List – Marine Mammals



Wildlife List – Marine Mammals

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>	Antarctic minke whale	Südlicher Zwergwal	rorqual à museau pointu de l'Antarctique
<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	fin whale	Finnwal	rorqual commun
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	humpback whale	Buckelwal	baleine à bosse
<i>Orcinus orca</i>	killer whale, orca	Schwertwal, Orca	orque
<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	sei whale	Seiwal	rorqual de Rudolphi
<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>	Peale's dolphin	Peale-Delfin	lagénorhynque de Peale
<i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i>	leopard seal	Seeleopard	léopard de mer
<i>Leptonychotes weddellii</i>	Weddell seal	Weddelrobbe	phoque de Weddell
<i>Lobodon carcinophaga</i>	crabeater seal	Krabbenfresser	phoque crabier
<i>Otaria byronia</i>	South American sea lion	Mähnenrobbe	lion de mer d'Amérique du Sud
<i>Arctocephalus australis</i>	South American fur seal	Südamerikanischer Seebär	otarie à fourrure australe
<i>Mirounga leonina</i>	southern elephant seal	Südlicher See-Elefant	éléphant de mer austral



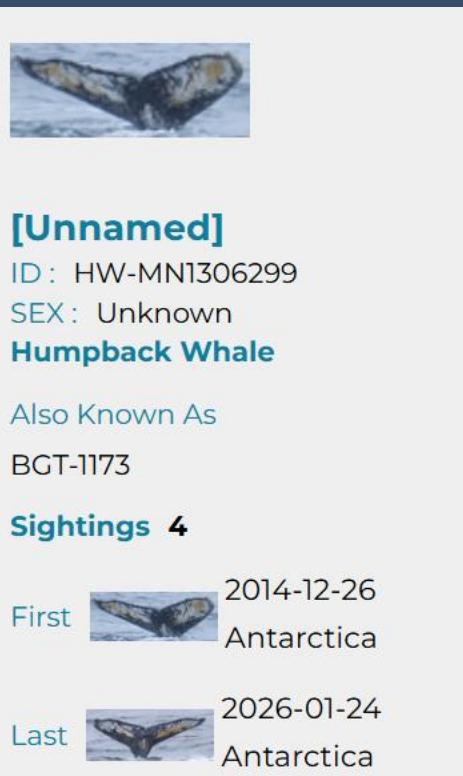
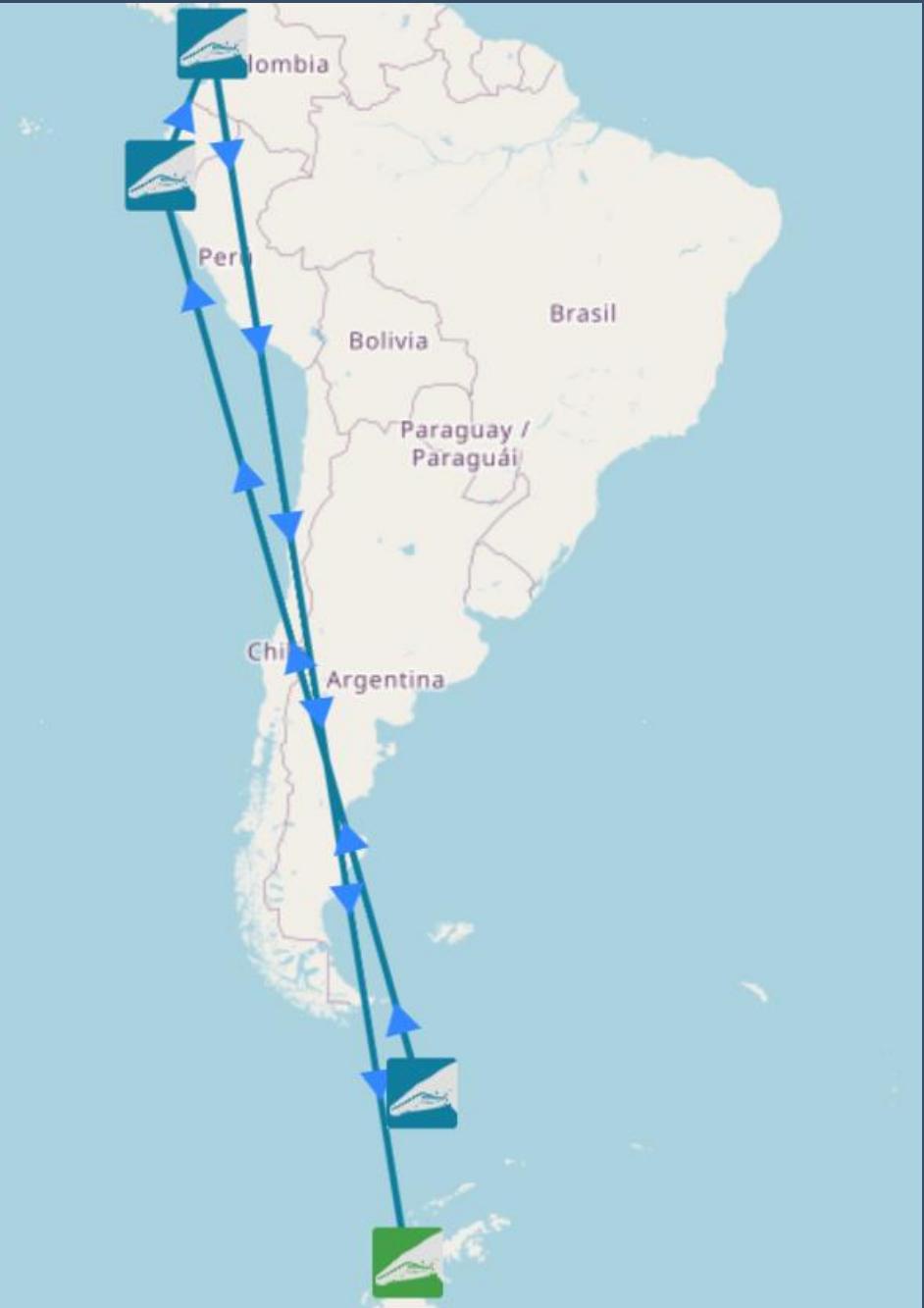
Happywhale

- This voyage was a great success in terms of whale sightings, particularly humpback whales
- With some great help our Expedition team, guest scientists and from our guests, we were able to submit multiple (16) whale flukes to Happywhale.
- Thank you all for helping us capture these amazing photos and unforgettable moments!

Citizen Science to the rescue!



[View our data](#) on the global map



Happywhale

SPOTLIGHT: One of the humpback whales sighted during our journey has been reported in Antarctica since 2014, and also spotted at its breeding ground in 2019 and 2023.

1:37 hrs

 Time spent

65.3 km

 Distance travelled

Species seen



Fin whale



Humpback whale



Unidentified whale



Antarctic minke whale



ORCA Ocean Watchers

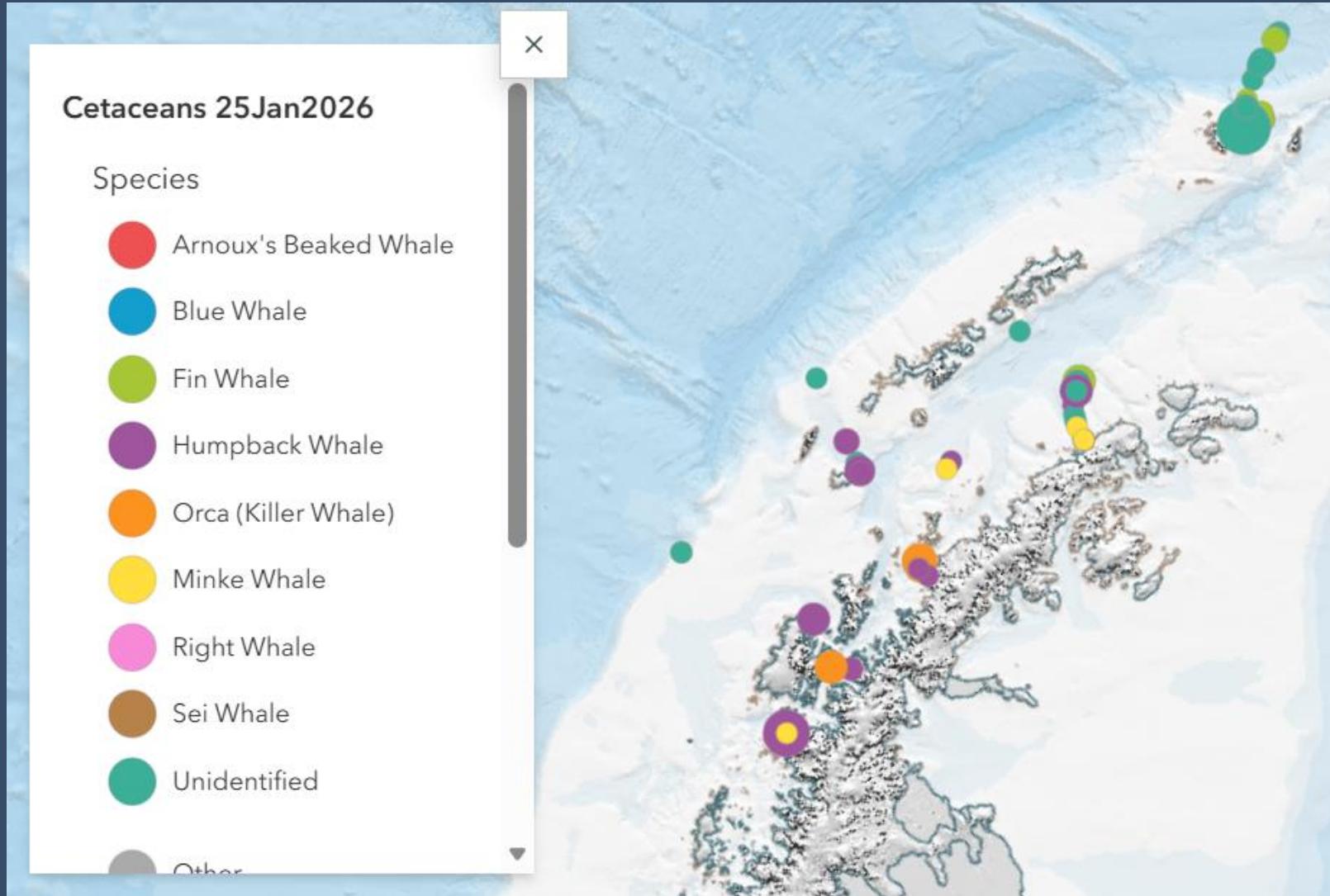
Survey

- 12 surveys completed
- 24 hrs 40 minutes
- 438.3 kilometres

Sightings

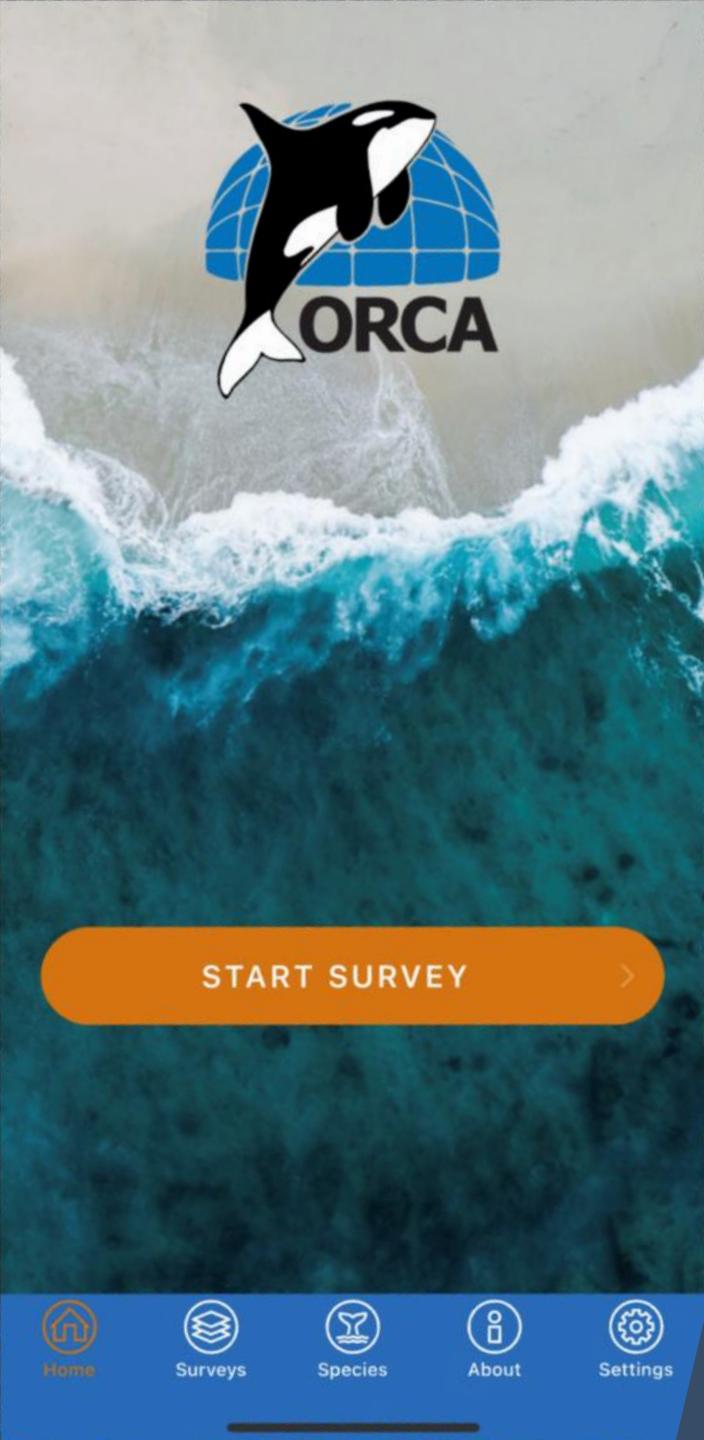
- 14 Dusky dolphins
- 6 Fin whales
- 20 Humpback whales
- 2 Antarctic minke whales
- 1 Weddell seal
- 3 South American fur seals
- 1 Unidentified whale





V-CaPS

All of our ORCA OceanWatchers surveys were included for the Voluntary Cetacean and Pinniped Sightings Seport, highlighting cetacean and pinniped hotspots in all of Antarctica.



ORCA Ocean Watchers

Survey

- 11 surveys completed
- 14 hrs 16 minutes
- 160 nautical miles

Sightings

- Dusky dolphins
- Fin whales
- Humpback whales
- Weddell seals

THE
WORLD

Connect with your inner scientist

