

A humpback whale is captured in the middle of breaching the ocean's surface. The whale's dark, ribbed back and head are visible above the water, with its white, mottled pectoral fin extended upwards. The ocean is a deep blue with white foam from the whale's splash. Overlaid on the left side of the image are large, white, semi-transparent letters 'TV'.

**SCIENCE &
EDUCATION RECAP**

MS FRIDTJOF NANSEN

Highlights of Antarctica

28th February -
10th March 2026





Science & education program

During this voyage, we helped by collecting data for **6** citizen science projects in total: eBird, HappyWhale, iNaturalist, Orca, Nasa Cloud observer & SecchiDisk project. You were able to enrich your mind with **16 lectures** on different topics from birds to rocks. You also took part in the **15 discovery sessions** we put on.

We had guest scientist on from two different projects that were collecting data whilst you were onboard. The Ocean watchers were collecting data on sightings made during the time the ship was in transit and collected fecal samples when we had a landing for the Pathogen Surveillance project.

A lot of you were very interested in the scientific aspect of our voyage and we thank you all for your enthusiasm. Here we provide a resume of our science activities.



Lectures & Discovery Sessions

- 16** Lectures
- 15** Discovery sessions
- 6** Citizence science projects
- 17** Science boats
- 2** Guest Scientist projects



Wildlife Watch

48 Species:
9 Mammals
29 Birds

History & culture

On our voyage we have investigated the explorers that charted the part of the Antarctic Peninsula we have been sailing in. We have talked about how Charcot and his French expedition overwintered on Peterman Island. When MS Fridtjof Nansen sailed through the Lemaire channel we were following the journey of Adrian de Gerlache and his ship the Belgica in 1898.

On Danco Island we saw the foundations of a British Station which was operative in the '50s but was abandoned and later dismantled in 2004 because it was not declared a Historical site and thus the materials can not stay in Antarctica according to the Antarctica Treaty.

On Damoy on the other hand we visited the Hut, which is still standing and being maintained because it was declared a Historical site. We could see the layout of the hut and some provisions and tools from the times it was operative. The hut was used as a turnover for provisions and personnel going to stations further south (Rothera)



NASA cloud observer

On this Highlights of Antarctica Expedition we conducted four Cloud Observation sessions and sent our data off to NASA!

Thank you to the 44 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



Climate change survey

How do you feel about climate change?

As an experiment, we conducted a survey on our guests' views and feelings on the subject of Climate change. In the long run, we would like to gather enough data for a scientific statistical study in the microcosm of our ship.

Thank you to the **180 participants** who answered the survey. On **our** cruise, we find that **69.6%** of our guests consider climate change a serious problem caused by humans. **You can view the results and interpretations on this link.**

The results will continue to evolve the more data we collect.

69.6%

believe climate change is a serious human-caused problem

65%

feel "concerned but hopeful" when hearing about climate change

40%

see some damage as unavoidable but still believe meaningful action matters (Q3)

7.41

average personal worry score out of 10 — vs 5.01 perceived for the general public

81%

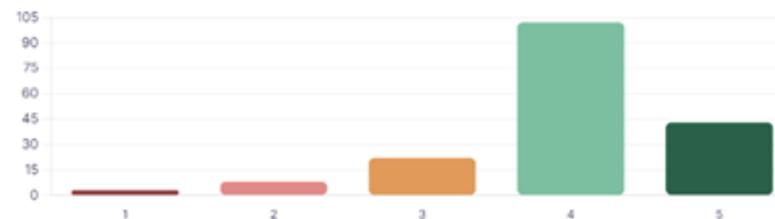
are willing or very willing to make major lifestyle changes (Q7 scores 4-5)

Q7
If such large-scale changes were required, how willing would you personally be to make major changes to your way of life?

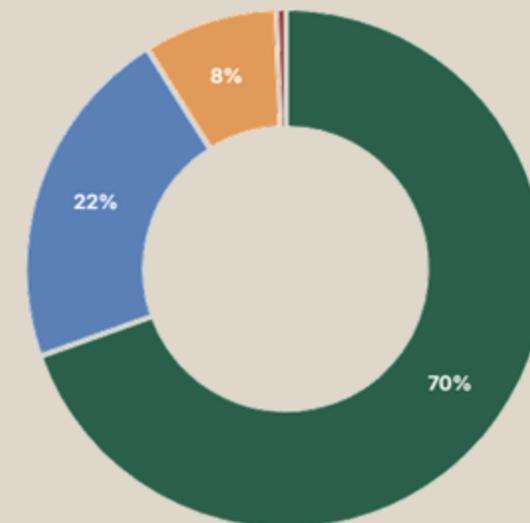
Scale: 1 = Very unwilling → 5 = Very willing · 178 respondents



● 1 - Very unwilling: 3 ● 2: 8 ● 3: 22 ● 4: 102 ● 5 - Very willing: 43



When you hear about climate change, what best describes your reaction?



■ Serious human-caused problem — 69.6%

■ Real but causes/impacts uncertain — 21.5%

■ Happening regardless of humans — 8.4%

■ Overstated — 0.0%

■ Not happening — 0.6%

Visit the IPCC website

Climate Change IPCC FAQ

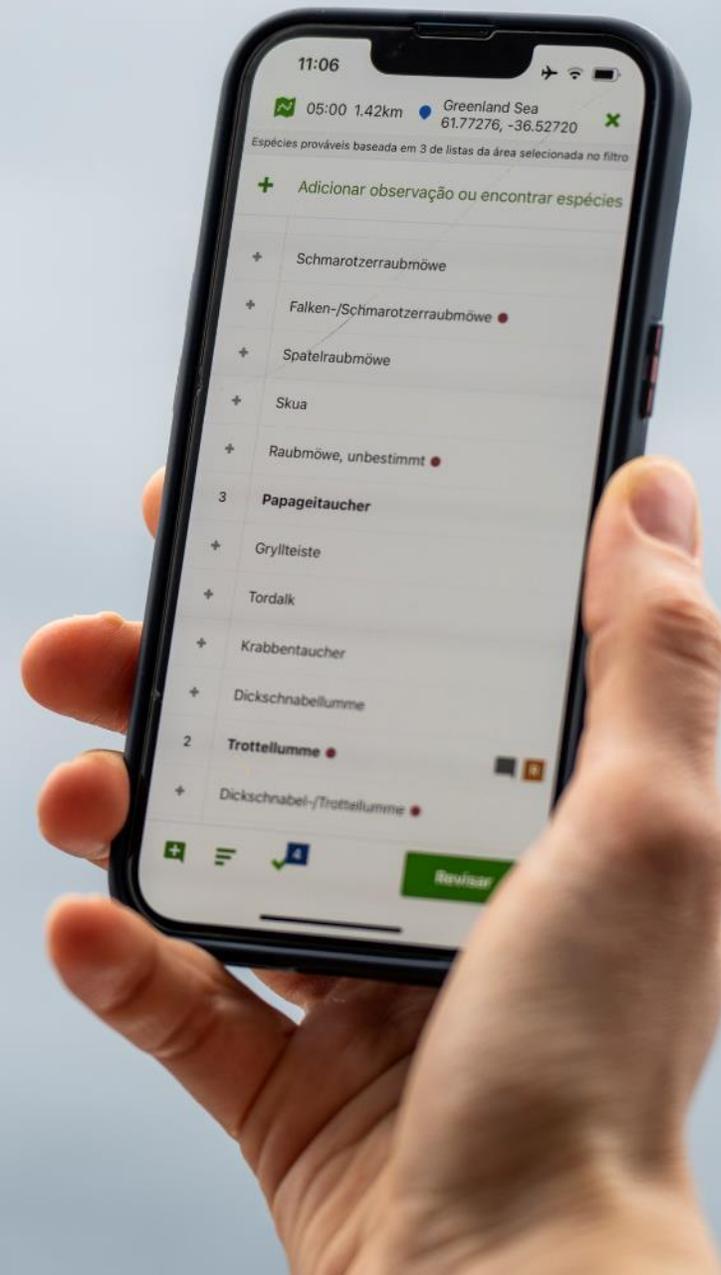
IPCC Summary report



The eBird project

During this voyage, our ornithologist, did **20 surveys**. At least **20 species** were observed. The most frequently observed species were Gentoo Penguin, Sooty Shearwater, Black-browed Albatross, Southern Giant Petrel and Soft-plumaged Petrel. Find the trip report for the voyage and the checklists here:

<https://ebird.org/tripreport/483126>



Trip Report on eBird

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FNANT2607 Fridtjof Nansen Highlights of Antarctica 28 February - 9 March 2026

28 Feb – 9 Mar 2026 (10 days)

Public

Antarctica | Chile Subregions

Simon Delany, Science Coordinator

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Map **Satellite**

South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands

Keyboard shortcuts | Map data ©2026 Imagery ©2026 NASA | Terms

Narrative

Owners and editors of a Trip Report may write a narrative.

DATA FOR: **Group (all people)**

20	19
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Species Observed

[Show all details](#)

9	South Polar Skua	▶ 2
11	Kelp Gull	▶ 2
32	Antarctic Tern	▶ 3
1	Adelie Penguin	▶ 1
5100	Gentoo Penguin	▶ 3
22	Chinstrap Penguin	▶ 3
1	Southern Royal Albatross	▶ 1
5	Snowy Albatross	▶ 1
2	Gray-headed Albatross	▶ 2
20	Black-browed Albatross	▶ 8
5	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	▶ 5
13	Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	▶ 5
17	Southern Giant-Petrel	▶ 6

eBird

4	Southern Fulmar	▶ 1
1	Pintado Petrel	▶ 1
14	Soft-plumaged Petrel	▶ 8
4	Slender-billed Prion	▶ 2
1	Great Shearwater	▶ 1
154	Sooty Shearwater	▶ 4
8	Imperial Cormorant	▶ 2
ADDITIONAL TAXA		
5	skua sp.	▶ 1
6	penguin sp.	▶ 1
1	large albatross sp.	▶ 1
1	storm-petrel sp.	▶ 1
9	prion sp.	▶ 5
1	diving-petrel sp.	▶ 1



iNaturalist

Joining iNaturalist offers a unique opportunity to engage with a global community of naturalists and citizen scientists, simply by uploading your pictures.

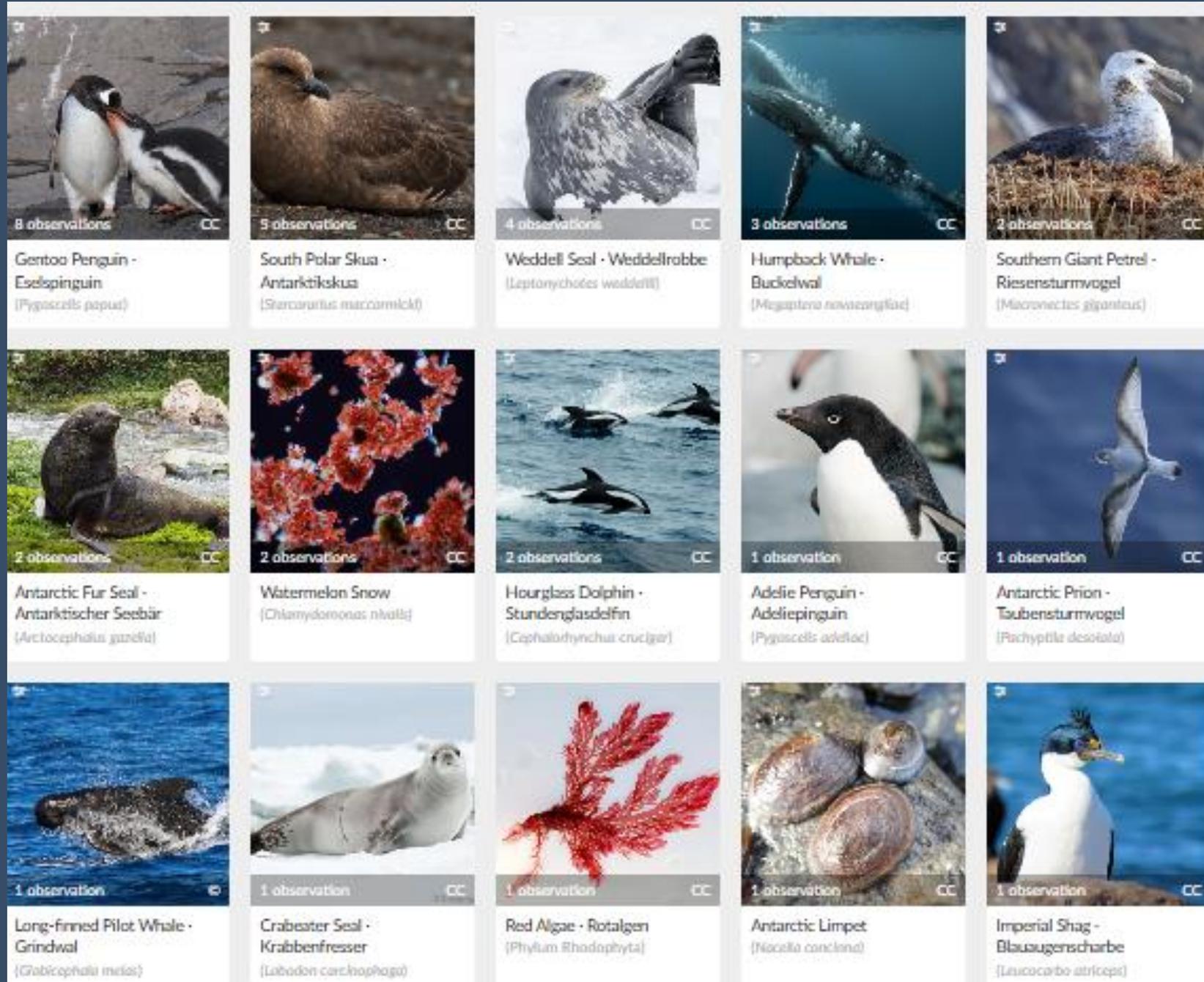
- Get your photographs identified
- Use and improve your ID skills
- Contribute to scientific research
- Learn the distribution patterns of different species
- Meet expert biologists online in their field of study
- Support conservation efforts
- Explore the world and discover what species can be observed and where

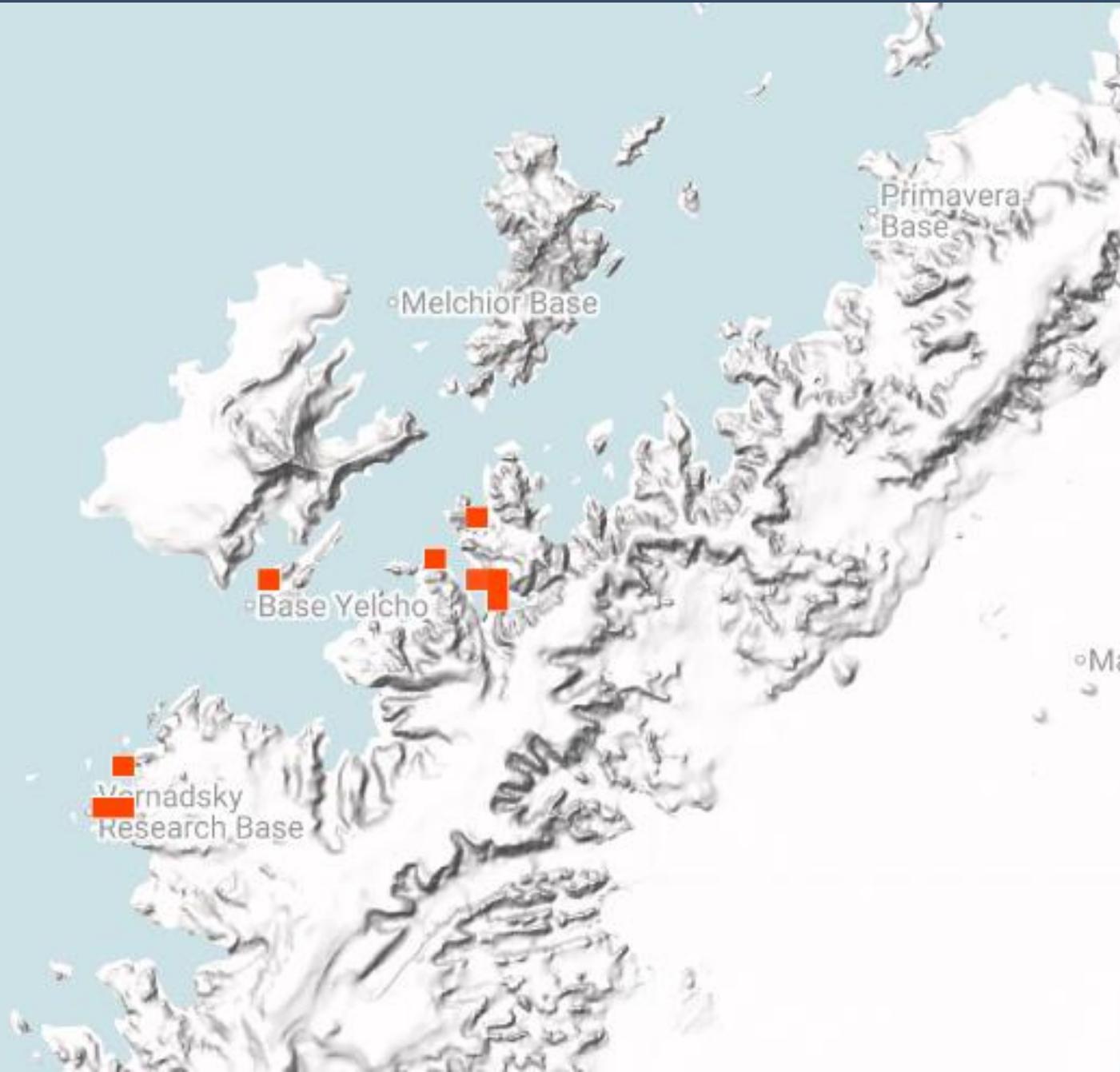


iNaturalist

We submitted 40 observations identifying 27 different organisms. The most observed species were the Gentoo Penguin followed by the South Polar Skua. **It is still time to join our project** once you are back home and have time to go through your photos. Helping us document the local biodiversity will help the scientists worldwide to monitor the changes of distribution and abundance of the most iconic Antarctic species.

Join our project by searching its code name or clicking this link: **2026 Feb 28 - Highlights of Antarctica - MS Fridtjof Nansen**

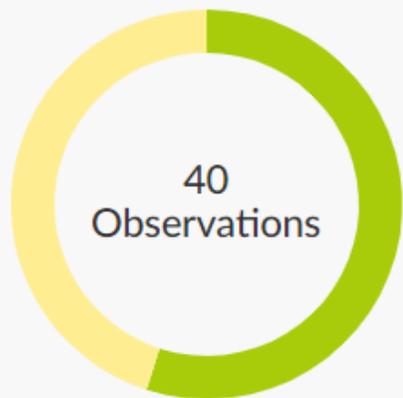




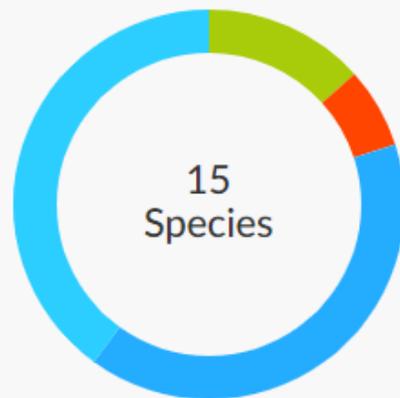
iNaturalist

Here is the map of our iNaturalist project's observations. Only observations of the members with dates between the 28th of February and 10th of March 2026 will appear in this project.

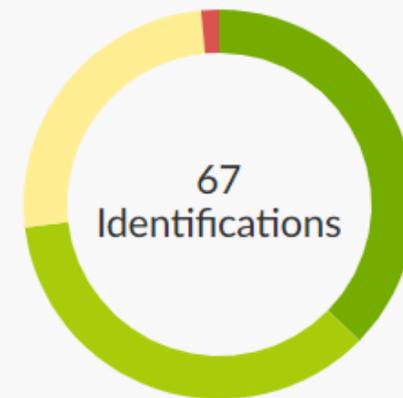
Stats



- Research Grade
- Needs ID
- Casual



- Unknown
- Protozoans
- Fungi
- Plants
- Chromista
- Mollusks
- Insects
- Arachnids
- Ray-Finned F...
- Amphibians
- Reptiles
- Birds
- Mammals
- Other Animals



- Improving
- Supporting
- Leading
- Maverick

HappyWhale

This voyage was a success in terms of whale sightings. Guests submitted fluke photos to the platform and will be notified if these match with whales that have been spotted before. Thank you so much for helping us gathering amazing pictures and moments!

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



Humpback Whale at Petermann Island © Timo Heinz / HX



ORCA

Using ORCA's OceanWatchers App, multiple sightings were registered across our voyage and submitted to IAATO's Voluntary Cetacean and Pinniped Sightings project (V-CaPS)



During ORCA OceanWatchers surveys we had

- Long finned pilot whales
- Hourglass dolphins
- Humpback whales
- Weddell Seals
- Leopard Seals
- Antarctic Fur Seals

A total of

- **15 h 47** min of active surveying
- **296** kms surveyed
- **292** individuals sighted
- **10** wildlife watch survey sessions



©Simon Delany



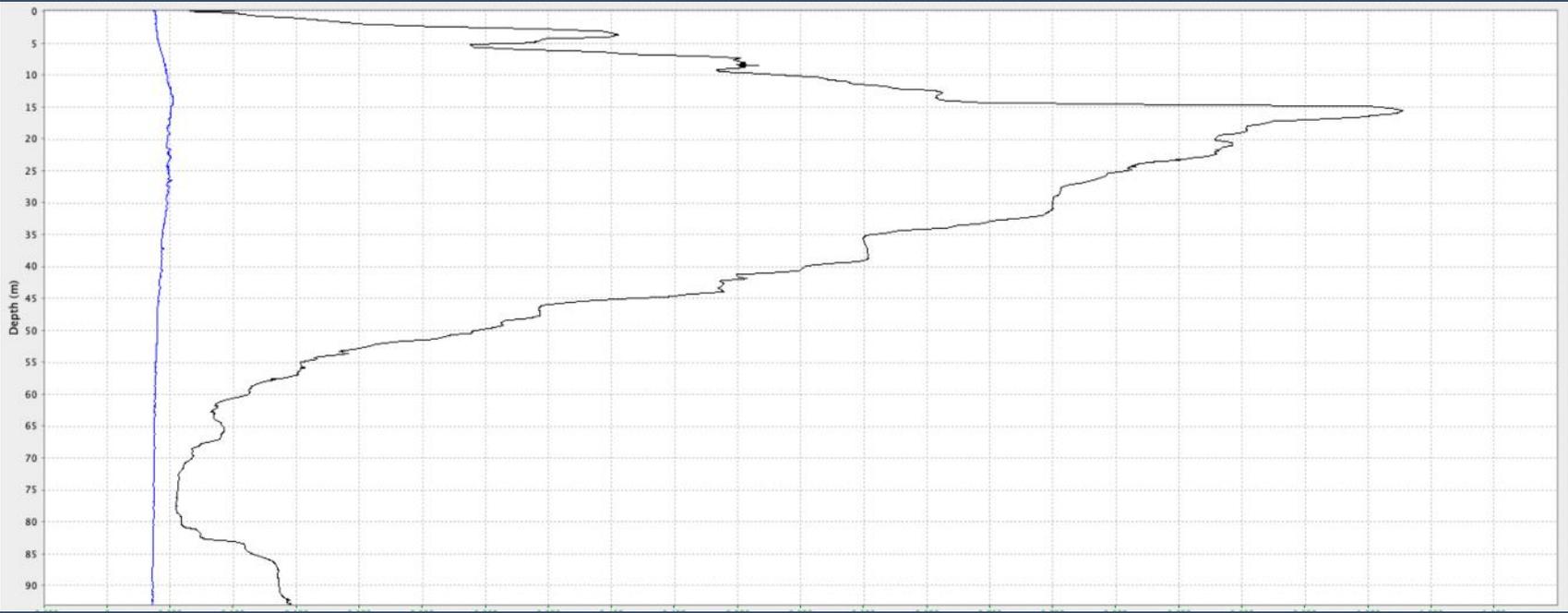
Science Boat

We had 17 science boat sessions during this trip in: Petermann Island, Danco Island and Telephone Bay. We sampled for different projects. With the secchi disk measurements to document the turbidity/clarity of the water and assess the abundance of phytoplankton. We towed a plankton net of 20 um mesh size to gather water samples, deployed our CTD sensor to understand the oceanographical parameters of the water (temperature, salinity, chlorophyll a). The whole mission was a success, thank you for participating with us!

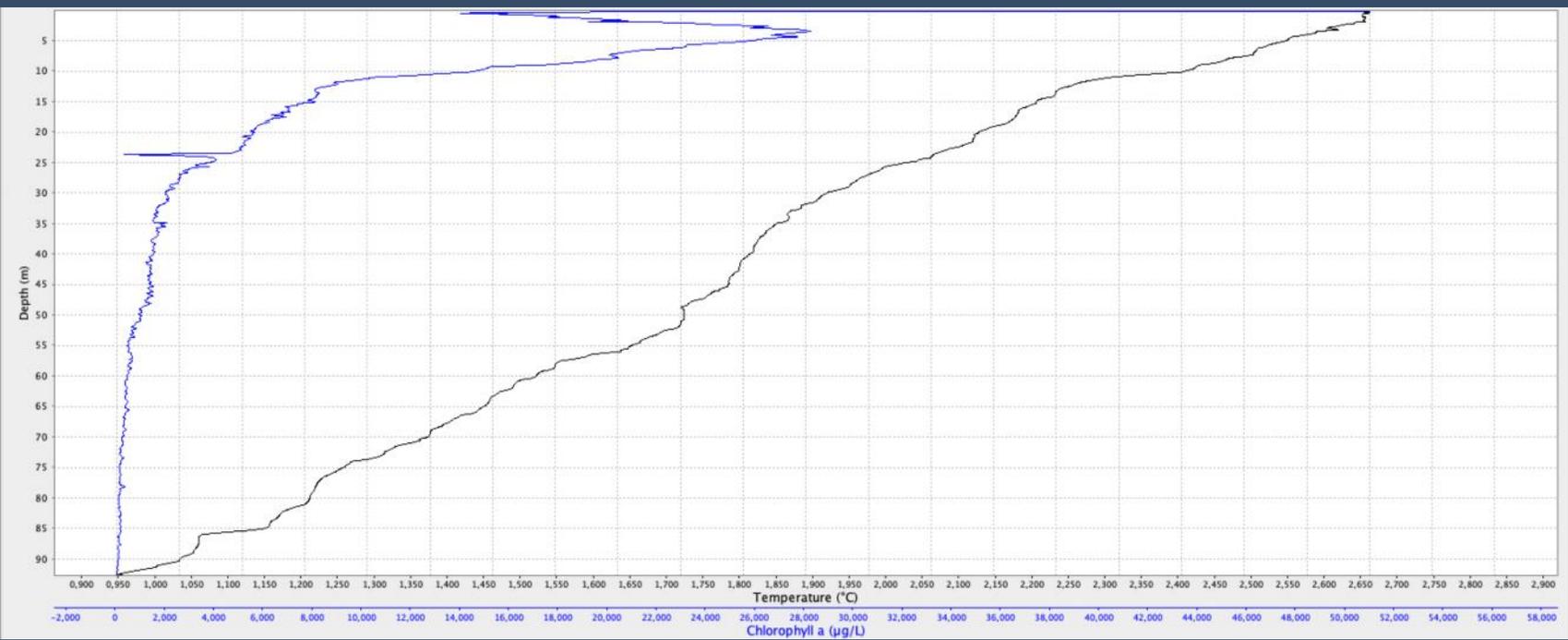


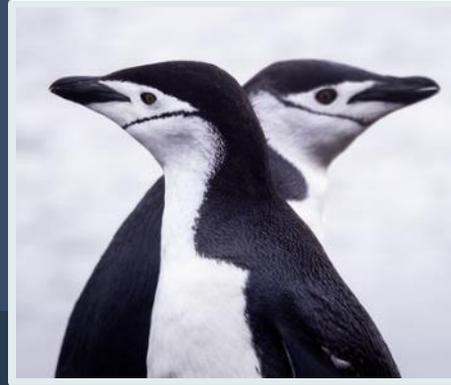
[View our data](#) submitted to the Secchi Disk Project

Petermann Island



Telephone Bay

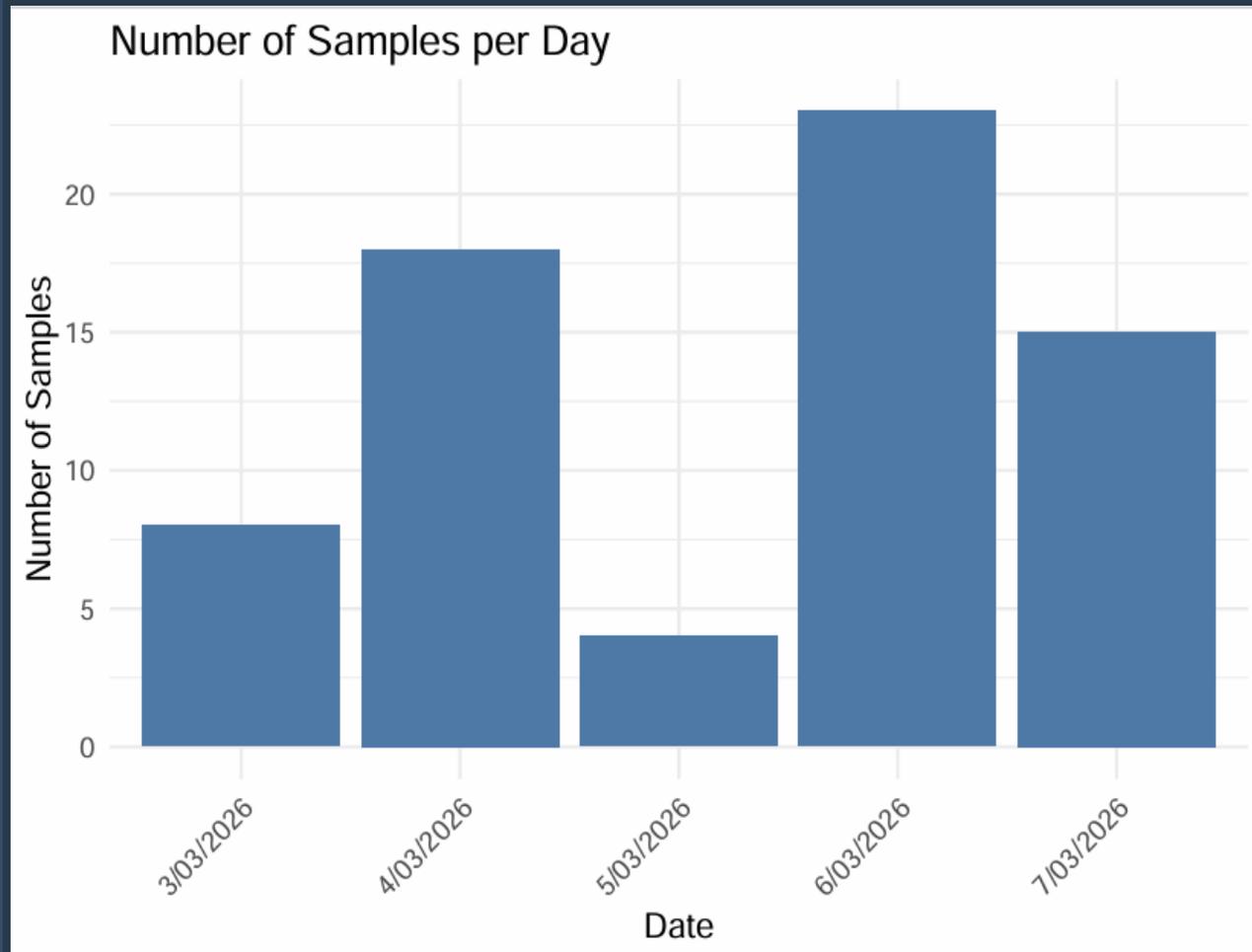




PATHOGEN SURVEILLANCE IN ANTARCTIC SEABIRDS AND SEALS

Trip Summary

Observations



How many samples did we collect at each landing site?

Petermann Island (3rd Mar 26)

= **8 samples**

Damoy Point (4th Mar 26)

= **18 samples**

Neko Harbour (5th Mar 26)

= **4 samples**

Danco Island (6th Mar 26)

= **23 samples**

Telefon Bay (7th Mar 26)

= **15 samples**

A total of **68** samples!

Observations

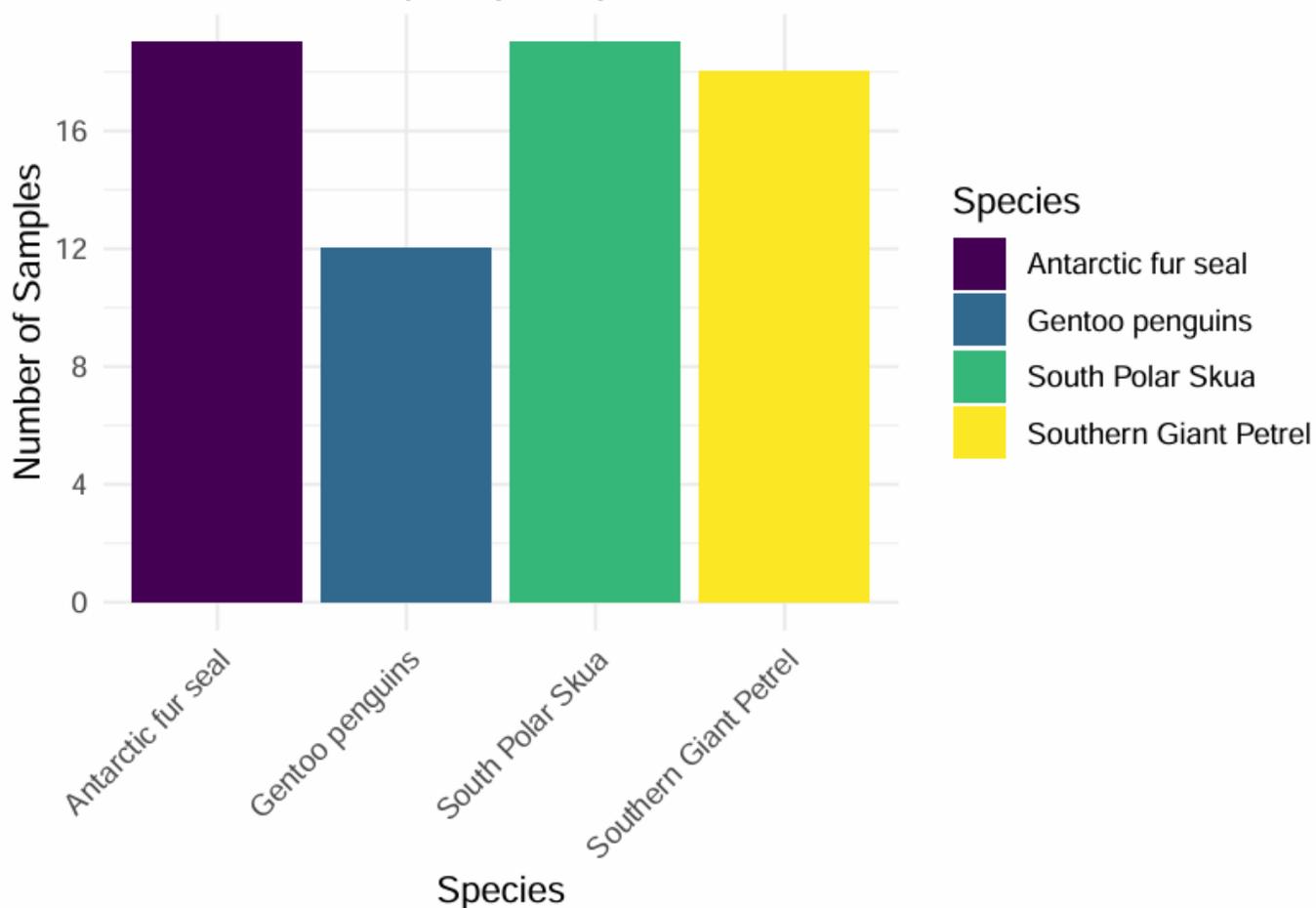
Which species did we sample? And, how many samples did we collect?

We sampled **4** different species.

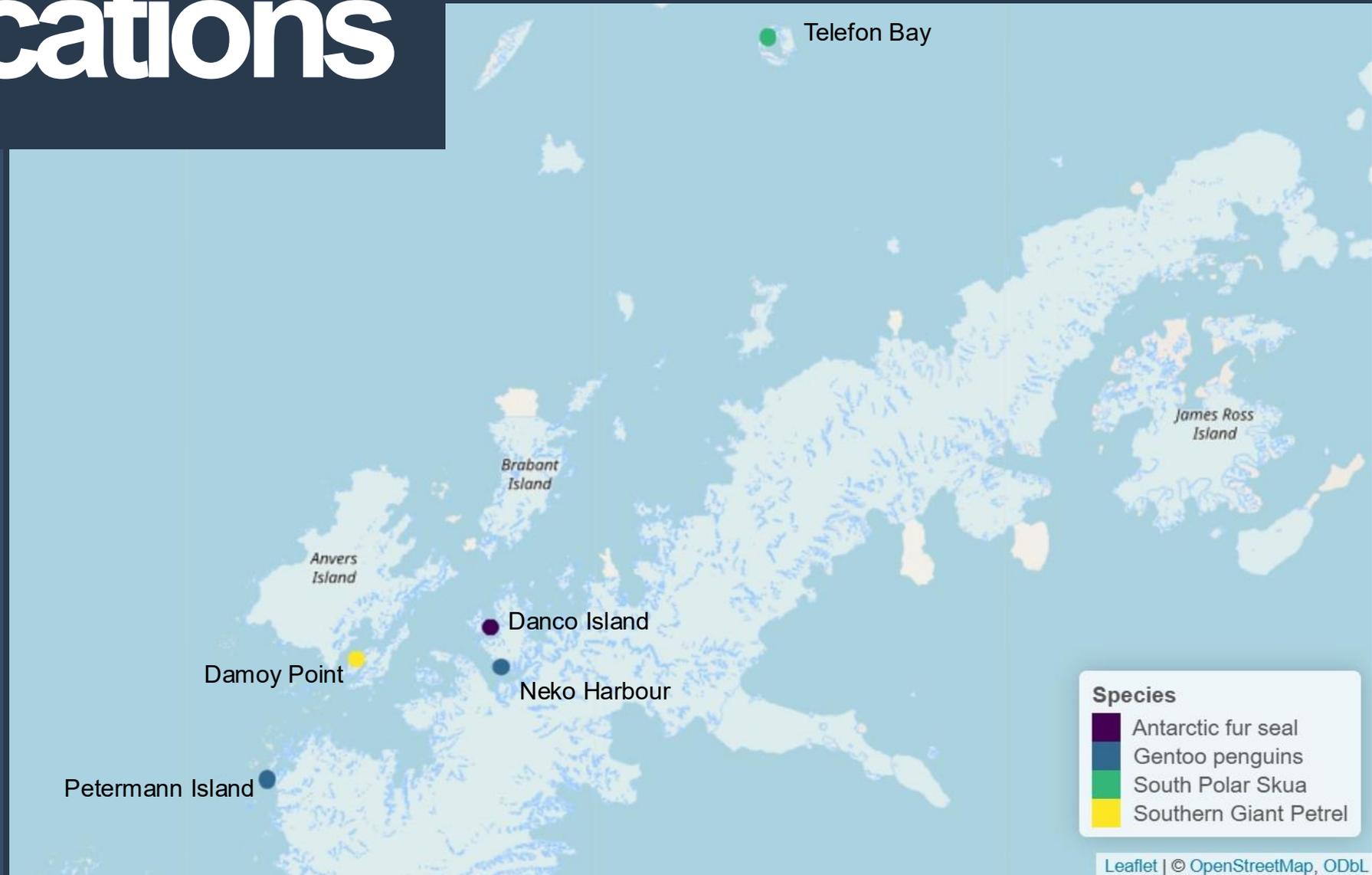
Species	No. of Samples
Antarctic Fur Seal	19
Gentoo Penguin	12
South Polar Skua	19
Southern Giant Petrel	18

This was the **first** time we have collected **Southern Giant Petrel** samples this season!

Number of Samples per Species



Locations

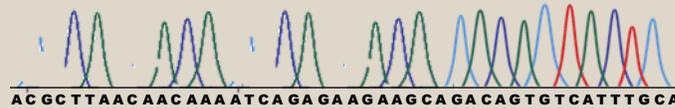


Leaflet | © OpenStreetMap, ODbL

What's next...

Samples will be frozen and transported back to the University of Tasmania, Australia (over 8600kms from Ushuaia). ✈️

Viral DNA and RNA will be extracted and sequenced to identify viruses in Antarctic seabirds and seals.



From the identified viruses, we can start to paint a clearer picture of disease diversity across Antarctic wildlife.



By better understanding Antarctic wildlife disease diversity, we can track changes and better predict viral outbreaks, behaviour, and spread.

These findings will contribute to PhD research support many years of future studies, and, most importantly, aid in the conservation of these exquisite and unique Antarctic species.



**THANK
YOU!**



Photo: Ruth Wielinga

**DONATIONS &
EMAIL UPDATES**





POLAR WHALE WATCH

Trip summary



AWR | ANTARCTIC WILDLIFE RESEARCH FUND



ANTARCTIC
SCIENCE FOUNDATION



**AUSTRALIAN
ANTARCTIC
PROGRAM**

Photo credit: Goddard_Photography

Observations

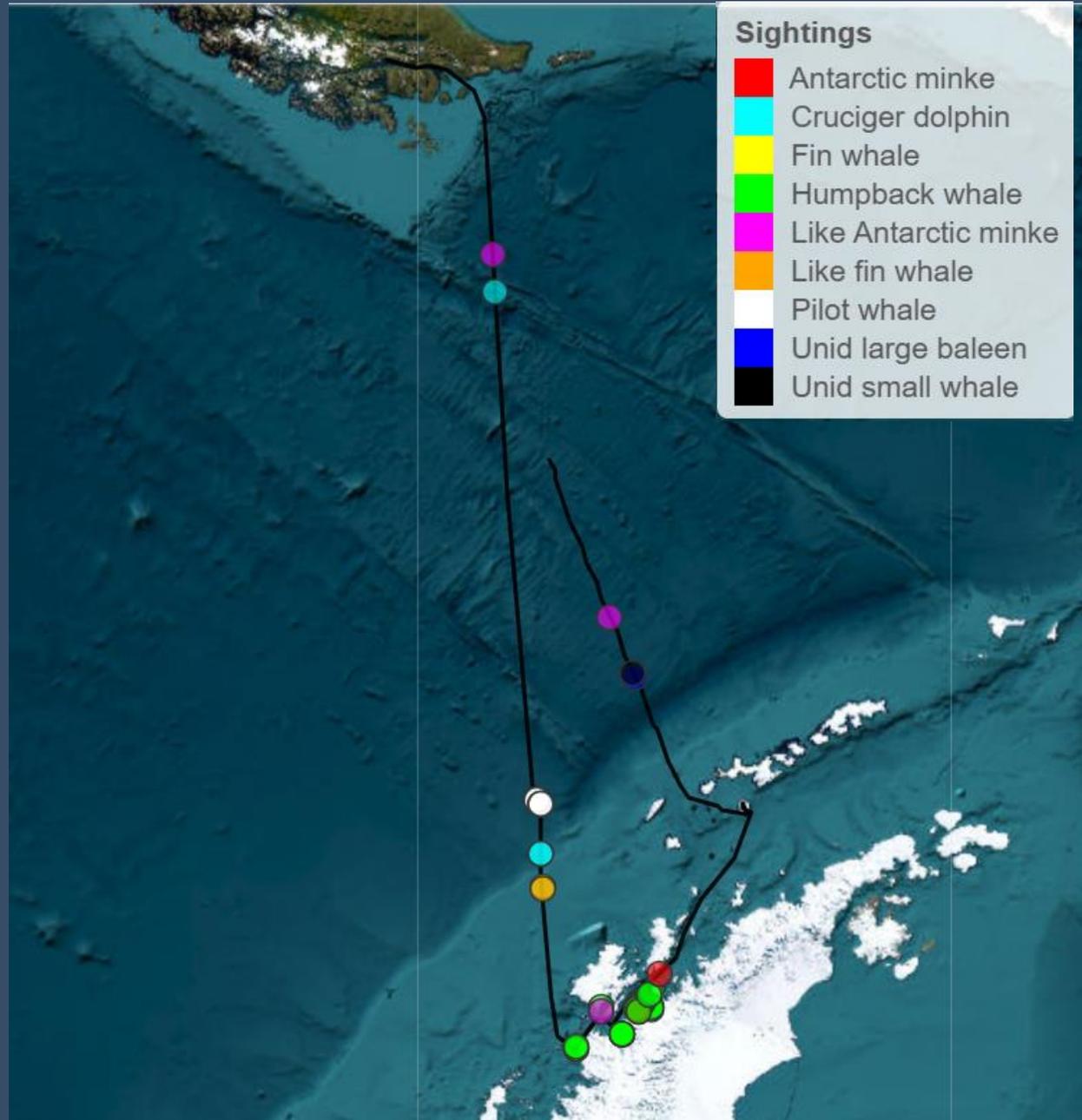


Key findings: list of species we spotted and how many

Species Name	Number of Sightings	Number of Individuals
Antarctic Minke	2	2
Hourglass dolphin	4	38
Fin whale	1	1
Humpback whale	33	67
Like Minke whale	3	3
Like Fin whale	1	1
Pilot whale	6	153
Unidentified large baleen	1	1
Unidentified small whale	1	3
Total	52	269

Observations

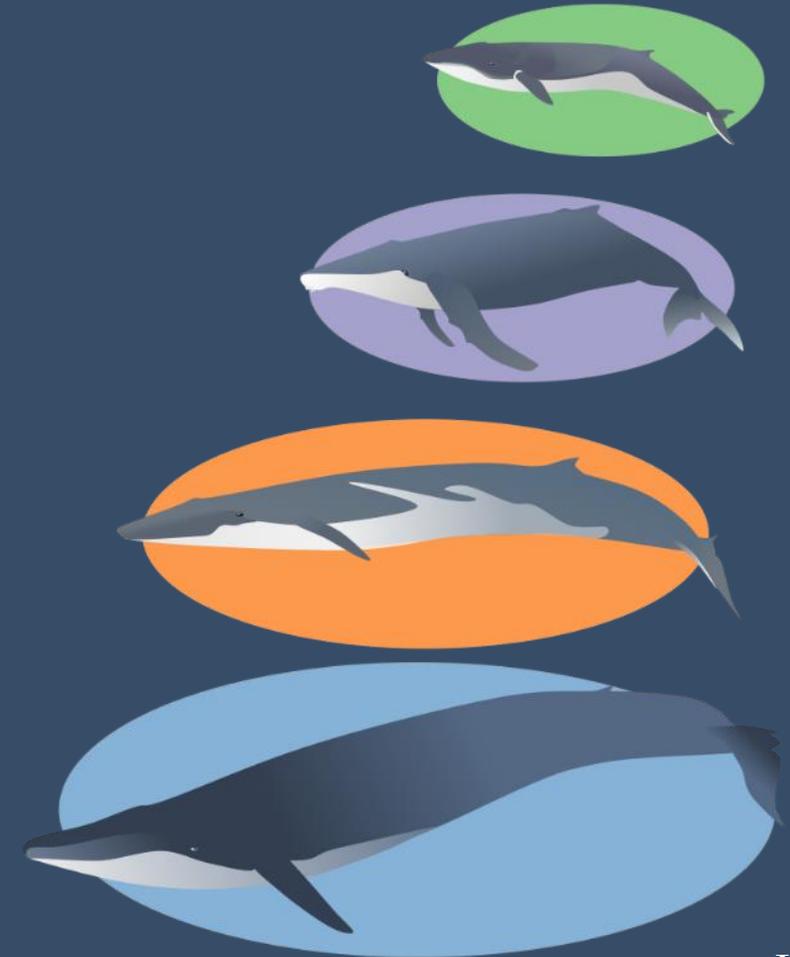
**Key findings:
Where did we
spot these
whales?**



What next?



- The observations made on this trip will be added to a database.
- Shared with krill fishery managers & Convention for the conservation of Antarctic living resources .**Data passed to CCAMLR**
- **Results used in PhD and masters Research**
- This data was collected as a part of lead researcher Angus Hendersen's PhD framework.



Want to know more?



Email list

Enter your email here for project updates.



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Donations portal

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Wildlife List — Birds



Wildlife list – Birds

Scientific Name	English	Deutsch	Français
<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>	Gentoo Penguin	Eselspinguin	Manchot papou
<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>	Adelie Penguin	Adeliepinguin	Manchot d'Adélie
<i>Pygoscelis antarcticus</i>	Chinstrap Penguin	Zügelpinguin	Manchot à jugulaire
<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	Magellanic Penguin	Magellanpinguin	Manchot de Magellan
<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	Snowy Albatross (Wandering A.)	Wanderalbatros	Albatros hurleur
<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	Southern Royal Albatross	Königsalbatros	Albatros royal
<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	Black-browed Albatross	Schwarzbrauenalbatros	Albatros à sourcils noirs
<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>	Grey-headed Albatross	Graukopfalbatros	Albatros à tête grise
<i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>	Light-mantled Albatross	Graumantelalbatros	Albatros fuligineux
<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Southern Giant Petrel	Resensturmvoegel	Pétrel géant
<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>	Soft-plumaged Petrel	Weichfeder-Sturmvoegel	Pétrel soyeux
<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>	Southern Fulmar	Silbersturmvoegel	Fulmar argenté
<i>Daption capense</i>	Cape Petrel	Kapsturmvoegel	Damier du Cap
<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>	Slender-billed Prion	Dünnschnabel-Sturmvoegel	Prion de Belcher
<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	Wilson's Storm-petrel	Buntfuß-Sturmschwalbe	Océanite de Wilson
<i>Fregetta tropica</i>	Black-bellied Storm-petrel	Schwarzbauch-Sturmschwalbe	Océanite à ventre noir
<i>Pelecanoides urinatrix</i>	Common Diving Petrel	Subantarktis-Lummensturmvoegel	Puffinure plongeur
<i>Ardenna grisea</i>	Sooty Shearwater	Dunkelsturmtaucher	Puffin fuligineux
<i>Ardenna gravis</i>	Great Shearwater	Kappensturmtaucher	Puffin majeur
<i>Leucocarbo atriceps</i>	Imperial Cormorant	Kaiserscharbe	Cormoran impérial
<i>Leucocarbo magellanicus</i>	Magellanic Shag	Felsenscharbe	Cormoran de Magellan
<i>Stercorarius maccormicki</i>	South Polar Skua	Antarktiskua	Labbe de McCormick
<i>Stercorarius antarcticus</i>	Brown Skua (Subantarctic)	Subantarktiskua	Labbe antarctique
<i>Stercorarius chilensis</i>	Chilean Skua	Chileskua	Labbe du Chili
<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	Kelp Gull	Dominikanermöwe	Goéland dominicain
<i>Leucophaeus scoresbyi</i>	Dolphin Gull	Blutschnabelmöwe	Goéland de Scoresby
<i>Chionis albus</i>	Snowy Sheathbill	Weißgesicht-Scheidenschnabel	Chionis blanc
<i>Sterna vittata</i>	Antarctic Tern	Antarktikscheschwalbe	Sterne couronnée
<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	South American Tern	Falklandseeschwalbe	Sterne hirundinacée



Wildlife

List — Marine Mammals

Wildlife list – Marine mammals



Cetaceans (whales, dolphins, porpoise)

Scientific Name	English	Deutsch	Français
<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Fin Whale	Finnwal	Rorqual commun
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Humpback Whale	Buckelwal	Baleine à bosse
<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>	Hourglass Dolphin	Stundenglas delfin	Lagénorhynque sablier
<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>	Peale's Dolphin	Peale-Delfin	Lagénorhynque de Peale
<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Sperm Whale	Pottwal	Cachalot
<i>Globicephala melas</i>	Long-finned pilot whale	Grindwal	Globicéphale noir

Pinnipeds (seals)

Scientific Name	English	Deutsch	Français
<i>Lobodon carcinophaga</i>	Crabeater Seal	Krabbenfresser	Phoque crabier
<i>Leptonychotes weddellii</i>	Weddell Seal	Weddelrobbe	Ohoque de Weddell
<i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i>	Leopard Seal	Léopard de mer	Seeleopard
<i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>	Antarctic Fur Seal	Antarktischer Seebär	Otarie à fourrure antarctique
<i>Mirounga leonina</i>	Southern Elephant Seal	Éléphant de mer austral	Südlicher See-Elefant

THE

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