



Science & Education Report

MS Fridtjof Nansen

Highlights of Antarctica

10 – 20 March 2026



History & culture

During our voyage we have investigated the explorers who charted the part of the Antarctic Peninsula we have been sailing in. We have talked about how Charcot and his French expedition overwintered on Port Charcot.

At Damoy 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 when it was operational. The hut was used as a turnover for provisions and personnel going to stations further south (Rothera)

At Portal Point, on the other hand, we saw the foundations of a British station which was operational in the 1950s but was abandoned and later dismantled in 2004 because it was not declared an historical site and thus the materials cannot stay in Antarctica according to the Antarctic Treaty.



History & culture

We also cruised around Port Lockroy with our expedition boats. It is still an active station in Antarctica and the southernmost post office of the world.

Given that it is a summer-only station the personnel had just returned to the UK and the station was closed until next summer season.



NASA's GLOBE Cloud Observer

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

Thank you to the 32 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



NASA's GLOBE Cloud Observer

Observation	GLOBE	NOAA-20 Satellite
Universal Date/Time	2026-03-02 18:17:00	2026-03-02 18:25
Latitude	-62.96	-63.37 to -62.57
Longitude	-64.91	-65.31 to -64.51
Total Cloud Cover	Scattered (25-50%) 	Isolated 15.10% 
High Clouds	 Cirrocumulus Cover: Scattered (25-50%)  Opacity: Translucent	Cover: Few (1.90%)  Altitude: 7.51 (km) Phase: Ice 226.98 (K) Opacity: Transparent
Mid Clouds	 Altostratus Cover: Isolated (10-25%)  Opacity: Opaque	Cover: Few (9.92%)  Altitude: 2.83 (km) Phase: Water 257.17 (K) Opacity: Transparent
Low Clouds	 Stratus Cover: Isolated (10-25%)  Opacity: Opaque	Cover: Few (3.27%)  Altitude: 0.94 (km) Phase: Ice/Water Mix 270.67 (K) Opacity: Transparent
GLOBE Cloud Photos and Corresponding NASA Satellite Images. Click image to view ---> <i>Note: Photos submitted though GLOBE need approval before being displayed, this may take a few days.</i>	GLOBE Photos North East South  West Up Down	VIIRS NOAA-20 Worldview  Worldview Tutorial

Here is an example of the matching report you might receive from NASA when completing an observation at the time a satellite is flying over your location!

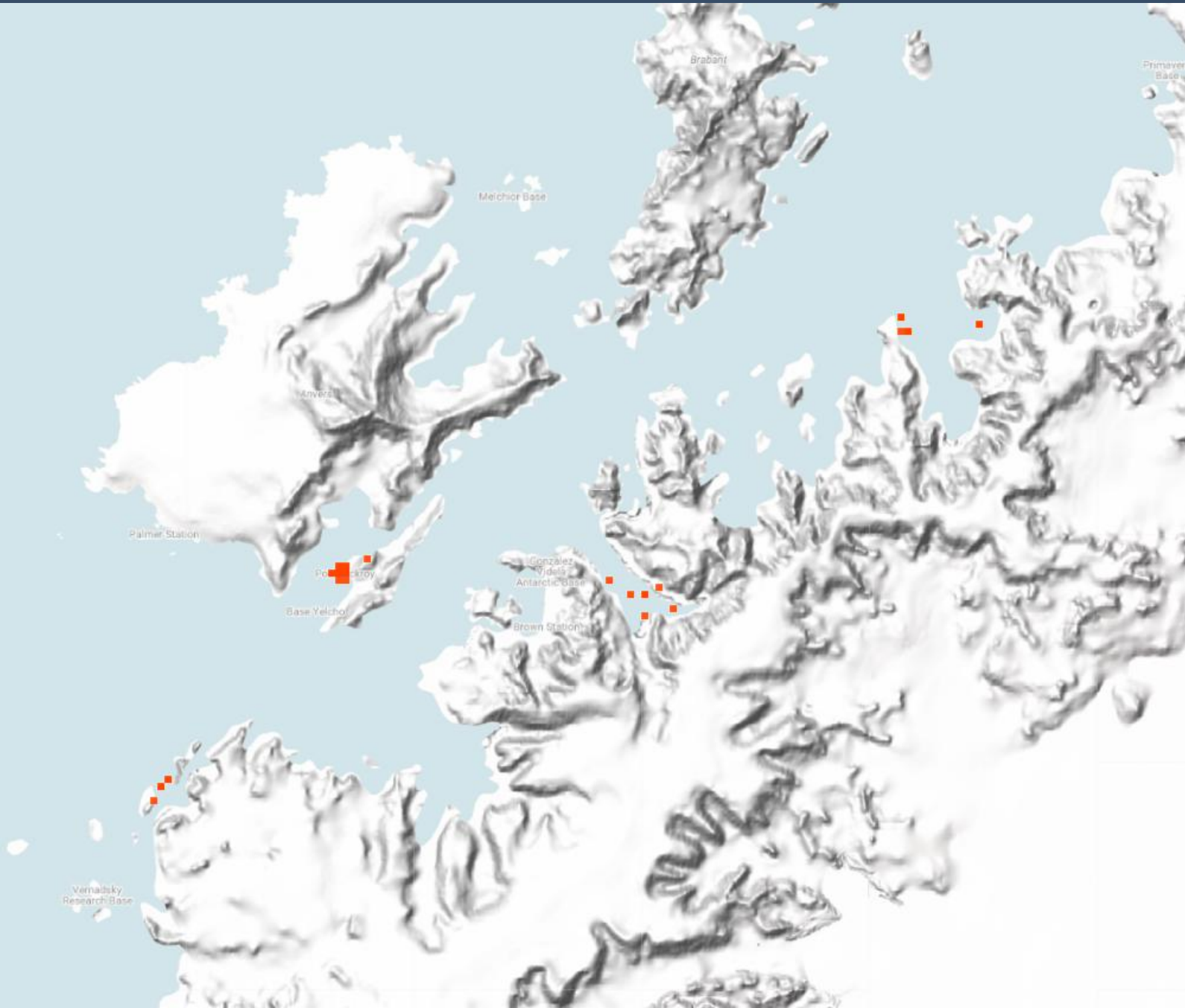
iNaturalist

We submitted 84 observations identifying 29 different organisms. The most observed species were the humpback whales closely followed by the gentoo penguin. There 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.

Click on the link to view our collective data and see the impact of your contributions:

View our [data](#) on the iNaturalist website










iNaturalist

Here is the map of our iNaturalist project's observations. Only observations of the members with dates between the 10 March to the 20 March 2026 will appear in this project.



Most Observations
rosiebwild 35






1st


	maria_tietze	26
	dwayneb84	15
	gingerkleehammer	4
	paranorgia	2
	michael57917	2

[View All](#)[View Yours](#)

Most Species
rosiebwild 21

1st

	dwayneb84	12
	maria_tietze	10
	gingerkleehammer	4
	paranorgia	2
	michael57917	1

[View All](#)[View Yours](#)

Most Observed Species
Humpback Whale 14

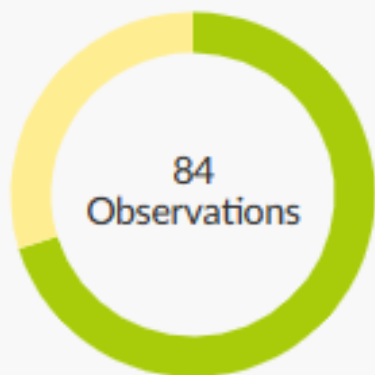
	Gentoo Penguin	11
	Crabeater Seal	6
	South Polar Skua	5
	Chinstrap Penguin	4
	Kelp Gull	3

[View All](#)[View Yours](#)

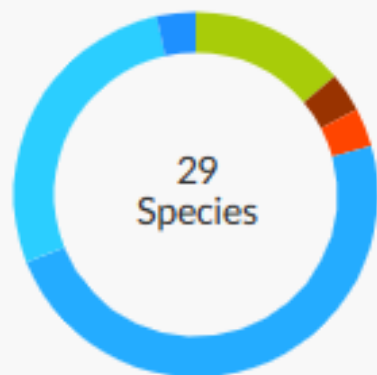


iNaturalist

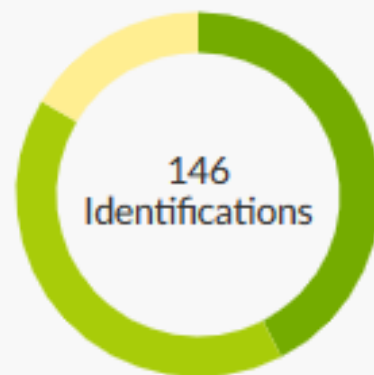
Stats



- Research Grade
- Needs ID
- Casual



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

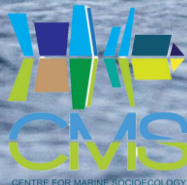


- Improving
- Supporting
- Leading
- Maverick



POLAR WHALE WATCH

Trip summary



AWR | ANTARCTIC WILDLIFE RESEARCH FUND



ANTARCTIC SCIENCE FOUNDATION



AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC PROGRAM

Photo credit: Goddard_Photography

Observations

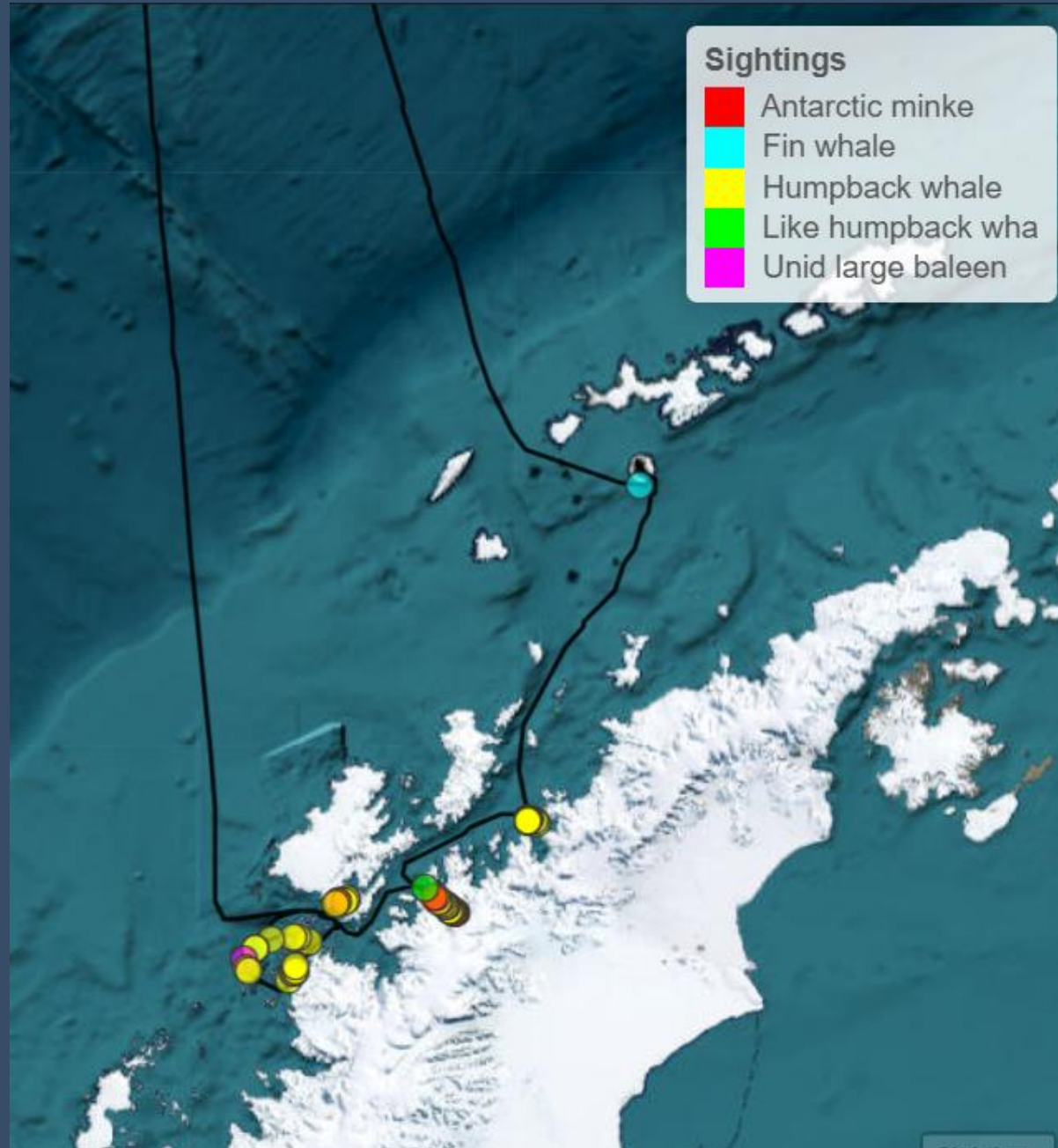


Key findings: list of species we spotted and how many

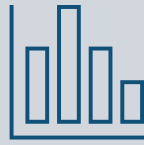
Species Name	Number of Sightings	Number of Individuals
Antarctic minke whale	5	5
Fin whale	2	2
Humpback whale	60	90
Unidentified humpback-like whale	1	1
Unidentified large baleen	2	2
Total	70	100

Observations

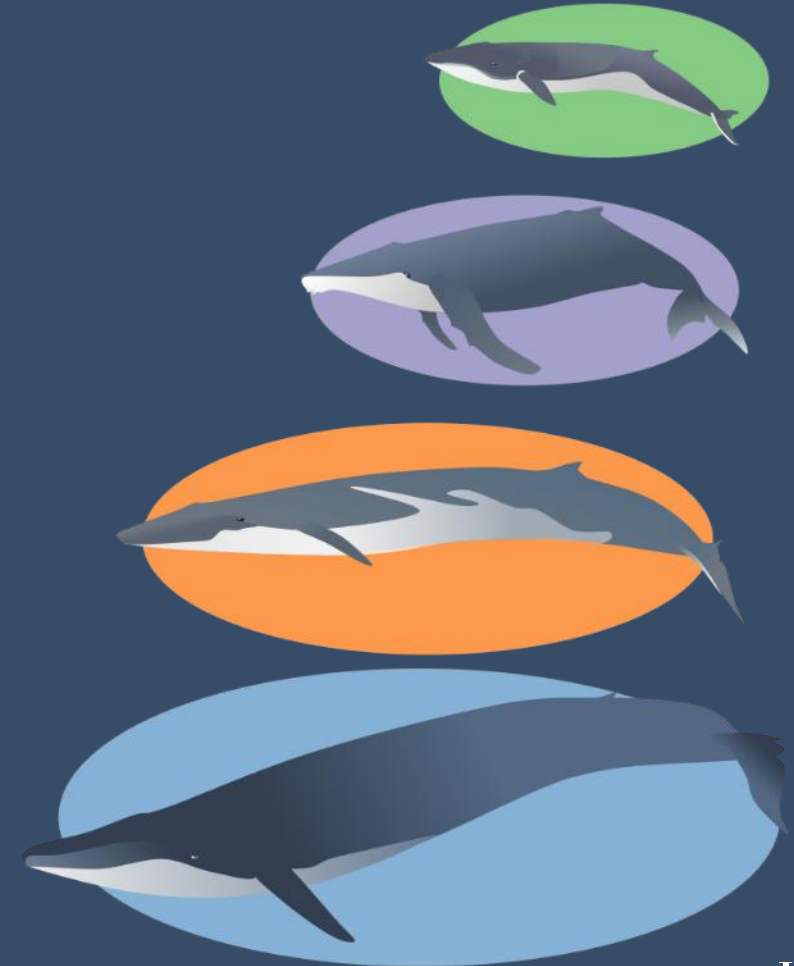
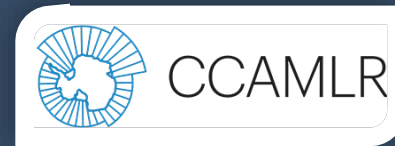
**Key findings:
Where did we
spot these
whales?**



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 Henderson's PhD framework.



Want to know more?



Email list

Enter your email here for project updates.

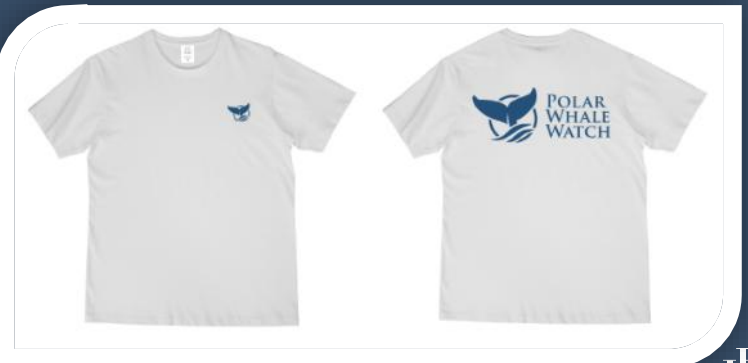


Donations portal

REWARDS AVAILABLE FOR LARGE DONATIONS!



Tax deductible for AUS and US citizens.

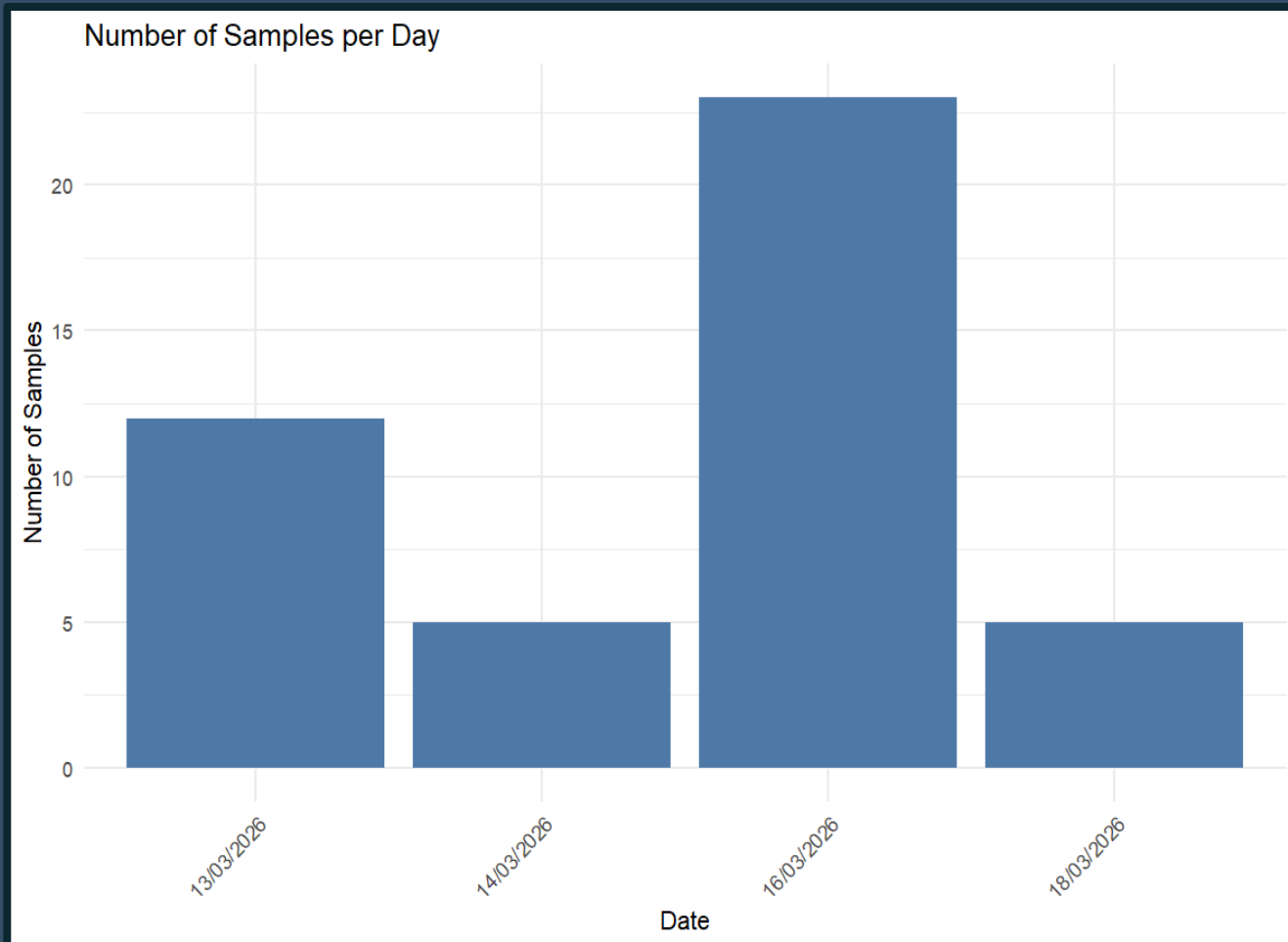




PATHOGEN SURVEILLANCE IN ANTARCTIC SEABIRDS AND SEALS

Trip Summary

Observations



How many samples did we collect at each landing site?

Damoy Point (13th Mar 26)

= **8 samples**

Port Lockroy (13th Mar 26)

= **4 samples**

Pleneau Island (14th Mar 26)

= **5 samples**

Portal Point (16th Mar 26)

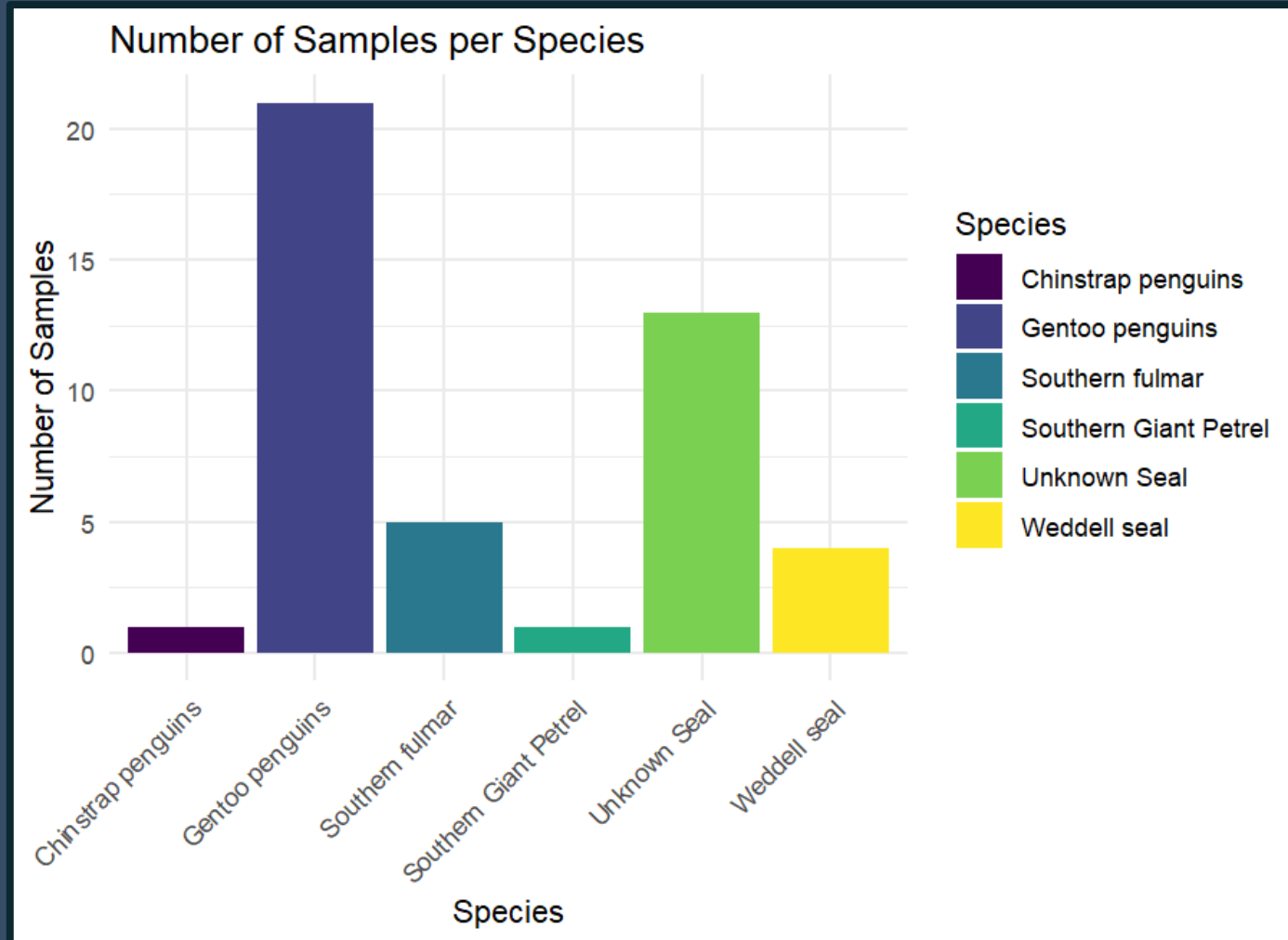
= **23 samples**

Drake Passage (18th Mar 26)

= **5 samples**

A total of **45 samples!**

Observations

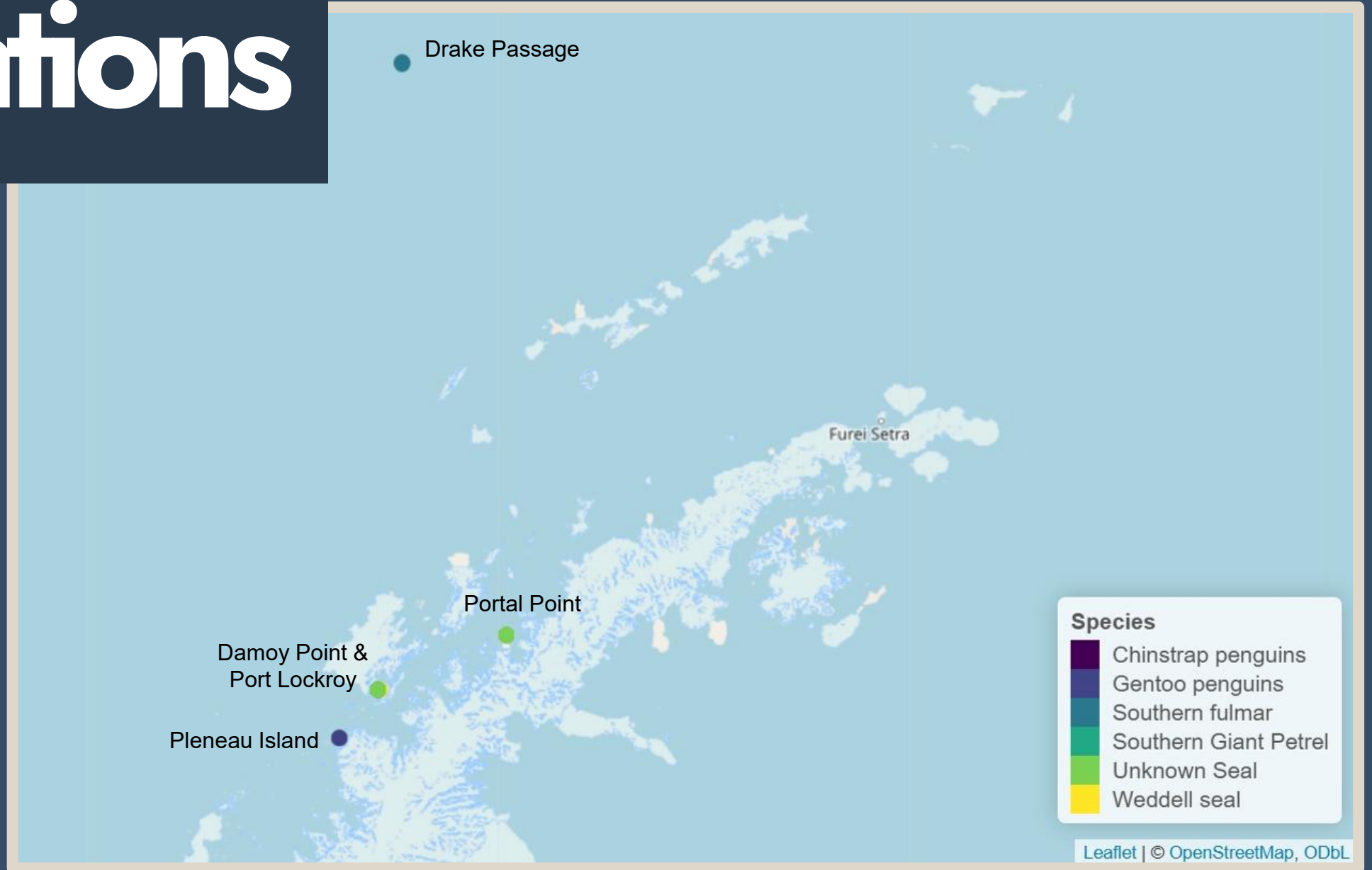


Which species did we sample? And, how many samples did we collect?

Species	No. of Samples
Chinstrap penguin	1
Gentoo penguin	21
Southern fulmar	5
Southern giant petrel	1
Unknown seal	13
Weddell seal	4

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

Locations



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.



Photo: © Dave Bone/HX

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/HX

DONATIONS & EMAIL UPDATES



Wildlife List - Birds



Wildlife List – Seabirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS	中文
<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>	gentoo penguin	Eselspinguin	Manchot papou	白眉企鵝
<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>	Adélie penguin	Adeliepinguin	Manchot d'Adélie	阿德利企鵝
<i>Pygoscelis antarcticus</i>	chinstrap penguin	Zügelpinguin	Manchot à jugulaire	帽帶企鵝
<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	Magellanic penguin	Magellanpinguin	Manchot de Magellan	
<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	snowy albatross (Wandering A.)	Wanderalbatros	Albatros hurleur	漂泊信天翁
<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	Southern royal albatross	Königsalbatros	Albatros royal	皇信天翁
<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	black-browed albatross	Schwarzbrauenalbatros	Albatros à sourcils noirs	黑眉信天翁
<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>	grey-headed albatross	Graukopfalbatros	Albatros à tête grise	灰頭信天翁
<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>	light-mantled albatross	Graumantelalbatros	Albatros fuligineux	灰背信天翁
<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Southern giant petrel	Riesensturmvogel	Pétrel géant	巨躑
<i>Macronectes halli</i>	Northern giant petrel	Hallsturmvogel	Pétrel de Hall	霍氏巨躑
<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	white-chinned petrel	Weißkinn-Sturmvogel	Puffin à menton blanc	白頰風躑
<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>	soft-plumaged petrel	Weichfeder-Sturmvogel	Pétrel soyeux	
<i>Aphrodroma brevirostris</i>	kerguelen Petrel	Kerguelensturmvogel	Pétrel des Kerguelen	

Wildlife List – Seabirds and shorebirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS	中文
<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>	southern fulmar	Silbersturmvogel	Fulmar argenté	银灰暴风鹱
<i>Daption capense</i>	cape petrel	Kapsturmvogel	Damier du Cap	花斑鹱
<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>	Antarctic prion	Taubensturmvogel	Prion de la Désolation	鸽锯鹱
<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	Wilson's storm petrel	Buntfuß-Sturmschwalbe	Océanite de Wilson	烟黑叉尾海燕
<i>Fregetta tropica</i>	black-bellied storm petrel	Schwarzbauch-Sturmschwalbe	Océanite à ventre noir	黑腹舰海燕
<i>Ardenna grisea</i>	sooty shearwater	Dunkler Sturmtaucher	Puffin fuligineux	灰鹱
<i>Ardenna gravis</i>	great shearwater	Großer Sturmtaucher	Puffin majeur	大鹱
<i>Leucocarbo atriceps</i>	imperial cormorant	Kaiserscharbe	Cormoran impérial	蓝眼鸬鹚
<i>Phalacrocorax magellanicus</i>	Magellanic cormorant	Felsenscharbe	Cormoran de Magellan	岩鸬鹚
<i>Stercorarius maccormicki</i>	south polar skua	Antarktiskua	Labbe de McCormick	麦氏贼鸥
<i>Stercorarius chilensis</i>	Chilean skua	Chileskua	Labbe du Chili	智利贼鸥
<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	kelp gull	Dominikanermöwe	Goéland dominicain	黑背鸥
<i>Leucophaeus scoresbii</i>	dolphin gull	Blutschnabelmöwe	Goéland de Scoresby	豚鸥
<i>Chionis albus</i>	snowy sheathbill	Weißgesicht-Scheidenschnabel	Chionis blanc	白鞘嘴鸥

Wildlife List – Seabirds and Shorebirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS	中文
<i>Sterna vittata</i>	Antarctic tern	Antarktikseeschwalbe	Sterne couronnée	南极燕鸥
<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	South American tern	Falklandseeschwalbe	Sterne hirundinacée	南美燕鸥
<i>Ardea alba</i>	great egret	Silberreiher	Grande Aigrette	大白鹭



eBird

During this voyage, our Ornithologist did 19 surveys. At least 25 species were observed. The most frequently observed species were gentoo penguin, imperial cormorant, kelp gull, Antarctic tern, and chinstrap penguin. Find the trip report for the voyage and the checklists [here](#):

View our data on our [eBird trip report](#)

Wildlife

List - Marine Mammals



Wildlife List – Marine Mammals



SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS	中文
<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	fin whale	Finnwal	Rorqual commun	长须鲸
<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	sei whale	Rorqual de Rudolphi	Seiwal	塞鲸
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	humpback whale	Buckelwal	Baleine à bosse	大翅鲸
<i>Balaenoptera bonarensis</i>	Antarctic minke whale	Südlicher Zwergwal	Petit Rorqual de l'Antarctique	南极小须鲸
<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>	hourglass dolphin	Stundenglas delfin	Lagénorhynque sablier	沙漏斑纹海豚
<i>Hyperoodon planifrons</i>	southern bottlenose whale	Südlicher Entenwal	Hyperoodon austral	
<i>Lobodon carcinophaga</i>	crabeater seal	Krabbenfresser	Phoque crabier	食蟹海豹
<i>Leptonychotes weddellii</i>	weddell seal	Weddelrobbe	Phoque de Weddell	韦德尔氏海豹
<i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i>	leopard seal	Léopard de mer	Seeleopard	豹海豹
<i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>	Antarctic fur seal	Antarktischer Seebär	Otarie à fourrure antarctique	南极毛皮海狮
<i>Otaria byronia</i>	South American sea lion	Mähnenrobbe	Lion de mer d'Amérique du Sud	南美海狮

Happywhale

- This voyage was a great success in terms of whale sightings
- With great help from our Expedition Team and our guests, we were able to submit one sighting to Happywhale.
- Thank you all for helping us capture these amazing photos and unforgettable moments!

Citizen Science to the rescue!



Humpback Whale at Petermann Island © Timo Heinz/HX

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

Happywhale – Flukes submitted by Rosie B Wild





ORCA OceanWatchers

During **ORCA OceanWatchers** surveys we had

- southern bottlenose whale
- humpback whale
- fin whale
- weddell seals
- leopard seals
- Antarctic fur seals

A total of

- **14 h 31** min of active surveying
- **316.8** kms surveyed
- **10** wildlife watch survey sessions

START SURVEY >



Home



Surveys



Species



About



Settings

The image features two whales swimming in deep blue water. One whale is in the foreground, larger and more detailed, while another is behind it. Large, semi-transparent blue letters spelling 'THANKS' are overlaid on the background. The text 'Thanks for your participation' is centered in white.

Thanks for your participation