



**Press release
January 9, 2006**

**The Cousteau Society heads for Antarctica once again,
following in the tracks of Captain Jacques Cousteau.**

Just a few days ago, the Cousteau Society's Project Leader and polar expert Tarik Chekchak set sail from Ushuaia, Argentina, on a new adventure. Over the course of one month on board the icebreaker *Gregoriy Mikheev*, Chekchak will retrace the path taken by Captain Jacques Cousteau and his ship *Calypso*. During the mission, he will revisit sites of the two Cousteau expeditions, five films and petition campaign for the protection of Antarctica that constitute part of the Society's historical commitment to the preservation of the ice continent.



The protection of Antarctica remains a symbol of Captain Cousteau's battle for the planet's environment. Archival images and reports from previous expeditions will form the base of an assessment of the southernmost region's current status. This mission will address the question of how to protect Antarctica from the new threats it faces, particularly that of climate change.



During this same period, the research vessel *Polarstern* will continue its voyage of scientific investigations with our special envoy Dr Gauthier Chapelle of the International Polar Foundation (www.polarfoundation.org). Soon to arrive in the region of the Larsen ice shelf, the crew will be carrying out studies for the Census of Antarctic Marine Life.

Follow the two expeditions on the Cousteau-Google Web site: www.cousteau.org/caml.html . Excerpts from the onboard logs of Tarik Chekchak and Gauthier Chapelle will be posted regularly, along with exclusive videos and sequences from Cousteau films.

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