

Marine benthonic biodiversity of Bransfield Strait

Marco Espino
Instituto Antártico Peruano (INANPE), Peru

Throughout the 2007/2008 summer season it is expected to improve the Peruvian research studies of the pelagic ecosystem at the Mackellar Cove. The logistics to reach this aim involves the Peruvian Vessel BIC Humboldt. The sampling of the study area will employ dragnets (Granton) and vanVeen. This might be a preliminary sampling to verify the benthic diversity and spatial distribution in the Strait in order to construct an effective sampling design, and then evaluating the biological resources of the study area. The main goal is to assess the benthic biomass and population at the Bransfield Strait, so as to understand its relationship with the pelagic environment. However, this project depends on the resources available for the next Antarctic Expedition. International cooperation support is very welcome. Therefore, international support has been contacting to assist our project. The project will be conducted by the INANPE with the contributions of the *Instituto del Mar del Perú* (Sea Institute of Peru) and *Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos* (Mayor de San Marcos National University).
Title in Spanish: Caracterización de la biodiversidad bentónica del Estrecho de Bransfield.