



**December 19, 2006**

**Mission Antarctica: The first scientific investigations will start shortly.**

The last leg of cruising is about to end for the *Polarstern*, the icebreaker of the Alfred Wegener Institut. Soon, the 47 scientists onboard will arrive close to the South Shetlands Islands where the ship will stop for the first scientific part of the expedition to begin.



This first part will focus on biological investigations of fish stocks as a contribution to the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR – [www.ccamlr.org](http://www.ccamlr.org)). Researchers will monitor previously fished areas located in the western part of the Antarctic Peninsula to determine the state of stock recovery since the halt of commercial fishing in 1990.

The scientists crossed the Antarctic Circle this weekend. This was the occasion to “baptize” those who have crossed it for the first time. A party before the hard work!

Our media outreach officer, Dr Gauthier Chapelle, will keep us regularly informed on the results of the investigations.

Continue to join the adventure with us on [www.cousteau.org/caml.html](http://www.cousteau.org/caml.html) !