

ANT-XXIX/4, Weekly Report No. 1

Departure Punta Arenas

On Friday 22 February, 2013 R/V POLARSTERN left the bunker pier Cabo Negro Punta Arenas, Chile at 3 p.m. local time. After the passage through the Strait of Magellan it reached the open water of the South Atlantic. Prior to sailing, the R/V POLARSTERN had a demurrage in the port of Punta Arenas to exchange personnel and scientific gear between legs 3 and 4 of Antarctic cruise no 29 of RV POLARSTERN. On March 20 and 21, 44 crew members and 52 scientists and technicians from Germany, Great Britain, China, Austria, Brazil, France, Australia, United States and Russia embarked, Port call time was used to work on deck and to start setting up the labs. Because of many changes in the scheduled flights, the arrival of most of the participants and their gear in Punta Arenas was problematic.

After two days steaming through more or less calm water, with wind strengths of 3-6 Beaufort to the east, we have traversed two fifths of the transit distance to South Georgia, where we plan to have the first scientific stations. After crossing the EEZ of Argentina, we started recording both of our hull-mounted acoustic systems: a multi-beam HYDROSWEEP and a PARASOUND sediment echo-sounder. Both systems are continuously monitored by scientists working around the clock. New and strongly amplified software was installed in the HYDROSWEEP system in the port of Punta Arenas by ATLAS engineer Jörn Ewert. Mr Ewert is currently participating in our cruise in order to upgrade the system and is planning to calibrate the multi-beam as soon as we reach a flat sea floor surface of appropriate depth. Despite the fact that we are steaming fast during transit, we are still getting good resolution and quality acoustic records, so let us hope for very good scientific results. Everyone on board is fine.

Best regards on behalf of the cruise participants

Gerhard Bohrmann

RV POLARSTERN Sunday 24 March 2013

Further information on the cruise (in German): <http://www.nationalgeographic.de/polarstern>



RV POLARSTERN at the bunker pier of Cabo Negro/Punta Arenas. Source: Markos Kern/MARUM/Alfred-Wegener-Institute.