

ANT XXIII/7 Weekly Report No. 1 (Cape Town - Cape Town)  
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Early morning on August 25th Polarstern raised anchor and left the harbour of Cape Town and headed with a south-westerly course into the South Atlantic. After a cloudy and very windy Thursday, the Table Mountain now showed off in its brightest splendour, luring all newcomers (and old-timers) out on deck with their cameras. For a while we sailed through a high pressure system with relatively calm seas, but today a storm presented a foretaste of the upcoming Roaring Forties, Furious Fifties and Screaming Sixties.

During the next nine weeks we will perform oceanographic, sea ice, biological, air chemistry and bathymetric measurements east of the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula.

The goal of the cruise is to determine the physical conditions in the north-western Weddell Sea under the wintry ice cover, and to understand their impact on the ecosystem. Comparison to previous cruises will also provide an estimate of the magnitude of climate variability.

The transit to our working area will take 10 to 11 days, depending on the weather conditions. On our way we successfully deployed on Saturday a bottom pressure sensor, which measures the pressure on the ocean floor and the height of the sea level, and finished a CTD-Station, during which the vertical profiles of temperature and salinity were measured and water sample were taken at various depths. Three more bottom pressure sensors will be deployed during the coming days.

In anticipation of an interesting cruise I would like to greet all the family members and friends back home in the name of the scientists and the crew,

Yours Peter Lemke