

Dispatch from Friday, April 20, 2007

Greetings From Palmer Station:

Today is the day the seal team has been waiting for. Today the fish team passes the baton (LMG) to the seal team. The LM Gould arrived at 9:00 after a successful trip fishing for icefish and other fish. The icefish are quite amazing in that they lack red blood cells. The fish group will now be able to use the facilities here at Palmer Station in an effort to unravel how these amazing fish live without red blood cells. For the next 8 days the fish group will study their fish, while we will take the LM Gould and look for crabeater seals. We will head south into an area called Crystal Sound and then through a pass at the east side of Adelaide Island. We know from previous work that this is an area that is likely to have lots of crabeater seals. Contacts with colleagues at the British Antarctic Station at Rothera confirmed that they have seen crabeater seals hauled out in the vicinity of Rothera Station which is at the south east corner of Adelaide Island.

Today's pictures shows the LMG backing into the dock, and the unloading of tanks with the icefish in them. The final picture shows the flag at half-mast in recognition of the people who died at Virginia Tech. Tragedies like this touch us all, but seems even more profound when we recognize that this happened at a University Campus.

Best from all here...



