

ANT XXIII/5 Weekly Report No. 1 (Punta Arenas - Cape Town)
13 April - 16 April 2006

We had already put our warm clothing on top when packing for the cruise. Presently it is autumn in Patagonia with temperatures ranging between 5 -10°C. Accordingly we were welcomed in Punta Arenas with a light snow shower and almost blue sky.

On April 13th 20:30 the ship left the harbour on schedule heading eastwards. Since it was already dark at 19:00 not much of the landscape north and south of the Magellan Strait could be seen. Next day we were welcomed into the South Atlantic by a small storm. Two scientists got their first sea water shower on the working deck. Greetings from Neptune!!

However, the storm disappeared northwards during the next few days and did not disturb our preparations for the upcoming programmes. We will take a bit longer than 10 days to arrive in our research area. Thus, there is not much to report from the science party this week. However, the transit across the South Atlantic is being used by biologists from the University of Bremen to catch plankton from water depths down to 2000 m. Details on this research programme will be reported next week.

All are well and send their greetings home

Wilfried Jokat
16. April 2006
Position 52°18'S 053°54'W, +7°C