

Transit Voyage ss2009_t03

The Composition of Shelf and Deep Sea Benthos in the Bass Canyon and the Distribution of Larval Fish off the Eastern Tasmanian Coast

Dr Sebastian Holmes* & Dr Will Figueria, School of Biological Sciences, The University of Sydney

Contribution to Australia's national benefit:

The inventory of the benthic macro fauna obtained, contributes to the National Research Priority – An Environmentally Sustainable Australia – and Goal 6 – Sustainable Use of Australia's Biodiversity – by providing a baseline for future investigations/ research. Correspondingly, the development and deployment of BOAGS is essential if we are to successfully map Australian marine habitat and forms parts of CMAR's ongoing mapping program (see Kloser et al., 2006 for details¹).

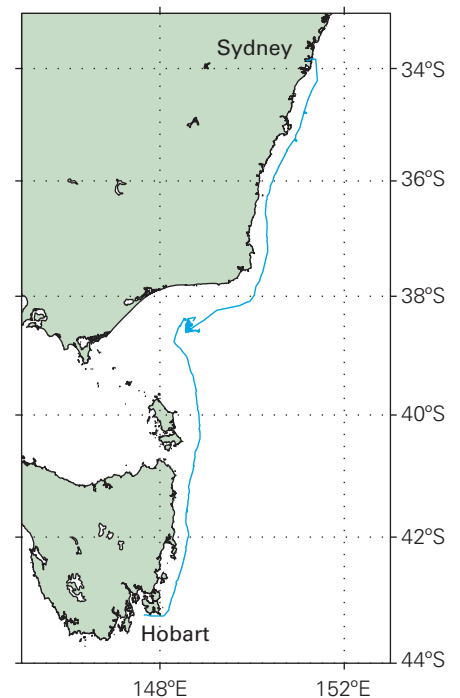
As a result of this voyage:

1. We have a better understanding of the benthic macro fauna of Bass Canyon.
2. We have found a unique and diverse geological feature off Wollongong (Kloser) and that salp carcasses may play an important role in benthic-pelagic coupling.
3. We have mapped a middle depths portion of Bass Canyon and a unique geomorphic feature off Wollongong (Kloser).

Itinerary

Departed: Hobart, 16:00, Thursday 10 September 2009
 Arrived: Sydney, 10:00, Thursday 15 October 2009

> Voyage track ss2009_t03



*Corresponding scientist.

¹ Kloser, R.J., Williams, A., and Butler, A.J., 2006, *Exploratory surveys of seabed habitats in Australia's deep ocean using remote sensing – needs and realities*, in Todd, B.J., and Greene, H.G., eds., *Mapping the Seafloor for Habitat Characterization: Geological Association of Canada, Special Paper 47*, p. 93-110.