



Voyage SS10-2006

Geoscience Australia New South Wales continental slope survey

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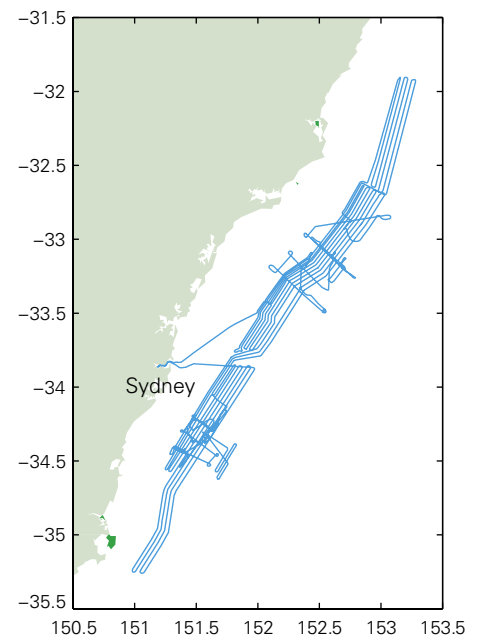
The New South Wales continental shelf and slope is one of the least studied parts of the Australian continental margin, even though it is seaward of major population centres and infrastructure. Geoscience Australia funded this voyage to map the continental slope, between Jervis Bay and Forster, in order to understand the character of the sea floor and sediment transport processes. The aim is to provide base line information for future management of the region and the adjacent coastal areas.

The survey acquired 9200 km² of multibeam data, 3414 km of sub-bottom profiler data and 340 km of seismic reflection profiles. Fourteen gravity cores were collected. The survey identified areas of exposed bedrock and thicker Cainozoic sediments which may support differing benthic habitats. Data are being analysed to understand the relative importance of along slope and downslope sediment transport and the factors that affect sediment mobility. Multibeam mapping shows that mass wasting deposits are of small to moderate size compared to other regions and Carbon 14 dating of cores shows that they occur rarely on a scale of thousands of years.

Itinerary

Departed Sydney 16:00 hrs
Friday 13 October 2006

Arrived Sydney 08:00 hrs
Thursday 26 October 2006



> SS10-2006 voyage track