



Voyages SS11-2006 and SS02-2007

SS02-2007 ●● SS11-2006

SE MPAs including the Tasmanian Seamounts Marine Reserve. This voyage supports the project: *Review and survey of the Tasmanian Seamounts Marine Reserve and other soon to be declared Marine Reserves, to provide inventories of biodiversity and habitats, and develop operational detail for monitoring and performance assessment.*

Dr Alan Williams and Dr Rudy Kloster, CSIRO (Co-Chief Scientists)

This project increases our understanding of 'sustainable use' in the deep marine environment, and how and where to conserve its marine biodiversity for future generations.

Australia's deep sea is a priority target for conservation, most importantly through the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (NRSMPA) in Commonwealth waters. At the same time, it is an area of expanding human use for fishing and mineral extraction.

There are few deep sea areas around Australia with sufficient detailed baseline data for detailed management planning. Acquiring new data is technically challenging because it involves sampling in great depths (typically in the range of 100 to 2,000 m).

This survey provided the first baseline data for two large areas that will be declared as the 'Huon' and 'Tasman Fracture' MPAs in 2007. Their natural values are graphically demonstrated by the high resolution habitat maps, high resolution photography, and physical collections of biodiversity taken during the survey. SS11-2006 constituted leg 1 of this project. The primary focus of the voyage was mapping and photographic surveys.

SS02-2007 constituted leg 2 of this project. The primary focus of the voyage was the collection of physical samples.

The information collected during the voyages also provide an excellent resource for public outreach, as demonstrated by its inclusion in the material produced by the Department of Environment and Water Resources for the declaration launch.

The project makes three direct contributions to meeting National Research Priorities:

- First, by contributing baseline biodiversity data to active management planning processes;
- Second, in technical developments that provide Australia with a capacity to take quantitative biodiversity data from deep seabed ecosystems with non-destructive photographic and acoustic sampling tools;

- And third, by planning the strategic operational uptake of technical developments for the next stage of the management process – monitoring change through time as a way of assessing performance.

Itinerary

SS11-2006

Departed Hobart 18:00 hrs

Monday 30 October 2006

Arrived Hobart 14:00 hrs

Saturday 11th November 2006

SS02-2007

Departed Hobart 22:00 hrs

Wednesday 28th March 2007

Arrived Hobart 14:00 hrs

Wednesday 11th April 2007

