

**DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT PARTITIONING BY PACK-ICE SEALS OFF EAST ANTARCTICA DURING EARLY SUMMER**

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One of the aims of the Antarctic Pack-Ice Seals (APIS) program was to determine the distribution and habitat use of seals inhabiting the pack-ice surrounding Antarctica. The Australian contribution to APIS focussed on the sector of pack-ice off east Antarctica between 60-150°E. Survey data from this sector were used to develop explanatory models of crabeater, Ross and leopard seal distribution in relation to environmental features such as distance from the ice edge, distance from the shelf break, and ice cover. Differential responses by the three species along these environmental features provide insights into their varying functional roles in the pack-ice ecosystem.