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SUMMERTIME HYDROGRAPHY OF THE ADELIE LAND COAST, EAST ANTARCTICA. LONG-TERM MONITORING ABOARD RSV L'ASTROLABE FROM 2003 AND BEYOND.

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Since 2003 a coastal ichtyology program has been conducted each austral summer from Dumont D'Urville to the Mertz Glacier aboard the RSV l'Astrolabe. This region covers the Adelie Depression, a key source of Antarctic Bottom Water to the Australian-Antarctic Basin that has been the focus of recent observational and modelling studies.

To date, 73 hydrographic profiles have been collected from an autonomous CTD in the key regions: along the large coastal bays; in the sill and across the shelf break; and near the Mertz Glacier. The bathymetry of the coastal region is complex, with several deep trenches and holes (up to 1000 m) south of the main Adelie Depression. Larval distribution between these bays has been partly explained by the spatial variability in water mass properties.

Summertime shelf waters indicate the previous season's ALBW formation, as well as the initial conditions for the next season. We propose a continuation of this study for longer-term monitoring of this region to observe the variability of ALBW in the context of climate change.