

Table S1. National distribution of MCS research surveys in the Southern Ocean based on the data submitted to the SDLS until 06 September 2012.

Nation	Total of surveys	number	Total length (km)	survey
Australia	5		30479	
Brazil	1		5578	
China	1		2015	
France	3		7706	
Germany	18		59621	
Italy	13		34341	
Japan	20		48980	
Korea	11		9207	
New Zealand	1		3400	
Norway	6		12771	
Poland	1		1100	
USSR, Russia	27		95100	
Spain	8		19675	
United Kingdom	3		8674	
USA	10		25154	
Total: 15 nations		128		363801

Table S2. Seasonal distribution of MCS research surveys in the Southern Ocean based on the data submitted to the SDLS until 06 September 2012. The total survey duration is computed from the total survey length by assuming a ship velocity of 5 kn.

Season	Total number of surveys	Total length (km)	Total survey duration (days)	Regions
1976/77	1	910	4.1	WS
1977/78	0	0	0	-
1978/79	2	7083	31.9	WS
1979/80	1	1100	4.9	AP
1980/81	3	10775	48.5	AP, RS, WS
1981/82	4	12146	54.7	PB, RS, WL, WS
1982/83	2	3150	14.2	RS, WL, WS
1983/84	3	7350	33.1	RS, WL
1984/85	4	9240	41.6	AP, PB, WS,
1985/86	4	11235	50.6	PB, QML, WS
1986/87	3	12845	57.8	MBL, PB, RS, WS
1987/88	6	18916	85.1	AP, PB, RS
1988/89	4	13854	62.3	AP, RS, WL, WS
1989/90	6	16128	72.6	AP, PB, RS, WL, WS
1990/91	8	18755	84.4	AP, PB, RS, WL, WS
1991/92	6	16538	74.4	AP, RS, WS
1992/93	4	8647	38.9	AP, RS
1993/94	4	9889	44.5	AP, MBL, PB, RS, WL
1994/95	6	14572	65.6	AP, MBL, PB, WL, WS
1995/96	7	15565	70.0	AP, QML, RS, WS
1996/97	6	17819	80.2	AP, RS, WS
1997/98	3	8871	39.9	AP, QML
1998/99	3	8308	37.4	AP, PB, QML
1999/00	3	8412	37.9	EL, PB, WL
2000/01	6	22479	101.1	AP, EL, MBL, WL
2001/02	6	21169	95.3	AP, PB, QML, WL
2002/03	5	11015	49.6	AP, PB, QML, RS, WL
2003/04	4	9712	43.7	AP, QML, RS, WL
2004/05	3	7612	34.3	AP, WL
2005/06	3	6307	28.4	AP, MBL, RS
2006/07	3	11700	52.6	PB, RS, WL
2007/08	1	4590	20.7	WL
2008/09	1	3000	13.5	PB
2009/10	2	9200	41.4	MBL, WL
2010/11	1	4900	22.0	QML
35	128	363801	1637.0	Total
1	3.7	10394	46.8	Average per season

AP = Antarctic Peninsula, EL = Enderby Land, MBL = Marie Byrd Land, PB = Prydz Bay, QML = Dronning Maud
Land, RS = Ross Sea, WL = Wilkes Land, WS = Weddell Sea.

Table S3. Regional distribution of MCS research surveys in the Southern Ocean based on the data submitted to the SDLS until 06 September 2012. The areas for the different regions are computed according to their boundaries in Fig. 1 and thus include parts of the sea surface of the Southern Ocean and small parts of the land surface of Antarctica. The total number of surveys, the total survey length and the total survey duration consider all surveys within the 35 seasons from 1976/77 - 2010/11. The average survey length and duration per season are derived from the total survey length by division by 35 seasons and by assuming a ship velocity of 5 kn, and the average number of profile line metres per season and km² by a further division by the area of each region.

Region	Area (10 ⁶ km ²)	Total number of surveys	Total survey length (km)	Total survey duration (days)	Average survey length per season (km/season)	Average survey duration per season (days/season)	Average number of profile line metres per season and km ² (m/season/km ²)
Antarctic Peninsula	2.8	40	90356	407	2582	11.6	0.9
Wilkes Land	3.0	19	70366	317	2011	9.0	0.7
Ross Sea	1.6	22	58732	264	1678	7.6	0.4
Weddell Sea	3.2	19	46839	211	1338	6.0	0.4
Prydz Bay	1.6	16	46031	207	1315	5.9	0.8
Dronning Maud Land	3.0	8	27659	125	790	3.6	0.3
Marie Byrd Land	4.3	6	14891	67	426	1.9	0.1
Enderby Land	1.4	2	8927	40	255	1.1	0.2