

Metadata Details

Title

Spatial Distribution of Krill (*Euphausia Superba*) and Other Zooplankton off Queen Maud Land, Antarctica

Science Keywords

Category	Oceans
Topic	Marine Biology
Expedition Year	1983-1984
ISO Topic	Oceanography

Summary

Abstract

The *Euphausia superba* Dana popularly known as the krill is the richest single species resource of the Antarctic waters and they form the chief forage for whales seals, birds, fishes and squids of this ecosystem. Several estimates regarding the magnitude of krill resource which has a circumpolar distribution within the Antarctic Convergence have been made. However paucity of substantial data added with the behavioural characteristics of these animals such as forming into patches, shoals, schools and swarms have made it difficult to assess the real stock of these protein rich organisms.

Purpose

The southern ocean south of the Antarctic Convergence is highly productive at all levels of the food web because of the special environmental features existing there. The krill (*Euphausia superba*) with its immense stock is an important resource in these waters and plays a vital role in the Antarctic marine economy. Attempts are being made by several nations to exploit this protein rich largest single species resource which is said to surpass the fish stock in the entire world oceans. However before starting large scale exploitation it is but necessary to have proper knowledge about the available stock areas of abundance seasonal variations etc which would help in the judicious exploitation and obtaining maximum sustainable yield. The stock estimation would be rather easier for a resource like krill whose present mortality is on account of natural death and of predation by other animals only.

Data Center