

Metadata Details

Title

Zooplankton of the Antarctica waters

Science Keywords

Category	Marine Science
Topic	Water Quality
Expedition Year	1981-1982 1981-1982
ISO Topic	Oceanography

Summary

Abstract

Distribution, abundance and diel variation in zooplankton were studied in Antarctic waters. Zooplankton biomass values ranged from 14 to 624 ml/1000 m³. High standard stock values (average 284 ml/1000 m³) were recorded in the Antarctic Convergence where radiolarians and euphasids were the dominant taxa. Copepoda, Amphipoda and Chaetognatha formed the major constituents of zooplankton community in the Polar Divergence and Subtropical Convergence. Salinity fluctuations were not much (33.59 to 35.16‰). Temperature variations (-0.33 to 16.66°C) were the important factor influencing the geographical distribution of the species investigated. The species diversity values were low and showed inverse relationship with biomass. No appreciable nocturnal abundance of biomass and zooplankton species was observed.

Purpose

Zooplankton is one of the major links of the food chain in the ocean. Several large marine zooplankton species are commercially exploited to augment animal protein production for the mankind. The most important zooplankton species with potential protein resource in Antarctic waters is the krill (*Euphausia superba*). The ecological studies of zooplankton in Antarctica were carried out by Farren (1929); Mackintosh (1937); Brodskii (1964) and Voronina, Menshutkin and Tseytlin (1980). It deals with the qualitative and quantitative distribution of groups and species of zooplankton collected during the First Indian Expedition to Antarctica (December, 1981 to February, 1982).

Data Center