

Atlas of Southern Ocean Marine Life

Leading marine geoscientists, biologists and oceanographers from all over the world, have spent the last four years compiling everything they know about marine life in the Southern Ocean and the environments that support this marine life. The Biogeographic Atlas of the Southern Ocean, published by the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, includes around 100 colour photos and 800 maps, providing a wide range of information from the dynamics of the surface waters, and distribution of sea ice, through to the shape and composition of the seafloor.

Dr Alix Post from Geoscience Australia, author and editor of the environmental chapter, said [the atlas](#) is a great resource that provides a single point of call for accessing the latest information on Southern Ocean environments.

Geoscience Australia, in collaboration with the Australian Antarctic Division, contributes to ongoing international efforts to understand the unique and diverse assemblages of organisms that live in the Southern Ocean. This has included work obtaining physical datasets in East Antarctica and marine ecosystem studies in the Mertz Glacier region, off the coast of Antarctica to map and understand Antarctic seafloor environments.

The work undertaken by Geoscience Australia on the [East Antarctic margin](#) is a great example of where research is aiding management efforts in this region. A range of physical datasets collected and analysed by scientists at Geoscience Australia have contributed to the selection of a representative system of Marine Protected Areas for East Antarctica, which is currently under consideration by the [Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Living Resources](#).

The data, and expert opinions, in the atlas will help to inform policy, and provide a baseline for assessing future change to Antarctic marine ecosystems.