

Interactive comment on “Seabed images from Southern Ocean shelf regions off the northern Antarctic Peninsula and in the southeastern Weddell Sea” by Dieter Piepenburg et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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General comments

The manuscript entitled "Seabed images from Southern Ocean shelf regions off the northern Antarctic Peninsula and in the southeastern Weddell Sea" by Piepenburg and co-authors presents the metadata associated to collections of images taken during two campaigns of the Dynamics of Antarctic Marine Shelf Ecosystems (DynAMo) research project of the Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI) using an Ocean Floor Observation System (OFOS). The overall quality of the manuscript is high. Methods are very well described with useful details. The manuscript is very well written, easy to read and highly informative. All data (images) are made available through the data publisher PANGAEA. They should prove very useful for forthcoming diversity analyses and for

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improving our knowledge of the structure of Antarctic benthic communities. Two high-quality seabed photos featuring benthic communities are shown and undoubtedly prove the significance of such images to ecological studies as exemplified by two published studies that already used the data.

Specific comments

p 2, l 15 : " In addition, they contribute to biogeochemical cycling, e.g. recycling of nutrients and sequestration of carbon and silicate." This sentence is very general and can hold true for all types of organism and community. I am not sure it is really needed here.

Technical corrections

I have no but two very minor issues of form to report. (1) There is no consistency in symbols and appearance between figures 2 and 4 (station maps). In addition, in figure 2 some stations are hardly distinguished between each other. This could be improved. (2) Some transect data are missing in table 1 compared to table 2: transect length and associated number of photos.

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