

Interactive comment on “Seabed video and still images from the northern Weddell Sea and the western flanks of the Powell Basin” by Autun Purser et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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This data manuscript outlines the results of a field campaign using a novel acoustic-assisted camera system in a region currently under-sampled by traditional methods due to permanent ice cover. This is a valuable contribution to the scientific community and the data provided could support a variety of analyses that the authors suggest. The data manuscript provides the metadata necessary for use of the image dataset as well as information about the camera system and data collection sites. The only information lacking (which may be present in other manuscripts referenced) is whether the images undergo any color-correction as these appear to be corrected in the panels of figures 3 and 4, and the height above the seafloor at which images are captured to determine the seafloor area captured per image. Though this information may be

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documented elsewhere, it is important to include to ensure proper use of the data set by other researchers. These missing data are imperative for the accurate calculation of abundances, for example. Reporting of color-correction methods is standard for image data sets, and is important for future use for taxonomy, etc. The description of the camera sled itself should be explicitly referenced (i.e. "a full description of the OFOBS system and its components are available in ____.") and if it does not exist, then a description (even brief) should be added here. A short description with technical specs of the cameras and strobes is at least provided in the downloaded file - it should be clear this information exists prior to downloading by an interested user. This data manuscript is very short but provides the necessary information for use of the dataset in a succinct manner.

I recommend publishing this data manuscript with the following minor edits: 1) add information regarding color-correction or explicitly reference where this information/methodology can be found 2) explicitly reference the full description of the vehicle and its components. If this does not exist then a description should be added here 3) note the height above the seabed at which images were collected and thus the approximate seafloor area covered by each image 4) line 30 - this change in ice cover has not have 5) missing) on line 78 after (GNSS)

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