



Peracarids were sampled with an epibenthic sledge (EBS) in different areas of the Atlantic sector of the SO and in the Weddell Sea. Sampling areas were characterized by different regimes of ice coverage (the ice free South Orkney Islands, the seasonally ice-covered Filchner Trough and the Eastern Antarctic Peninsula including the Prince Gustav Channel which was formerly covered by a perennial ice shelf). Peracarids play an important role in marine ecosystems; they can influence the structure and composition of benthic communities (Duffy and Hay, 2000) and they are an important converter of biomass and organic matter in the biogeochemical cycles (Karlson et al., 2007; Dunn et al., 2009). Many deep sea species use the color red as camouflage since it's the first color to leave the spectrum as you dive deeper. Goblin Sharks are known as "living fossils" because they're the only living species of a lineage that has existed for 125 million years. Is it a squid, or a worm? It's a worm. Sea Angels are majestic sea slugs that use wings to propel themselves. The Scaly-Foot Snail gets its name from the iron plates on its foot and the iron shell it makes out of Iron Sulphide. This is the deepest point of the Manila Trench in the South China Sea. Patagonian Toothfish have antifreeze proteins in its tissues to prevent freezing in sub zero temperatures. Megamouth sharks are one of the largest growing shark species with some reaching 7 meters long. Deep-sea trawling causes extensive damage to benthic habitats. There is growing evidence of extensive collateral damage of cold-water coral reefs, sponge aggregations, etc, by fishing trawls (Clark and Koslow, 2007). They act as "islands" for epibenthic and pelagic faunas, have potentially high rate of endemic species, are used as "stepping stones" for the transoceanic dispersion of shell species and as reproduction/feeding grounds for migratory species (Stocks and Hart, 2007). Probably the lower degree of fishing activity in the Bank and the habitat complexity, due to scarce sedimentary coverage, plays an important role in structuring the communities of the Bank by increasing the presence of large fish species. In: The Mediterranean deep-sea ecosystems: an overview of their diversity, structure, functioning and anthropogenic impacts, with a proposal for conservation. IUCN, Málaga and WWF, Rome, pp 9-38 Google Scholar. Hecker B (1990) Variation in megafaunal assemblages on the continental margin south of New England. Deep-Sea Res PT A 37:37-57 Google Scholar. Hendrickx ME (2001) Occurrence of a continental slope decapods crustacean community along the edge of the minimum oxygen zone in the south eastern Gulf of California, Mexico. Belg J Zool 131 (Supplement 2):95-110 Google Scholar. Hendrickx ME, Serrano D (2010) Impacto de la zona de mínimo de oxígeno sobre los corredores pesqueros en el Pacífico mexicano.