

Discovery database

The Discovery Investigations

The Discovery Investigations were a series of scientific cruises undertaken between 1925 and 1951 initially to provide a scientific basis for the management of the Southern Ocean whaling fishery. The investigations have contributed hugely to our understanding of the ecosystems of the Southern Ocean by indicating the importance of krill in the system and discovering the Antarctic Polar Convergence. The Discovery Investigations also provide one of the oldest series of circumpolar scientific cruises and thus provide a potentially invaluable source of historical data.

The Discovery Database

The Discovery Database was produced as part of the initially data rescue project funded by EUR-OCEANS and BAS. First to provide a spatial and temporal context to the database the stations used during the Discovery Investigations were recorded along with their geographic location and the dates and times at which they were used. Following this Biological data which had a temporal and spatial context were collated from the Discovery Reports where available. Alongside this all associated metadata, where available, were collated.

The Discovery Database will be developed further when archives in the Natural History Museum and National Oceanographic Centre are visited to examine notebooks taken during the Discovery Investigations.

Caveats of the Discovery Database

The data contained in the Discovery database must be used with caution. In order to use the Discovery database it is important to understand the problems identified during the data rescue phase for ESODAP. Despite extensive error checking do not assume that this document details all errors. It is the responsibility of the user to recognise the problems and limitations associated with the dataset. If any problems are encountered please email Philip Martin at phrt@bas.ac.uk.

Liability

Use by the recipient of the Discovery data set provided by the British Antarctic Survey is at the recipients own risk. Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the data, BAS does not warrant the accuracy of any data supplied and has no responsibility for determining the fitness of the data for their intended use by the recipient. The provision of such data carries no liability for its accuracy or reliability and neither BAS nor its employees can be held accountable for any loss, damage, injury or any other occurrence arising from the use of these data.

Organisation of dataset

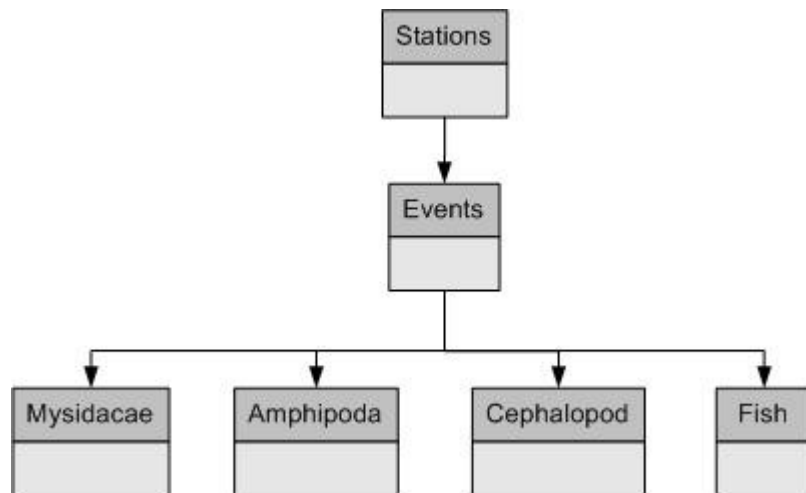


Figure 9 – Organisation of the Discovery database

Cruise details

Stations

The stations data table contains the spatial and temporal data associated with all oceanic stations used during the Discovery investigations, taken from the Discovery Reports (Anonymous, 1929, 1930, 1932, 1941, 1942, 1944a, b, 1949, 1953, 1956).

Column	Data type	Remarks
Event code	Char	Unique identifier
Station number	Num(5)	Discovery station number
UK ship name	Char	Name of ship
Latitude	Num	Decimal latitude
Longitude	Num	Decimal longitude
Start date time	Date	Start time and date of event
End date time	Date	End time and date of event
Gear_code	Char	Net code
Trajectory_of_sample	Char	Sample trajectory code
Lower_sample_depth	Num	Lower depth of sample taken (m)
Upper_sample_depth	Num	Upper depth of sample taken (m)

Mysidaceae

Data taken from net catches of Mysidaceae in Tatershall (1955).

Column	Data type	Remarks
Event code	Char(9)	Event code unique identifier
Station	Char(7)	Station at which sample was collected
Species name	Char	Species name as included in Discovery Investigations
Ship name	Char(19)	Ship used to collect sample
Male count	Num(3)	Count of male adults caught in sample
Female count	Num(3)	Count of female adults caught in sample
Adults not sexed	Num(3)	Count of non-sexed adults caught in sample
Total adults	Num(3)	Total count of adults caught in sample
Juvenile count	Num(3)	Total count of juveniles caught in sample
Immature count	Num(3)	Total count of immature specimens caught in sample
Total count	Num(3)	Total count of specimens
Notes	Char	Notes included in Discovery Investigations referring to each sample.

Amphipoda

Data on net catches of Amphipoda taken from Barnard (1932).

Column	Data type	Remarks
Event code	Char(9)	Event code unique identifier
Station	Char(7)	Station at which sample was collected
Species name	Char	Species name as included in Discovery Investigations
Ship name	Char(19)	Ship used to collect sample
Male count	Num(3)	Count of male adults caught in sample
Female count	Num(3)	Count of female adults caught in sample
Adults not sexed	Num(3)	Count of non-sexed adults caught in sample
Total adults	Num(3)	Total count of adults caught in sample
Juvenile count	Num(3)	Total count of juveniles caught in sample
Immature count	Num(3)	Total count of immature specimens caught in sample
Total count	Num(3)	Total count of
Notes	Char	Notes included in Discovery Investigations referring to each sample.

Cephalopod

Data on net catches of cephalopod taken from Robson (1930).

Column	Data type	Remarks
Event code	Char(9)	Event code unique identifier
Station	Char(7)	Station at which sample was collected
Species name	Char	Species name as included in Discovery Investigations
Ship name	Char(19)	Ship used to collect sample
Male count	Num(3)	Count of male adults caught in sample
Female count	Num(3)	Count of female adults caught in sample
Adults not sexed	Num(3)	Count of non-sexed adults caught in sample
Total adults	Num(3)	Total count of adults caught in sample
Juvenile count	Num(3)	Total count of juveniles caught in sample
Immature count	Num(3)	Total count of immature specimens caught in sample
Total count	Num(3)	Total count of
Notes	Char	Notes included in Discovery Investigations referring to each sample.

Fish

Data of Fish species catches detailed in Norman (1930)

Column	Data type	Remarks
Event code	Char(9)	Event code unique identifier
Station	Char(7)	Station at which sample was collected
Species name	Char	Species name as included in Discovery Investigations
Ship name	Char(19)	Ship used to collect sample
Male count	Num(3)	Count of male adults caught in sample
Female count	Num(3)	Count of female adults caught in sample
Adults not sexed	Num(3)	Count of non-sexed adults caught in sample
Total adults	Num(3)	Total count of adults caught in sample
Juvenile count	Num(3)	Total count of juveniles caught in sample
Immature count	Num(3)	Total count of immature specimens caught in sample
Total count	Num(3)	Total count of
Notes	Char	Notes included in Discovery Investigations referring to each sample.