

# ZOOBENTHOS OF ADMIRALTY BAY

## Summary

Admiralty Bay is an example of the model shelf ecosystem for the region of the West Antarctic. High number of various bottom habitats results in the diversity of faunal assemblages. Till now, 920 species of benthic invertebrates were found in this basin. That number constitutes about 16% of the whole Southern Ocean benthic fauna. In this article a review of Admiralty Bay benthic habitats is presented. Zoobenthos of the following hard bottom habitats

was described: intertidal zone, underwater rocks and peculiar habitat of kelp holdfasts. We have analyzed also various soft bottom habitats – from the shallow, glacially disturbed, near-shore areas, to the deepest parts of the shelf characterized by very stable environmental conditions. Key species, typical for each of the described assemblages are presented, together with the information on zoobenthos abundance and biomass in all selected habitats.