

Palmer LTER VTC - Thursday, March 3, 1:00-1:30am EST
Questions Answered by Mike Brown & Emily Olson

1. Why are zooplankton and phytoplankton important to the rest of the environment?
2. Is it practical to add plankton to the Antarctic waters? Have you considered genetically modifying the plankton? Are their dangers or are their benefits to doing so? What is the environmental impact?
3. What made you want to study in the Antarctic?
4. Can studying zooplankton help us understand the effects of climate change?
5. What are some of the biggest challenges in the everyday routines that you may experience down in Antarctica? For example: What kind of accommodations do you need to make to live and study in that environment? (clothing, food, living arrangement, interactions between the scientists and the animals, have made you made any personal connections with the animals that you may see everyday?
6. How did most of the ice disappear?
7. Does the amount of zooplankton and phytoplankton increase and/or decrease at certain times of the year?
8. Could an artificial surface be used to increase phytoplankton populations?
9. Why is the ocean and climate changing so fast?
10. What kind of advancement would you like to make on technology used for collecting zoo and phytoplankton data to get better results?
11. How have the animals in this environment adapted to the change in the availability of food source?