

In Antarctic Ice

This has been an unusual year for the crew of the expeditionary research ship "Akademik Fedorov". The seamen have twice sailed to the shores of the Antarctic. The first of these voyages, begun at the end of 1988, was undertaken as part of the 34th Soviet Antarctic Expedition. At that time, complex cargo and passenger operations were carried out to relieve polar workers and deliver cargo at the Antarctic stations Bellingsgauzen, Druzhnaya, Molodezhnaya, Progress, Mirnyi, Russkaya and Leningradskaya. Following brief scheduled repairs in Finland, the "Akademik Fedorov" again set out for the shores of the frozen continent.

This time expeditionary operations were carried out as part of the international winter expedition "Weddell Cycle '89". Besides the "Akademik Fedorov", the West German icebreaker "Polarstern" also took part. The main research goals in the Weddell Sea, which was covered by a 10-point layer of ice at the time, were a quantitative description of circulatory phenomena in the Weddell Sea, determining the properties and variability of Antarctic sea ice, examining the hydrochemical regime and ecological conditions, assessing biological activity in Antarctic waters, and determining nitrogen and nitrogen dioxide levels in the atmosphere. The tasks also included cargo and transport operations at the Bellingsgauzen station.

Aboard the ship was a large group of scientists, polar workers, and pilots. In all, there were 161 persons, counting the crew. Among the passengers were 12 scientists from the Federal Republic of Germany, the USA and Argentina. The expedition was headed by N. Bagryantsev, a scientist with the Arctic and Antarctic Scientific Research Institute.

Vodnyi transport
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