Comparison of the isopod fauna from the South Shetland Islands and the Weddell Sea

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The isopod fauna from South Shetland Islands includes 156 species. Its diversity is higher than in Magellanic region and Weddell Sea. The Scotia Arc is a transition area between Magellan region and high Antarctic. Nevertheless, while the Magellanic region and South Shetland Islands share about 8% species only, what points out that there are biogeographic barriers as strong as to avoid the mixture between these two areas, the South Shetland Islands and Weddell Sea have similar isopod fauna, shares about 70% of species. We believe that the great circumpolar stream enhance faunal dispersion from the west side of the Antarctic Peninsula to the Weddell Sea. In this presentation we analyze and compare the isopod fauna from the both sides of the Antarctic Peninsula.