

The Alfred Wegener Institute carries out [research](#) in the Arctic and Antarctic as well as in the high and mid latitude oceans. The institute coordinates German polar research and makes available to national and international science important [infrastructure](#), e.g. the research icebreaker “[Polarstern](#)” and research [stations](#) in the Arctic and Antarctic.

## Newsflash



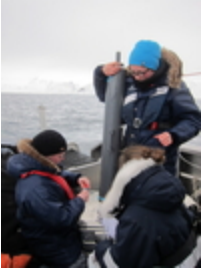
[Germany's Federal Minister of Education and Research Wanka presents project together with two AWI scientists](#)

[Glaciologists discover rapidly growing rift in one of Antarctica's largest ice shelves](#)

[Doline or meteorite? New hypothesis about the origin of the ring-shaped ice structure](#)

## Press Releases

24. February 2015: **A question of light: Ocean acidification slows algae growth in the Southern Ocean**



In a recent study, scientists at the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI), demonstrate for the first time that ocean acidification could have negative impacts on diatoms in the Southern Ocean. In laboratory tests they were able to observe that under changing light conditions, diatoms grow more slowly in acidic water. In so doing, Dr Clara Hoppe and her team have overturned the widely held assumption that sinking pH values would stimulate the growth of these unicellular algae.

[Go to press release: A question of light - Ocean acidification slows algae growth in the Southern Ocean](#)

9. February 2015: **New engines for the Research Vessel Heincke – environmentally friendly exhaust-gas aftertreatment reduces emissions**



The Research Vessel Heincke, one of the ships operated by the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI), recently received three new main engines. With the addition of particle filters and downstream exhaust-gas filter systems, the ship is now both more economical and environmentally friendlier.

[To press release: New engines for the Research Vessel Heincke](#)