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He is back!

02. June 2023

After a year of loneliness in icy cold, high outside pressure and absolute darkness, our autonomous tracked vehicle "Crawler III" (still without a proper "call name" - any suggestions?) could be brought back from the deep seafloor of HAUSGARTEN to the light of day. During the last months, the crawler with the dimensions of a small car has repeatedly carried out measurements of the oxygen content above and in the sediments along a short transect and produced high-resolution images of the seafloor. A comparison with measured values from the last 20 years indicates a continuous, slight decrease in oxygen concentrations in the study area.



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Very promising!

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In the meantime, almost all the instruments that will be used on this expedition have been in the water at least once. The first station of the HAUSGARTEN network that we sampled was successfully completed in the best external conditions, calm seas and bright blue skies. Our torpedo-shaped Autonomous Underwater Vehicle completed various tests in order to be prepared to map the deep seabed in the study area - unattended - on dives lasting several hours, while this time can be used for deploying other equipment from aboard Polarstern - it would be hard to make more effective use of the valuable ship time on this expedition.