

Chiara Monforte

NGEA51

Department of Physical Geography and Ecosystem Science

Lund University

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Internship at CADIC-CONICET in Ushuaia, Argentina

I worked at the laboratory for Biological Oceanography at CADIC-CONICET in Ushuaia. The research centre is a regional multidisciplinary centre depending on CONICET, which is the governmental agency that coordinates all the public research done in Argentina.

My project had the focus on CDOM/FDOM related to the microbial community which are key organisms for carbon sequestration and the microbial carbon pump. In particular, the focus was to analyse the changes in organic matter quality and compare it to the related bacterial community and the different environmental variables.

My daily tasks involved both computer work and data processing with Excel, MATLAB and R; statistical analysis mainly using R; plot and maps creation using ArcGIS and ODV. Practical work in the Lab was also big part of my internship, I was mainly involved with sample analysis for CDOM/FDOM with the spectrofluorometer, but I also got the chance to work with chlorophyll analysis and help out with experiments run by other students.

Fieldwork was also part of the internship. I got the opportunity to go out on the Beagle channel multiple times during the months of November and December. I was involved in the fieldwork preparations as well as the sampling on the boat, followed by sample processing in the lab prior to the analysis.

In conclusion, I can say that this internship gave better understanding of the marine/ aquatic ecosystem that we discussed during some lectures at the department, gave practical experience on field and lab and allowed me to explore personal interests and the topics as well as networking.