Fishes of the Puysegur Trench

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Earlier this year, the first biological data were collected from the Puysegur Trench, south of New Zealand. The 68-person scientific team included members from 10 institutions across 8 countries: New Zealand, Malaysia, Denmark, Germany, France, Brazil, India, and China. Participating organisations included IDSSE, NIWA, the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, the University of Southern Denmark, the Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research in Germany, the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), the University of São Paulo in Brazil, and the Hainan Deep-Sea Technology Innovation Centre.

Under extremely harsh sea conditions, 32 diving missions were completed, collecting video transect data and physical specimens. The initial results include new records, range extensions, and new species of fishes, including a new hadal snailfish. This talk presents the initial findings for the fish fauna, context and future work.