

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Marieta Francis, 562.598.4889, marieta@algalita.org

Media Contact: Eloise Fontaine 00 33 142013857 eloise@taraexpeditions.org

STUDY REVEALS WIDESPREAD PLASTIC DISTRIBUTION IN ANTARCTIC WATERS Report released as research vessel arrives in Hawaii during 3-year study

LONG BEACH, California, September 18, 2011 – Scientists from the Algalita Marine Research Foundation (Long Beach, California), in cooperation with the TARA Foundation, report findings of plastic pollution in Antarctic waters. During a 2011 segment of a three year circumnavigation voyage

Tara operates under the auspices of the United Nations Environmental Program (<u>UNEP</u>) and in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (<u>IUCN</u>). The vessel is a floating research platform directed by Dr. <u>Eric Karsenti and Etienne Bourgois</u>. Its principal objectives are to enable scientists to study little known aspects of ocean ecosystems including planktonic life and the