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Sommario/riassunto	Published by the American Geophysical Union as part of the Antarctic Research Series, Volume 57. Lakes of the dry valley region near McMurdo Sound, Antarctica, which are perennially ice-covered (approximately 4 m thick) and contain only microorganisms in the plankton, present unique systems for studies in hydrologic optics. Profiles of the flux and spectral distribution of photosynthetically available radiation (400-700 nm) and the optical properties of suspended particulate material were measured for Lake Bonney and Lake Fryxell.