

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD  
FISHERIES LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND

1984 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT : RV CIROLANA: CRUISE 8

(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

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DURATION

Sailed from Grimsby 17.45h 25 September  
Docked in Grimsby 05.35h 11 October  
All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

Iberian Abyssal Plain - NE Atlantic

AIMS

1. To launch 6 SOFAR floats to a depth of 2500m
2. To complete an XBT and CTD survey of the float launch area
3. To collect water for  $^{14}\text{C}$  analysis if time permits
4. To collect surface water samples for  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  analysis

NARRATIVE

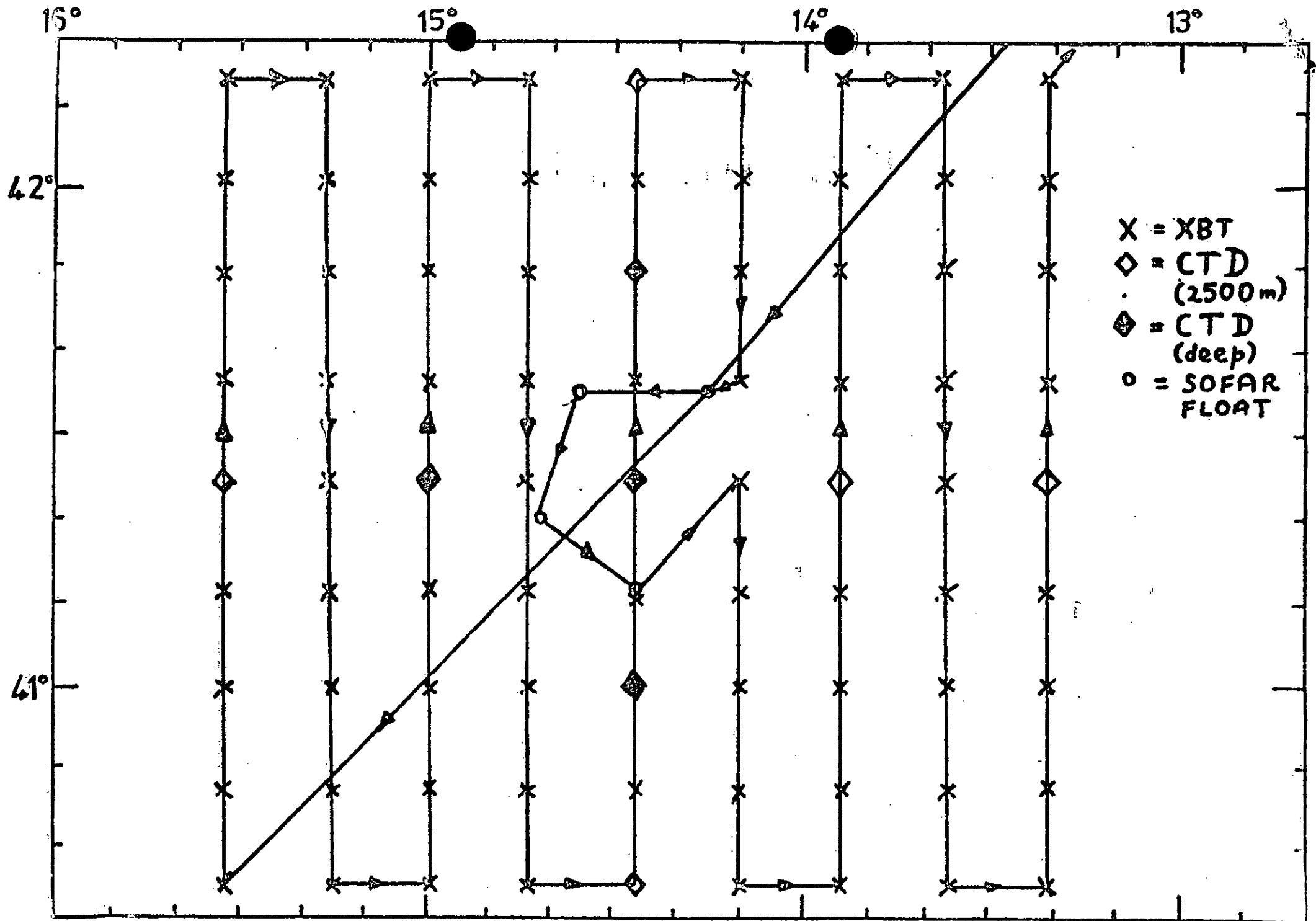
RV CIROLANA sailed from Grimsby on the evening tide on 25 September and proceeded to the SOFAR float launch area. On arrival, the first float (number 31) was launched and its descent tracked acoustically. A ballasting calculation error resulted in this float sinking to the seabed and further float deployments were suspended until after consultation with the laboratory and IOS, Wormley. The XBT/CTD grid was commenced, working north/south legs from the south west corner.

1.15kg was removed from all the batch 2 float payloads to correct the ballasting error. After completing just over half the XBT/CTD grid a second float was launched and this was observed to sink to approximately 1860m. A third float also went to approximately 1900m, but then bad weather delayed further deployments for 1½ days. Two of the remaining floats were then launched, but malfunctions of the final two prevented their launch.

The XBT/CTD grid was completed, and all the floats listened to check their final depth.

En route to Grimsby, surface water samples were collected in the Channel and Southern North Sea. RV CIROLANA docked on the morning tide on 11 October.





16°

15°

14°

13°

42°

41°