

Cruise reports 2001- RV Cirolana
CRUISE: CIRO 1_01

STAFF:

Dave Sivyer et al.

DURATION: 5th January – 12th January

LOCATION: North Sea

AIMS: Smart buoy servicing

NARRATIVE:

Friday 5th Jan – intended 17:00 start delayed by 12 hours due to Windlass malfunction.

Saturday 6th Jan – sailed at 05:00 but only as far as the Stanford Buoy. The propulsion cooling system had developed faults. Finally left Lowestoft at 15:30. Head towards The Warp collecting surface samples en-route.

Anchor at the Warp SmartBuoy site (near NMP465). CTD casts hourly through the night.

Sunday 7th - Recover the SmartBuoy at 07:15 and re-deploy at 08:30. One more CTD then proceed to Outer Gabbard NMP 475 and SmartBuoy site, collect surface water samples en-route. On arrival at 14:30 discover that the SmartBuoy is not in position and cannot be seen (visually or with RADAR) in the vicinity. Hourly CTD casts, deploy the new SmartBuoy at 17:10 and continue CTD casts until 19:30. Proceed to S. Bight NMP 395.

Monday 8th – CTD at S. Bight at 00:30. Proceed to Hum/Wash NMP 345 (near Outer Silver Pit) for single CTD cast at 07:30. Proceed to Tyne/Tees NMP 285 (West Dogger) collecting hourly surface water samples. CTD cast at NMP285 13:30?. Attempt to collect Day Grab but revert to NIOZ corer. Steam to first group of five sediment sampling stations north of the Dogger. Arrive 18:00, core until 20:30 collecting 5 successful samples. Steam to grid of 20 coring stations.

Tuesday 9th – Coring starts at 06:00, collect 5 samples before breakfast, but miss one station due to hard bottom. 08:30 to 14:00 collect remaining 15 stations including the one missed earlier. Steam north to last group of five coring stations and collect between 17:30 and 19:00.

Wednesday 10th – NIOZ core at grab site 4 at 06:00. NIOZ core at grab site 3 at 07:15. Steam to grab site 1 (just off the Tyne) for single NIOZ core and surface water sample at 11:30. Single NIOZ core at grab site 2/NMP 245, then CTD anchor station until 21:30. Steam to Tees NMP 295 for a surface water sample (force 7 wind and a significant swell prevented a CTD cast.

Thursday 11th

Steam overnight to the Humber NMP 375 for an 11 hour anchor station finishing at 21:30. Steam to the Wash collecting surface water samples every 30 minutes. Anchor at The Wash NMP 385 an start an CTD anchor station.

Friday 12th

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Continue anchor station until 13:30. Head for home collecting surface water samples every 30 minutes until 17:00. Dock Lowestoft at 23:30.

Aims:

1. The Outer Gabbard SmartBuoy was not there. A replacement SmartBuoy was deployed successfully.
2. The Warp SmartBuoy was recovered and re-deployed.
3. Water samples were collected at most of the NMP sites in the southern North Sea. CTD anchor stations were completed at The Wash, Humber and Tyne, with time limited anchor stations at The Warp and Outer Gabbard. Surface water samples were collected hourly between most of the NMP sites.
4. Sediment samples were collected using the NIOZ corer from 30 stations north of the Dogger and 5 sites between the Dogger and the Tyne.