

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

RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME 1987

REPORT: MV DAWN SKY

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

STAFF

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DURATION

Left Lowestoft 10 March 1987
Arrived Lowestoft 23 March 1987

LOCATION

Eastern Irish Sea

AIMS

1. To service 6 standard current meter moorings in the Eastern Irish Sea, positions M,P,Q,R,S and V and establish 1 mooring at position W.
2. To recover the Near Bed Velocity recorder (NBVR) and its 3 guard buoys from position 6 and relay at position 7.
3. To perform 12 hr, NBVR and anchor stations at positions 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14 (time permitting).
4. To perform CTD sections between the Isle of Man and the Scottish English/Welsh Coast.
5. To take water samples for Cs analysis in the area.
6. To lay Sea Bed Drifters at two sites east of the Isle of Wight.

NARRATIVE

MV DAWN SKY sailed at 0945 h on 10 March and arrived at position 'W', the first current meter station at 0800 h on the 13th. This mooring was laid by 0910h, and the ship moved on to service moorings at 'V,S,R and M' by 2330 h. The following morning, in marginal conditions, an attempt to service mooring 'P' was abandoned, and the ship dodges, then sheltered in Ramsey Bay, until 0630 h on 16 March when moorings 'P' and 'Q' were serviced.

At the NBVR site one of the guard buoys was found out of position so it, and one of the others were recovered, before the NBVR recovery line was released to the surface. The last buoy and the NBVR were then recovered successfully.

The CTD was then rigged and between 1300 h and 2240 h two sections were completed from St Bees Head to the Isle of Man and then northwards to the Scottish coast (P,Q,Q1,R,S,N,M,A) before the ship steamed south overnight. By 0700 h on the 17 March the weather again prevented any more open sea work so the ship sheltered in Laxey Bay whilst the NBVR was serviced.

By the early hours of 19 March the weather had moderated and between 0630 h and 1030 h the remaining CTD section (V,W and Y) between the Isle of Man and Anglesey was completed, in worsening conditions, before the ship again sought shelter in Laxey Bay.

After a moderation overnight the ship arrived at anchor station (position 8) at 1000 h on 20 March and started sampling at 1030 h. At 2230 h the gear was stowed and the ship steamed to Holyhead and then back to Lowestoft arriving at 1930 h, 23 March.

RESULTS

1. The new Sea Bed Drifter positions, expected from Southampton University were not available so they were not deployed (Aim 6).
2. The 6 moorings laid by RV CLIONE in January were recovered without problems, Two upper Aanderaa meters were found tangled with their wires on recovery and will not have produced useful data (P & R).
3. Five Aanderaas had run out of tape on recovery, two MO21F meters recorded zero speeds for a short time, all other data looks good (approx 82% return).
4. The mooring at position 'W' was established.
5. The NBVR was recovered successfully using the method tested in November but the rope in the extra canister fouled and did not release. This meant that the frame was not lifted level. The water samplers had worked with only flasks 1 & 9 (top) and 1 (lower) empty. However, extreme difficulty was experienced removing the stoppers from the flasks and after some were broken the rest were left. One exploded later when it warmed up.
6. Both recorders had filled their cassettes but the NBVR record had numerous errors during the first 6 days of the record (more than 40%) and after that ~~recorded constant readings for the remaining 8 days.~~
7. The CTD winch was not used after the first cast as its engine was leaking oil. Thereafter the rosette assembly was lowered on a steel wire from the main trawl winch, with the electrical cable paid out and hauled by hand.
8. One anchor station was completed, without the NBVR as it had not worked correctly on the previous deployment and the weather was not thought suitable for its safe use.

J W Read
30 March 1987

SEEN IN DRAFT: CS - (SKIPPER)

INITIALLED: HWH

DISTRIBUTION: Basic List + J W Read, E M Gmitrowicz, Ms C Hudson, S R Jones,
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