5721

BIOLOGICAL OCEANOGRAPHY CRUISE REPORT

LF 03/98

13 -14 January 1998

PERSONNEL

B Stewart	(SIC), SSO, DANI.
P Elliott	SO, DANI.
S Bloomfield	ASO, DANI.
J McGinley	Student, Univ Ulster
C Watson	Student, Univ Ulster

OBJECTIVES

i. To recover a "displaced" mooring, assess damage, service and redeploy at original moored position.
ii. To assess temperature, salinity and nutrient distributions at station 38A.

CRUISE NARRATIVE

Tuesday 13 January 1998

In preparation for the cruise, all DANI scientific crew were onboard by 2000 hrs when monitoring equipment was tested and confirmed to be functioning properly Following a talk on ship safety and a demonstration of personal life saving equipment, the RV Lough Foyle departed Belfast at 2200 hrs and sailed overnight in a strong north westerly wind to the last reported position (53° 48'.51N 05° 37'.79W) of the displaced DANI buoy

Wednesday 14 January 1998

The ship arrived in the vicinity of the moorings at 06300 hrs. The weather was dry with a strong north westerly wind The position of the buoys were noted and it was confirmed that both warning lights were functioning. The displaced mooring buoy (id No. 1) was identified as the former "guard" buoy to the instrument mooring and consisted of an anchor, connecting wire and a toroid buoy Initially, strong winds and heavy seas meant postponing the recovery operation until mid morning, but as weather conditions deteriorated the recovery was considered too hazardous and abandoned A gale warning issued for the Irish Sea, dictated that no further attempts at recovery would be either safe or feasible The Irish Marine Emergency Service was informed of the change in position of the moorings and requested to modify their navigation warning broadcasts accordingly

Buoy No 1 53° 48' 51N 05° 37' 79W

We thought we may have incurred a potential serious loss of the DANI mooring. This turned out not to be so. The staff are to be congratulated on maintaining this facility which is gaining in prominence in the national programme of UK marine observations

Ivan Heaney 17

Buoy No. 3 53° 47'.04N 05° 38'.01W

A survey of both moorings confirmed that all recovery lines and floats were intact. Work commenced on the sampling schedule from station 38A at 1030 hrs when the zooplankton net was deployed; heavy seas prevented the deployment of the rosette sampler but water samples were taked via the clean seawater supply. The vessel sailed in a strong north westerly wind to dock in Belfast at 1715 hrs.

PARAMETERS MONITORED

A water sample was taken at 4 metres from the clean seawater supply to acquire nutrient and chlorophyll a data for station 38A. One zooplankton net haul was also taken.

NOTE

It was unfortunate owing to weather conditions that we were unable to recover and return the guard buoy to its original mooring position. However it is fortunate that the instrumentation mooring containing the active water sampler remains intact and is still in position. The Irish Marine Emergency Service have been instructed to broadcast navigation warnings of the current positions of the buoys until further notice.
A complete mooring service scheduled for w/b 2 February 1998 will present another early opportunity to return the guard buoy to the original mooring position.

ACKNOWLEGEMENTS

The ship's master, officers, engineers, catering staff and crew are thanked for their co-operation during this cruise.

B M STEWART

15 January 1998