

PROVISIONAL CRUISE REPORT

VESSEL RCTV Alfred Herring

LOCATION Deepwater and Offshore Waverider sites to west of South Uist

CRUISE PERIOD 0600-1700 21st April 1983

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OBJECTIVES To recover Waverider buoys and moorings if possible from the Deepwater and Offshore positions to the west of South Uist.
To replace only the Deepwater buoy.

PROCEDURE AND METHODS Drove to Lochboisdale jetty, met the skipper and crew of RCTV Alfred Herring at approx 0645. The replacement buoy was energised on the quay side. All equipment was loaded by hand; the buoy itself was lowered to the deck of the boat with ropes. Sailed for Deepwater site at approx 0715.

Arrived at Deepwater site at approx 0945. Some difficulty was experienced in locating the buoy, this was due to the vessels Decca Navigator being poorly set up. The new Deepwater mooring had been prepared on the port side-deck while steaming to site. Anchor and chain were paid out on the 200 m rope, which was still wound on a reel. When the anchor had reached the sea bed, some tension was maintained to pull the chain out straight. With all the rope unreeled, its top end was joined to the bottom end of the rubber cord, thus completing the mooring. The buoy was then lowered over the side by hand. Position depth and time were noted.

Waverider 67749-7 (deployed 11.7.82) appeared in good condition. The buoy was lifted aboard using ropes. The rubber cord was recovered by hand. When the mooring rope was reached it was passed through a fairlead and onto the for'ard winch. The anchor and chain were recovered by "stopping off", and using the winch.

Arrived at Offshore site approx 1145. Came along side Offshore buoy, which was in very good condition (on site for only two months). The buoy and upper mooring were recovered by hand.

Sailed from Offshore site 1320 arrived Lochboisdale 1510.

WEATHER Good wheather conditions prevailed throughout the time spent at sea. Virtually no wind, and a low swell.

EQUIPMENT PERFORMANCE The Deepwater Waverider had been transmitting an erratic signal for over two months prior to its replacement. Initial tests have revealed nothing unusual other than a very low battery voltage. Further tests are to be carried out.

ITINERARY

0645 Rendezvous with RCTV Alfred Herring at Lochboisdale
 0715 Sailed for Deepwater site
 0945 Arrived Deepwater site
 1033 Deployed new buoy
 1045 Recovered old buoy
 1145 Arrived Offshore site - recovered buoy
 1320 Sailed for Lochboisdale
 1510 Arrived Lochboisdale

ABRIDGED
DETAILS

Deepwater Buoy deployed	21st April 1983
Waverider No	67144
Decca Chain	8E/MP Hebridean
Green	D 30.30
Purple	A 73.40
Depth	95 m
Time	1033 BST
Frequency	29.725 MHz
Battery Volts	20.3 + 20.3
Output Meter reading	9.1 Volts
Calibrated	28.5.81
Sensitivity	1.881 Hz m ⁻¹

Prepared by: B M Norman

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Date: 7 June 1983

Approved by: A P Salkfield

A.P. Salkfield