

VESSEL: MFV 777 'Devonian'

OWNER: J McGuire  
5 Swan Court  
Dartmouth  
Devon

CRUISE PERIOD: 1200 hours 26 February 1980 -  
1600 hours 27 February 1980

PERSONNEL: J D Humphery, HSO, Senior Scientist  
A J Marks, SSO  
E J Moore, HGCD  
B M Norman, ASO

ITINERARY: Tuesday 26 February  
Started loading equipment approx 1200. Moved  
Devonian to deepwater berth approx 1500.  
Wednesday 27 February  
Sailed approx 0900. Deployed Waverider No 6459  
at 1050. Searched for toroid and marker buoys  
on sandwave survey site, without success. Returned  
to Dartmouth. Offloaded equipment left ship  
approx 1600.

OBJECTIVES: To deploy a Waverider and mooring on the outer edge  
of the Skerries bank in Start Bay, South Devon.  
This is to provide information for the sandwave  
mobility study which has been going on for some time.  
To search for toroid and other marker buoys indicating  
position of sandwave study site. To dive and  
inspect passive instrumentation on site.

PROCEDURE AND METHODS: Waverider mooring was assembled on deck. All galvanised  
shackles were greased and moused with galvanised wire;  
all stainless shackles were moused with nylon.  
Mooring was flaked out on deck so that it would run  
out freely without snags. Heavy mooring chain was  
laid over gunwale in a series of big bights.

When at the correct position a check was made on the  
water depth; when the correct depth was found, the  
ship was held against wind and tide. The Waverider  
was lowered by hand over the side and allowed to  
float clear on the rubber cord. The anchor was then  
dropped overboard, followed by the heavy mooring  
components; the flaked-out rope was then allowed to  
run free as the mooring dropped clear. A check was  
made on the position and depth.

Conditions were not good, wind NE 3 - 4 with a short  
chop causing 'Devonian' to roll somewhat. It was  
also very cold with poor visibility (approx  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile).

A search was made for the toroid which acted as a  
warning to fishing boats of seabed obstructions on  
the sandwave study site. Despite a careful search,  
no sign whatever could be found of the site. As no  
very accurate position-fixing equipment was carried

on board Devonian, and as conditions were generally poor with no good underwater visibility, no dive was attempted.

EQUIPMENT PERFORMANCE: Waverider and mooring were prepared at IOS(T) before leaving for Dartmouth. Signals from the Waverider monitored onshore later showed that it was working satisfactorily. Equipment on board 'Devonian' worked satisfactorily as far as could be determined (Decca Navigator and echo-sounder).

DEPLOYMENT POSITION: Waverider was laid at 1050 on 27.2.80 in position:

Decca Red 10.2

Purple 56.6

Depth at laying 20m, mid-tide.

Bell buoy bears NE, distant 0.75 miles

Prepared by:

*John Humphery*

J D HUMPHERY

Approved by:

*AP Salkield*

A P SALKIELD

Date:

*2-4-80*