

**PROVISIONAL CRUISE REPORT**

**VESSEL:** MFV 777 Devonian plus I.O.S. launch Sand Pebbler.

**OWNER:** Lt. Com. J.J. McGuire, Swan Court, Dartmouth.

**LOCATION:** Skerries Bank, Start Bay, South Devon.

**CRUISE PERIOD:** 10th - 14th June 1981.

**PERSONNEL:** A.P. Salkield, G.N. Crisp, D.N. Langhorne, B.M. Norman, E.J. Moore, J.L. Whellock, T.F. Bartlett, P.M. Hooper, D.H. Joyce, A.J. Marks.

**OBJECTIVE:** To release the spar buoy just prior to the aircraft pass. To set up radar reflectors for the aircraft. To lay and recover current meters. To side scan sonar the buoy track.

**PROCEDURE:** Install current meters at the crest and trough of a suitable sand wave along the buoy's track. Install radar reflectors on Slapton and Bee Sands Leys. Set up position recording stations at Start Point and Strete. Release the spar buoy on the ebb tide on notification of the aircraft's E.T.A.. Monitor the buoy progress for approximately 2 hours, then recover equipment and perform a side scan survey of the buoy's track.

**EQUIPMENT PERFORMANCE:** Shore sites, radar reflectors, side scan sonar, and meteorological equipments satisfactory. One trisponder channel non operational due to faulty reed switch. Buoy data logger inoperative due to electro static damage.

**RESULTS:** Only very low resolution aircraft pictures available as yet. Buoy track at reduced rate, but satisfactory. Ground truth radar reflectors in very good positions. Side scan sonar satisfactory apart from low resolution positional control. No usable results obtained from wave staff or buoy echo sounder.

**ITINERARY:**

- 10/6/81 0600	D.H.J. to Barry, to pick up current meters.
1800	A.P.S., E.J.M., G.N.C., D.H.J., A.J.M. to Dartmouth.
1930	D.N.L., T.F.B., B.M.N., P.M.H., J.L.W. To Dartmouth.

11/6/81 0600 A.P.S., E.J.M., G.N.C., D.H.J., T.F.B., B.M.N.,  
P.M.H., J.L.W., D.N.L. and A.J.M. unload and  
assemble buoy.  
1300 E.J.M., B.M.N., J.L.W., D.N.L. and A.J.M. to  
Skerries Bank to lay current meters.

12/6/81 0800 P.M.H., D.N.L., T.F.B., B.M.N. to Slapton  
and Beesands to repair and set up radar  
reflectors.  
0800 A.P.S., E.J.M., G.N.C., J.L.W. and A.J.M. final  
assembly and testing of buoy.  
2000 D.N.L., T.F.B. return to Taunton.

13/6/81 0430 E.J.M., B.M.N., D.H.J., A.J.M. tow buoy to  
site, final trim.  
0700 A.P.S., G.N.C., P.M.H., J.L.W. man shore  
stations.  
1000 Release buoy.  
1200 Recover buoy return to Dartmouth.  
1600 G.N.C., D.H.J. to Plymouth with Meteorological  
instruments for Eddystone fly past.  
2000 D.N.L. to Dartmouth.  
2300 G.N.C., D.H.J. return to Dartmouth.

14/6/81 0800 E.J.M., D.N.L., B.M.N., A.J.M. recover  
current meters and side scan survey.  
0800 A.P.S., G.N.C., P.M.H., D.H.J., J.L.W. recover  
radar reflectors at Slapton.  
1300 J.L.W. to Plymouth to leave P.M.H. for  
the Eddystone fly past.  
1700 J.L.W. return to Dartmouth.  
1900 G.N.C., D.N.L. to Taunton via Start Point to  
collect Trisponder stations.  
1900 D.H.J., A.J.M., A.P.S., J.L.W. to Taunton.  
1930 B.M.N., E.J.M. to Taunton.

REPORT PREPARED BY:  
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