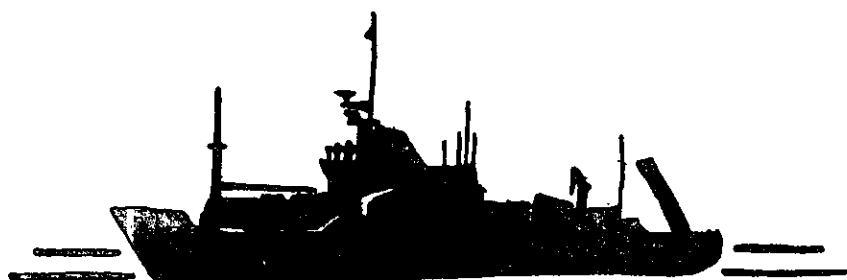


Scottish Marine Biological Association

Dunstaffnage Marine Research Laboratory



CRUISE REPORT

RRS Frederick Russell
CRUISE (16) 82 (no number
designated)
10 December - 14 December

1982

S.M.B.A., P.O. Box No. 3, Oban, Argyll, Scotland.

Frederick Russell Cruise Report.

10 December - 14 December.

1982

Personnel: D. Booth
J. Graham
N. McDougall
N. Pascoe
A. Harrison IOS, Bidston
D. Leighton IOS, Bidston

Aims:

- 1) Recover mooring at M. *6 months*
- 2) Recover pressure recorder at N *14 months*
- 3) Recover corrosion mooring at Z *6 months*
- 4) Relay current meter mooring at B2
- 5) Collect Caesium samples east of Barra Head.

Narrative:

The ship left middle dock in South Shields at 1200 Friday 10th December, collected bunkers, swung the ship for compass adjustment and left the Tyne. By midnight on Saturday, the ship had passed through the Pentland Firth and was close to the Flannen Islands by 1000 the following morning. The single strand current meter mooring was laid at B2 without problem. The release was switched on and allowed to "time out". The release on the nearby thermistor chain was also switched on to check that it was still there.

By 1600 the ship was heading towards N.

Both the pressure gauge and the current meter mooring was located before midnight, so the ship hove-to at M until daylight. M was upright but several attempts of firing the pyros failed to release the mooring. It was decided to recover the pressure gauge before dragging. This was done successfully and the pressure gauge which had been on the bottom for 14 months appeared in good condition. A long sediment trap tube taped to the edge of the frame had approximately 1 cm of sediment in the bottom. While returning to M, preparations were made to drag, but soon after switching the release on, the buoy was sighted dead ahead. It had come to the surface in our absence. By 1400, Monday 13th the mooring was all in board. All current meters were intact, although the top meter was covered with weed, slightly impairing the rotor. The stainless steel release hook seemed to have welded itself to the lug by corrosion and probably inhibited immediate release. The ship then headed directly towards Z, in continuing fair weather and calm sea. Some surface salinity samples were collected for long term statistics. The spar buoy at A1 was sighted while steaming.

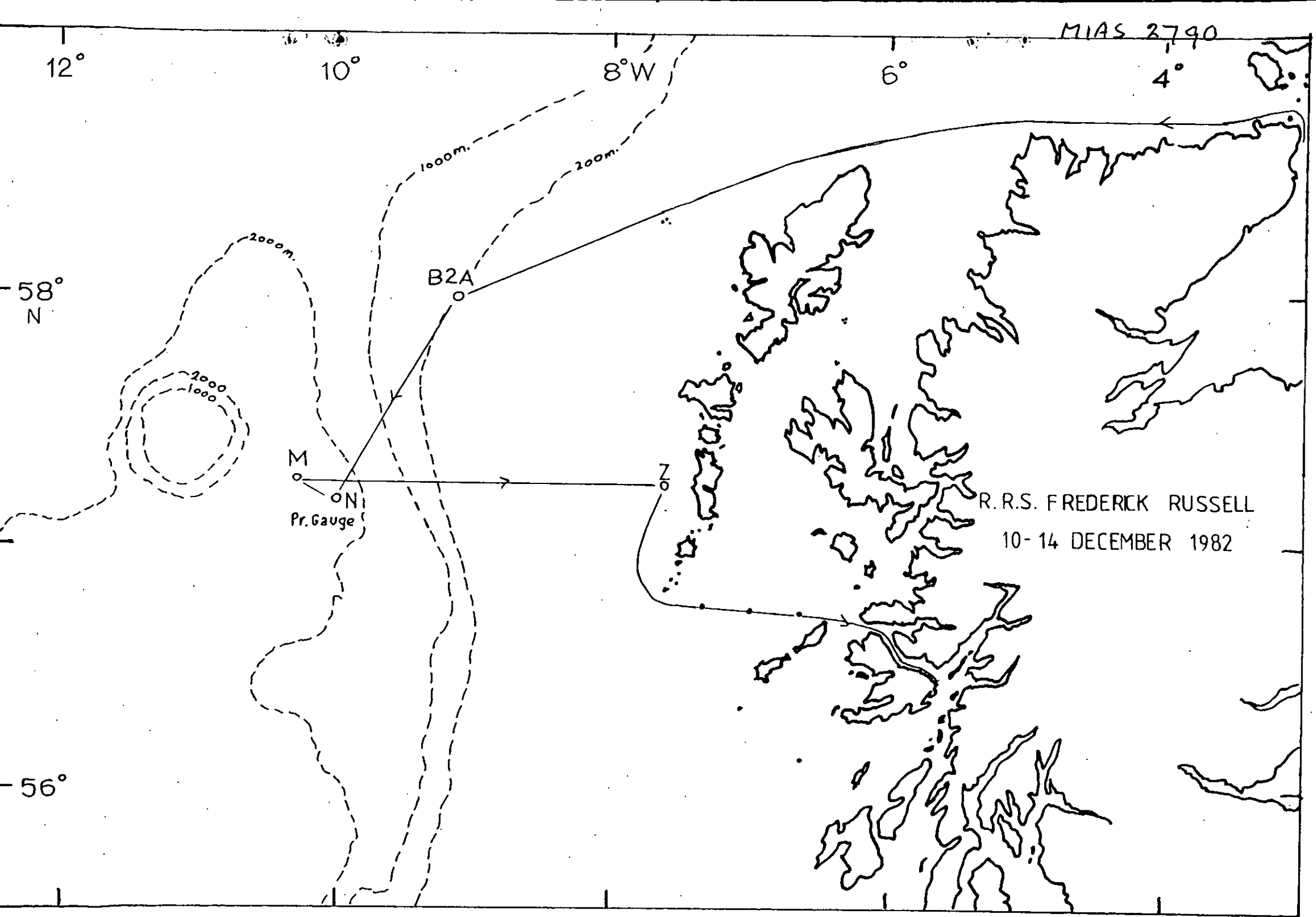
By evening, poor weather was forecast, so it was decided to attempt to recover Z immediately on arrival. Although the light on the spar buoy was not working, the spar buoy was sighted and the mooring was on deck just after 2200. The ship then headed round Barra Head to the Sound of Mull collecting Caesium samples at C6, C5 and C4 to complete the cruise objectives.

Although success of the cruise was undoubtedly aided by good weather of a high pressure ridge, with light winds and only slight swell, the crew of the Frederick Russell were most skilled and helpful in spite of short notice of arrangements. Every thanks is due to them.

The ship anchored off Craignure at 1000 Tuesday 14th December and all scientific personnel and equipment were transferred to Calanus and the ship proceeded to Plymouth.

David Booth

15 December 1982.



MIAS 2790

B2A

M
Pr. Gauge

R.R.S. FREDERICK RUSSELL
10-14 DECEMBER 1982

12°

10°

8°W

6°

4°

58°
N

56°

1000m.

200m.

2000m.

2000
1000

N

24 12

24 12