

FREDERICK RUSSELL CRUISE 8Participants

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Procedure

Departed Plymouth at 1100 on 18th June. The ship steamed straight to mooring position 066 and the mooring was deployed at 1900 on 19th June. Some fishing with small nets was done up to midnight then the ship steamed for 067 to arrive at first light. During the day moorings 067, 065 and 064 were deployed. There was a delay before laying 063 as this had to go in at an exact water depth of 800 m on the slope. Eventually, after dark, it was deployed in 796 metres.

The vessel then steamed north to Shamrock Canyon to deploy the four Argos drifting buoys with their associated drogues. These were laid over the slope in 300 m, 820 m, 890 m and 2000 m. There seemed to be a problem keeping the ship at very slow speed whilst deploying the drogues, which made it very difficult to deploy them properly.

At 1700 on 21st June the surface drifting net was shot with a dhan buoy and transmitter attached. A series of STD's were then completed and the drifting net was recovered in bad weather at 1000 on 22nd June. The vessel then proceeded to A1 where some vertical zooplankton nets were done and then on to Plymouth arriving at 0800 on 22nd June.

COMMENTS

1. The communications between after-deck, winch operator and bridge are terrible.
2. The noise levels are too high.
3. The vibration seems worse than last year.
4. The ship rolls a lot more than last year and as a consequence makes work much harder in moderate and poor conditions.

