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Biological Oceanography Cruise : LF 08 2000

Cruise Report
(February 18 -20)

Personnel

R. Gowen (SIC) SSO DARD
W. Clarke SSO DARD

Cruise Objectives

1. to service the DARD offshore mooring
2. to record a vertical profile of temperature and salinity at the mooring station and DARD inshore station.
3. to collect water samples for determination of chlorophyll and dissolved nutrients and ring net samples of zooplankton at the two DARD stations.

Cruise Narrative

Lough Foyle departed Belfast at 2100 on Friday, February 18 and sailed for the DARD mooring station in the western Irish Sea. The following morning, the mooring was recovered at 0730 and serviced before re-deployment. Following re-deployment, a vertical profile of temperature and salinity was recorded and water samples collected for the determination of dissolved nutrients and phytoplankton chlorophyll. Three zooplankton samples were collected by vertical haul with a 200 μm mesh ring net. Sampling of the water column for chlorophyll, nutrients and zooplankton was repeated at the DARD inshore station before the ship returned to Belfast.

Preliminary results

The mooring service and all sampling was completed successfully. As expected for this time of year the water column at the offshore station was isothermal with a mean temperature of 7.9°C. At both stations, chlorophyll concentrations were $\leq 1.0 \text{ mg m}^{-3}$, typical for the winter period.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the Captain, Officers and Crew for their assistance during the cruise and in particular the help of the crew in servicing the mooring.



R. Gowen

May 21, 2000

The first of a series of short cruises to obtain data for zooplankton / phytoplankton dynamics
bb 2-18-00

5745

Pub. Rec. Ref. McKeown

This is an annual cruise to support the National Marine Monitoring Programme which clearly took place under adverse weather. Thank you Matt, H. 20/4/00

National Marine Monitoring Plan Cruise 2000

LF 08 2000
21/2/2000-23/2/2000

Personnel:

Dr M Service SIC AESD
Mr M Aitchison FSD
Mr S Alman PGRA QUB

Objectives:

To undertake annual benthic sampling for macrofauna and sediment chemistry at NI Offshore NMMP Stations;

Collect specimens of Plaice from the North Coast for heavy metal and trace organic analysis;

To collect water samples and salinity profiles at the same stations.

Narrative:

Day 1:

The vessel departed Belfast at 00:00h on the 21st February with the intention of being on station at NMP 1 on the North Coast by 08:00h. However, due to high winds during the night delaying passage past the Sound of Rathlin the station was not reached until 10:00h. After a successful deployment of the Rosette Sampler the decision was taken not to operate the Day grab. The vessel then moved inshore to trawl for Plaice, again this was completed successfully. After returning to NMP 1 the conditions had improved sufficiently to complete the grab sampling programme. Following this the vessel then steamed to NMP2 where again the Rosette and Grab sampling was successfully undertaken.

Day 2:

During the night passage was made to be on station at the AESD mooring station by 08:00h where grab samples were collected. Following this the vessel moved through stations NMP4,3 and 5 collecting grab samples without incident. The Lough Foyle then returned to Belfast by 22:30

Day 3:

Scientists and some of the equipment disembarked AM.

Conclusion:

There were no incidents of note during this cruise and all objectives were successfully completed.



Dr M Service SIC



Capt A Niblock Master