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This is a series
of short cruises
to take samples
& service moorings
in relation to zooplankton
& the NEKC Marine
Productivity Thematic
Programme.

10.06.00

Biological Oceanography Cruise : LF 16 2000

Cruise Report
(April 16-17)

Personnel

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Cruise Objectives

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

Cruise Narrative

Lough Foyle departed Belfast at 2100 on Sunday, April 16 and sailed for the DARD coastal station in the western Irish Sea. The following morning, 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. Water column sampling was completed at the DARD offshore station before the ship steamed for Belfast. Lough Foyle docked in Belfast at 1745 on Monday April 17.

Preliminary results

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 8.1°C . It was evident that the spring bloom was underway at the inshore station with chlorophyll levels of between 4.5 and 4.9 mg m^{-3} throughout the water column. Chlorophyll concentrations of $\leq 0.5 \text{ mg m}^{-3}$ indicate the spring bloom had not commenced offshore.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the Captain, Officers and Crew for their assistance during the cruise.



R. Gowen

May 21, 2000