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Cruise Report for Biological Oceanography Cruise LF1/92 7-8/1/92

Personnel

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| C.Gibson | SIC |
| R.Hensley | HSO |
| B.Stewart | HSO |
| P.Elliott | ASO |

Cruise narrative

The vessel departed from Belfast at 07.00 on Tuesday 7 January 1992 and arrived at the first station in the North Channel at 09.30. There was a strong wind and a high tide running and conditions did not allow deployment of the sampling gear over the side. The Traacs analyser, however, worked perfectly analysing the clean sea water supply, taking samples at 6 minute intervals. The position of the vessel at each sample was logged manually from the position fixing repeater display in the laboratory. In view of the poor weather and very uncertain outlook, the original cruise plan was altered and the vessel steamed due South to cover the middle of the North-west Irish Sea. Strong winds and heavy seas were encountered which made working conditions very uncomfortable. It is greatly to the credit of B. Stewart and P. Elliott that in spite of this, the Traacs was kept running and a full set of chemical analyses from the surface water was obtained. Some damage was caused to the bridge by large waves, and the speed of the vessel was reduced to cope with the heavy seas. The vessel entered the calm waters of Carlingford Lough and dropped anchor at 19.30.

The forecast was for winds to move to the North and to strengthen during the second day. Accordingly, the vessel was turned for home and sailed on a course close to the County Down coast where, in spite of the strong winds, the sea was relatively calm. The Traacs analyser was run from the mouth of Carlingford Lough right up to Belfast Dock, and a good set of near shore surface water chemistry was obtained. Water temperature and salinity were logged using the WS Oceans salinometer. The vessel docked at 16.00 and the Traacs was packed and offloaded that night.

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