

Cruise Report

Cruise LF 21/91

Personnel

First Half
 C Gibson PSO
 R Gowen SSO
 R Hensley HSO
 R Baillie ASO
 P Elliott ASO

*added to notes**8/14 3/10/41*

Second Half

W Clarke SSO
 M Service SSO
 R Hensley HSO

Cruise Narrative

Scientific crew loaded the ship on Friday 23 August 1991, ready to sail. The ship was boarded on Monday 26th August at 08.00 and left Belfast at 09.00h, arriving at the first station at 11.00. The CTD was deployed, but bottles refused to fire. After a long delay, the fault was cured by switching the control box off and on again. Earlier attempts to reboot had failed. This delayed progress for approx 2hrs. but from then on, the cruise went smoothly. All stations were covered as planned, in perfect weather and the only hitches revolved around the GOP software, which produced several faults. 35 CTD profiles were taken and samples stored for nutrient chlorophyll a analysis. Primary production incubations and light profiles were performed at 5 stations, ending at 53.11 N 5.15 W at 08.30 on Wednesday 28/8/91. The vessel turned for Dublin to meet up with the scientific crew for the return trip to Belfast.

Brief resume of results.

The cruise traversed three distinct zones

- a) mixed water in the North Channel,
- b) stratified water between 54° 36'N and 53° 37'N,
- c) virtually into thermal water south and east of station 49 (53 37 N 54 SW).

The surface water was considerably clearer than in July at many stations. The difference was particularly striking at the westerly stations where the Secchi disc was visible to 15m depth, compared to 8m depth in July.

On the return journey, the video sledge was successfully deployed. A curious turbidity of unknown origin was noted in the water column below 30m in one station.

Overall a very successful cruise in flat calm weather.

