

Personnel

M Service	SSO	DANI	SIC
W Clarke	SSO	DANI	
R Hensley	HSO	DANI	
C Reavey	SO	DANI	
P Moorehead	SO	DED (ISC)	
B Magorrian	PGS	QUB	

Objectives

- (a) To assess the performance of new camera lights.
- (b) To assess the ability of the static camera frame.
- (c) To survey area in the vicinity of the track of proposed electricity cable between the Scottish mainland and Northern Ireland.

Day 1

The vessel departed harbour at 08.00 and steamed to the location of the first tow off the coast of Islandmagee. Problems were encountered with both video cables before deployment. However, these were overcome and two successful tows undertaken. Both newly purchased sets of lights performed well and good video footage was obtained. The position of the stills camera was changed to the vertical for tow 2. At 16.00 the ship steamed to the sludge disposal grounds at the mouth of Belfast Lough to attempt a camera tow. However, after coming onto station the sea state was judged to be too high to allow deployment of the sledge.

The night was then spent at anchor in Belfast Lough.

Day 2

At 07.00 the ship returned to the disposal grounds where the sledge was deployed. Visibility was very poor and tow was abandoned after 30 minutes. The ship then steamed to a position due east of Larne to area where the proposed electricity cable would pass. An interesting and successful camera tow was made in this area with sledge demonstrating its ability to cope with an uneven sea bed.

Following this the ship steamed to Drains Bay where it anchored while the static frame was deployed. This proved to be successful and the decision was made to try the frame in deeper water. The ship steamed east to the Beaufort dyke area of the North Channel and the frame was deployed in 220 m of water. While the mechanics of the deployment were successful the visibility of the water within the Dyke was very reduced, apparently due to high levels of suspended material.

Following this the ship returned to Belfast and berthed later that evening.

Day 3

Scientists and equipment disembarked.

At all stations information from the ROXANNE ground discrimination system was obtained and retained for future use.

The enclosed figure shows the ship's track during the cruise.

M Service
6.11.92.

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