

PROVISIONAL CRUISE REPORT

VESSEL: M F V Swan Dancer - Skipper D Thomson

LOCATION: Waverider site west of Isles of Scilly

PERIOD: 21 July 1984

PERSONNEL: E J Moore PTO III

OBJECTIVES: Replace Waverider buoy and mooring

PROCEDURES & METHOD: Owing to the Docks strike there was some trouble in getting the buoy on to the Scillonian and at the very last moment before sailing EJM was called to the bridge and informed that the buoy was not going on board. During the ferry passage EJM spoke to Swan Dancer on the ship's VHF and explained the position, enabling D Thomson to continue fishing without losing any time meeting the ferry. The First Officer on Scillonian promised to carry the buoy over on the following day although no freight is normally carried on Saturday's. He carried out his promise and informed D Thomson by VHF and the Swan Dancer arrived in harbour in time to meet the ferry.

The buoy was energised on the pier at 1030 but the aerial was not fitted. The buoy and mooring was loaded on Swan Dancer and the mooring carefully assembled on passage.

The existing buoy was located 0.2 of a Decca lane off position so the new buoy was laid in the correct position. The buoy was handled over the side forward of the 'A' frame and allowed to drift clear. The anchor was lowered from the transom and the chain eased around the winch drum by hand, followed by the rope. Once the anchor was on the bottom the rope was payed out slowly in an attempt to straighten the mooring chain.

The existing buoy was recovered by lifting from the block on the 'A' frame and the rubber cord was successfully recovered by hand. The mooring rope used on this deployment was non-standard 3 strand polypropylene, there being no 12 mm standard rope available at the time of preparation. The splice on the hard eye at the top end was coming adrift and the rope had unlayed itself for at least 20 metres and was in no condition to lift the anchor and mooring. When lift was applied the lay of the rope continued to open and was finally cut away as the only safe option.

The mooring was dismantled on passage back to St Mary's.

WEATHER: Wind E - 2-3 some swell, good visibility.

EQUIPMENT PERFORMANCE: No problems. Swan Dancer was handled well and carried out the work satisfactorily.

ITINERARY:

1030 Rendezvous with Swan Dancer at Hugh Town Quay
Activate buoy and load.
1100 Sail for site.
1400 Deployed buoy.
1415 Recovered old buoy.
1440 Checked Decca position of new buoy.
1630 Arrived St Mary's.
1730 Placed buoy in Harbourmaster's store.
2000 Checked signal in Coastguard station.

ABRIDGED

DETAILS:

Waverider No 67214
Deployed 21.7.84
Decca Chain 1B/MP (S.W. British)
Red B.13.7
Purple C.67.2
Depth 100 m.
Time 1400 BST
Frequency 29.725 MHz.
Battery volts 20.9 + 20.9 volts
Calibrated 24.8.82 - N.M.I.
Sensitivity 1.8677559

Prepared by E J MOORE



Approved by P J HARDCASTLE



Date: 8.8.84