

PROVISIONAL CRUISE REPORT

VESSEL MT Swan Dancer

LOCATION Waverider site west of Scilly Isles

PERIOD 1330-1840 20th May 1983

PERSONNEL G P LE GOOD HSO
E J MOORE P&TO III
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OBJECTIVES To replace the Waverider buoy and mooring at the Scillies site.

PROCEDURES AND METHOD Rendezvous with Swan Dancer and skipper Dave Thompson on the Quay at St Marys. The new buoy was energised on the pier but the aerial was not fitted. The buoy and new mooring was loaded aboard Swan Dancer. Sailed for Waverider site 1350.

Arrived on site 1533, inserted aerial in new buoy. Swan dancer went alongside the old buoy 67407-9. It appeared to be in very good condition, especially considering that it had been on site for fourteen months. Readings from Swan Dancer's Decca Navigator were unsteady but average readings showed the buoy to be in its correct position.

Swan Dancer moved approx 250 meters west of this buoy ie across the tide. The mooring had been made up en route, in two parts. ie split at rope/rubber cord junction.

A specially designed chain hook was hitched onto top end of the $\frac{1}{2}$ " chain to take the weight of the anchor and heavy chain when they were lowered over the transom. These components were lowered a bit at a time by passing short lengths of rope through the heavy chain. When the weight was entirely on the chain hook, the bottom end of the mooring rope was turned on to the winch drum. The strain was then transferred on to this and the chain hook removed. The heavy part of the mooring was then lowered, approx one metre at a time by surging the rope on the winch drum. When the anchor had reached the sea bed, the rope was held fast for a while to allow the weight of the Swan Dancer to pull the anchor chain out straight on the sea bed.

The rest of the mooring rope was then unwound from its plastic drum and its upper end passed out through the 'A' frame and made fast on to the bottom of the rubber cord. The rest of the mooring, ie rubber cord, stabilizing chain and top of mooring rope was then put over board and the buoy itself manually lifted over board. Time, depth and position were noted.

Swan Dancer was brought alongside the old buoy. It was hooked on one of its metal handles and hoisted aboard over the transom using the winch. The hook was then transferred from the buoy to the top of the rubber cord. The buoy was then disconnected

from its mooring and its aerial removed. The rubber cord was brought aboard by stopping off using rolling hitches on the rubber cord itself. When the mooring rope was reached it was disconnected from the rubber cord and passed over the 'A' frame on to the winch drum.

When the $\frac{1}{2}$ " chain was reached it was discovered that a lot of the mooring rope was tangled around the trawl floats and chain. The remainder of the mooring was brought aboard by stopping off as is normally done.

WEATHER

Good weather prevailed throughout the time spent at sea. Wind NW 2-3. Bright and sunny, visibility good.

EQUIPMENT PERFORMANCE

The Swan Dancer has been found to be an excellent vessel for this type of work, with a skilled and helpful crew.

ITINERARY

1230 Rendezvous with Swan Dancer and crew
1350 Sailed for Waverider Site
1533 Arrived Waverider site
1552 Deployed replacement Waverider
1640 Recovered old Waverider
1645 Sailed for St Marys
1840 Arrived St Marys

ABRIDGED DETAILS

Waverider No	67327-7
Scillies Buoy deployed	20th May 1983
Decca chain	1B/MP (SW British)
Red	B13.60
Purple	C67.30
Depth	100.0 m
Time	1552 BST
Frequency	29.725 MHz
Battery volts	20.8 + 20.9 volts
Output Meter reading	8.0 volts
Calibrated	15th April 1982
Sensitivity	1.8728 Hz m ⁻¹

Prepared by B M NORMAN

B.M. Norman

Approved by A P SALKIELD

A.P. Salkield

Date:

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