**AX180110 CRUISE REPORT**

The AX180110 was performed on board the M/V "MONTE SARMIENTO" departing from Durban, South Africa on January 23rd 2010, arriving at Itaguai (Sepetiba), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on February 3rd 2010.

A. XBT

A total of 182 eXpendable BathyThermographs were deployed along track according to the specifications of the Cruise Plan (1 as test, 70 in High Density mode between the coast of South Africa and 1ºW, 63 in Medium Density mode between 1ºW and 30ºW, and 48 in High Density mode between 30ºW and the coast of South America).

B. Problems

The pins of the 8-shooter AL operated normally almost all the time, with some periods in which they would not retract completely. Although tube number 8 is labelled since 2008 as having a defective pin, it worked properly throughout the cruise. Nevertheless, there were random periods of instability in the behaviour of the AL control system. In certain occasions, after fully reloading the AL, when activating the “reset tubes” option the system would see one or more tubes empty. Just by only reactivating the reset options those “empty” tubes would show the probe present, though some other tube or tubes would change then to “empty”. After several tries, all tubes would report probe present and deployments would be successful.

Upon completion of 2/3 of the run, drops would start showing signs of probable presence of water or moisture within the AL pin-control box and/or connector terminals to probe’s end, probably associated to condensation because of environment conditions.

C. Recommendations

Recommend sending the 8-shooter AL back to laboratory for testing and maintenance.

One of the T&T antenna cable connectors needs to be replaced. In order to use the alternate cable, a short cable is needed (male connectors on both ends).

D. Additional equipment, tools, supplies needed.

Coaxial connectors for main and backup antenna cable. Duct tape

E. GTS transmission

Data was transmitted in real time without inconvenient..

F. Drifters deployed : None

G. Profiling floats deployed : None.

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AOML Webmaster