Summary of cruise AX180910 between Montevideo and Durban

AX180910 was conducted aboard the JPO Volans. I flew to Montevideo on the 28th August 2010 to ensure that the SEAS equipment was successfully loaded .I eventually boarded the JPO Volans on the 2nd September. The delay was due to bad weather and other problems with the vessel at Buenos Aires. We left Montevideo on the 04th of September, and after stopping at Itajai and Santos started with the AX180910 run on the 9th September2010. No major problems were experienced during the voyage and we birthed at Durban on the18th of September 2010.

In total 175 XBTs were deployed. High density deployments at a rate of one per 30 km were started at 25.07o S and 044.36o W .Intermediate density deployments at a rate of one per 50km commenced from 40o W until 01o W. High density deployments were then done at a rate of one per 30km until the ship reached water less than 200m, with the last drop bieing done at 35.17oS and 019.16oE at the depth of 150m.

No profiling floats or drifting buoys were deployed .

There was no extreme weather during this cruise, however several drops were affected by winds

Channeling at the stern of the ship causing wire stretching and interference from trace wires from expended tubes. After trying moving the launcher, and changing the release angle to no avail, I noticed that tube 3, and especially tube 6 were more detrimentally affected than the other tubes, so I stopped using them, and this definitely improved my success rate. In general I feel that this was a successful trip , with no actual problems with the equipment, and no gaps in the data .

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