***Cruise Summary (25/01/2018 – 05/02/2018)***

***AX180118 – Tranquil Ace***

***Technical rider: Michael Funke***

The NOAA equipment was set up on board the Tranquil Ace after departing Zarate, Argentina, 23 January. With the vessel first calling Montevideo, Uruguay, 24 January, there was ample time to iron out the usual teething issues. The power cable to the Iridium failed before the first drop but was replaced without the loss of too much time. Other than the server address initially being incorrect, the voyage went for the most part seamlessly.

XBT drops commenced once the 200m contour was crossed on the morning of 25 January 2018.

Two density modes were used for this transect namely High density (1 drop every 10km) and Intermediate density (1 drop every 30km). The density modes were completed as follows:

53°W - 40°W: High density

40°W – 0°E: Intermediate density

0°E – 19°: High density

Travelling at an average speed of 17 knots, XBTs were deployed every 19 minutes during high density and every 57 minutes during intermediate density.

Deployments were ended on 03 February at 19°E after reaching the 200m.

A total of 430 XBTs were deployed. All in all a good voyage, with not many bad profiles, 2 early wire breaks, 2 bad from wind fouling and one wire stretch. 2 no splash (faulty probes?). 2 redrops to confirm interesting features

***General Comments***

The Tranquil Ace proved to be a unique setup, with the system being installed in the rope store on the aft mooring deck. This was beneficial as it kept the CAT5 cable length to a minimum, and greatly reduced the time needed to reload the AutoLauncher.

The Captain and crew of the Tranquil Ace were most helpful with carrying of the equipment and showed great interest in equipment. Thank you for the hospitality.