

3/8/2010 - Departure from Cape Town

NOAA vessel Ronald H. Brown (RHB) departed Cape Town at about 2 pm on March 8, 2010 for the start of the CLIVAR Repeat Hydrography A13.5 section. This was a delay of about 1 day from the previously scheduled departure date of March 7, due to the need to wait for the delivery of ship spare parts. There has been discussion of delaying the arrival of RHB in Takoradi Ghana from April 17 to April 18 to keep the cruise length at 42 days.

We are encountering smooth seas as we progress southwestward toward our first station on the section at about 54 degrees south, 0 degrees east. The ship and scientific systems on board seem to be working well.

The data manager from SIO unfortunately injured her leg in port and will not be able to participate on the cruise. However, she stayed on RHB until minutes before the ship departed, in order to prepare the data system for use on the cruise. We wish her well on her return home later this week.

We will provide regular updates as we progress along the section.