

Go-SHIP A13.5 2020, the cruise that was not meant to be.

### **Week 1**

Sometimes a week can feel like a month, and boy did this one feel like that. After the rollercoaster that was getting to Cape Town, amid the increasing travel restrictions, the gallons of hand sanitizer (this may or may not be an exaggeration, but some of us were definitely followed around the breakfast buffet in our hotels in an effort to prevent us from touching the serving silverware), and the contingency plans (multiple scenarios to adjust to having 17 instead of 27 participants). We were told on the day of departure that we would only have 7 days to conduct science and only within a 96-hour steam-time from Cape Town, in the event that coronavirus cases were onboard. For reference, Figure 1 shows you that area. The yellow dots represent A13.5 stations. Given the limited time we had and with a storm headed our way, we chose to focus on deploying six biogeochemical (BGC) Argo floats from the SOCCOM program which would continue to provide BGC-data in the region. The two white rectangles in Figure 1 show our target deployment sites. Along with the BGC deployments we were able to conduct 8 CTD casts. Hey, 8 out of 129, who said we would not be able to do a full repeat of A13.5! On a happier note, all the floats are reporting data (see figure 2 for an example). You can check the new data from these buoys by clicking on this link: [http://socom.ucsd.edu/floats/SOCCOM\\_float\\_stats.html](http://socom.ucsd.edu/floats/SOCCOM_float_stats.html) Scroll all the way down to find the A13.5 floats.

We are now sailing in good weather, making good speed and taking underway samples every 2 hours. We should have a nice horizontal resolution of this Atlantic crossing.

To end on a very positive note, we need to speak about what has been the absolute highlight of the cruise: our GO-SHIP A13.5 scientists. 6 stations in about 3 days, all full casts. Several people were up for every single cast, either operating the console, deploying-recovering the rosette, or all-around sampling and analyzing. In an effort to get the most out of our meager science time, everyone pitched in staying up past their shifts to assist their colleagues. These people are the best, and you can sign me up for sailing with them every time. Hopefully, that next time will be on a cruise that accomplishes at least some of its science goals!

On our way,

The COVID A13.5 team

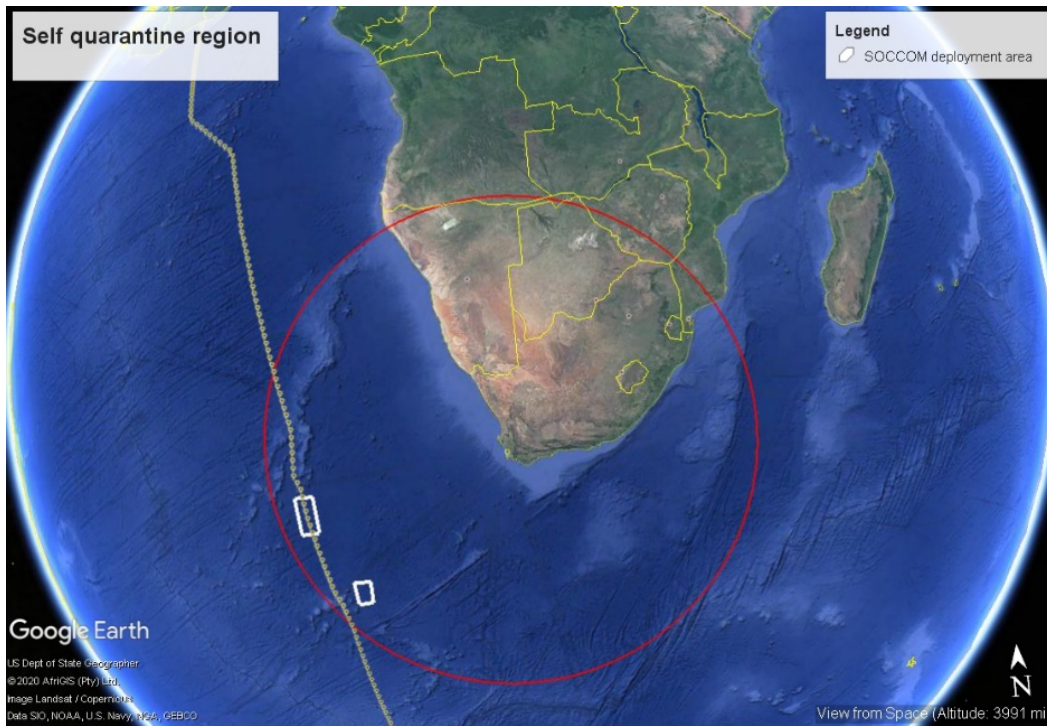


Figure 1. The red circle shows the area we were restricted to for 7 days. The white rectangles are the areas where SOCCOM floats were deployed

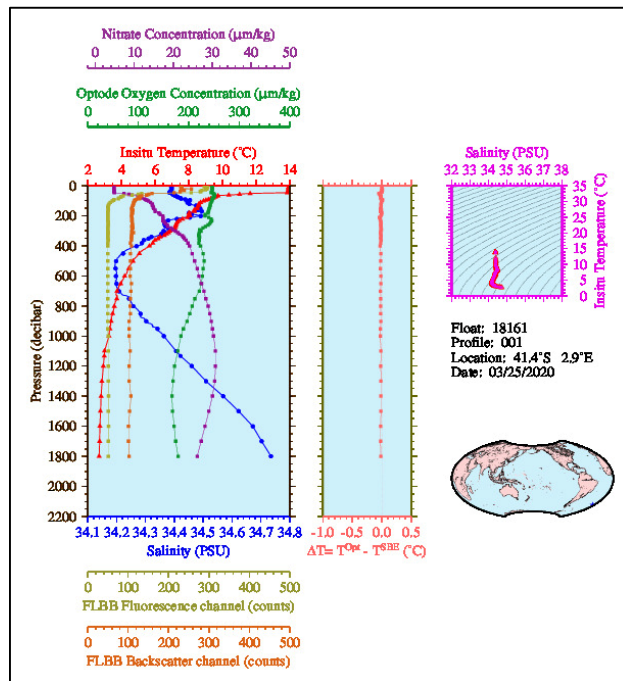


Figure 2: First profile transmitted by SOCCOM float 18161.