

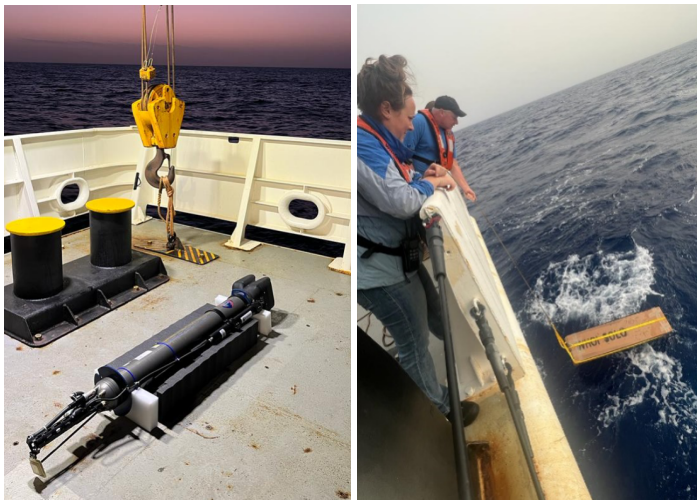
We made it to the end of A16N Leg 1!

This past week was our last week of science operations for Leg 1, ending on Saturday, April 1st. We are currently steaming for Rota, Spain, projected to disembark on April 6th or 7th, for a total of 32 days at sea.

While we were making good pace for our stations throughout the week, the end of science for this cruise was unfortunately cut short due to engine problems and the potential for weather during our long steam to port. The last couple days were plagued by slow steams between stations due to thruster and engine (Z drive) problems. We were able to complete 75 of the 80 planned stations for Leg 1. Engineers on board are working on a plan to make repairs while the ship is in port for one week before the second leg begins. We are hopeful that the weather cooperates for Leg 2 and they are able to complete our missing stations.

Scientists on board are now working to process their data, including quality checks, and writing up their cruise report sections. We are excited for the analyses and findings to come from this data set!

Of course, we must keep you apprised of the “fun” activities occurring on the ship as well. The first ping pong tournament was completed, with a second tournament beginning almost immediately. There have been many arts and crafts activities, as well as movies playing in the lounge at all hours.



BGC Argo float ready for deployment (left) and core Argo float being deployed by Frank Forbell and Heather Spillane (Crew) (right). Photo credits: Tyler Christian (AOML) and Alex Fine (AOML)



A CTD being recovered on the last day of science operations. Photo credit: Alex Fine (AOML)

To wrap up Leg 1: we completed 75 full cast CTD stations, and an additional 22 dedicated bio casts. We deployed four Core Argo floats, three BGC-Argo floats, and five drifters. Sargassum was collected 68 times. We are currently still conducting underways, with 24 completed and an estimated 9 more to go. We'd like to thank all of the scientists and crew on board for their hard work throughout this past month. We had our share of challenges, but we still accomplished quite a bit. This is certainly a cruise we will remember for years to come.

Signing off,

Katelyn Schockman and Zach Erickson
Chief Scientists