

## A16N leg 2. Week 4 update

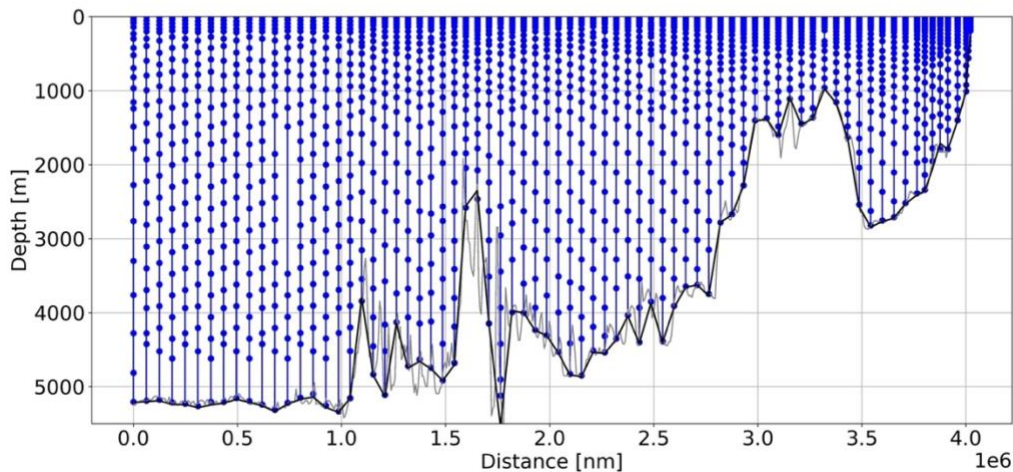
Ahoy land dwellers! We did it!

Against even our own expectations, we are happy to report that we completed the A16N line as planned, re-occupying all 150 stations between legs 1 and 2. Hooray!!

Whoever has the direct line of communication with the weather gods, we thank you for convincing them to keep the storms out of our path.

How much time did we have to spare? Probably a few minutes at most. At our very last station, only 200m deep, the wind was picking up to 30+ kn, at the limit of the conditions where we could deploy the CTD. Had we arrived a bit later we would not have been able to do that station.

During this cruise we completed our scheduled stations plus the 5 remaining stations from leg 1. According to our operations officer, we traveled an average of 3196.3 miles/day and conducted 95 CTDs (this includes dedicated bio-casts and a couple of interrupted CTD deployments). Figure 1 shows the bottle depth distribution. Before you mention it, yes, we did have one station with multiple mistrips. Quite the eyesore for all of us.



*Figure 1. Bathymetry of A16N leg 2. Each line corresponds to a station. The dots indicate the depths at which a bottle was tripped. Figure courtesy of Laura Cimoli.*

This final week was a bit of a blur. Station pacing picked up significantly the last couple of days due to a combination of shallower depths and less distance between stations. This put a strain on some of our analysts, but with the end of the line in sight everyone pushed through. Nature helped lighten things up a bit for us when we finally started seeing some wildlife (figure 2). The highlight was probably a pod of pilot whales that stayed with us for hours, even following us from one station to the next. Birds also started showing up and now, as we approach Reykjavik, we are keeping our eyes peeled to spot puffins.

We are busy packing everything, getting preliminary data and cruise report sections written, and looking forward to a little rest and some tourism for some, and a quick return to our loved ones for others.



*Figure 2. A northern gannet (top left), a pod of pilot whales (top right and bottom left and center), and a seagull (bottom right) spotted during our last week of the cruise. Photos courtesy of Michael Cappola.*

Thank you for following us on our 4-week expedition in the North Atlantic.

The science crew of GO-SHIP A16N leg 2, 2023