

Miami, May, 2013



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory**  
**4301 Rickenbacker Causeway Miami FL 33149**

Captain of the R/V S.A. Agulhas II

Dear Captain:

On behalf of the United States Department of Commerce's Atlantic Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), I would like to thank you and your Company for your help and cooperation in providing us with the opportunity to use your ships to deploy oceanographic instrumentation.

The Atlantic Oceanographic and Atmospheric Laboratory is located in Miami, Florida, and is one of twelve laboratories of NOAA. You may be familiar with one of our sister organizations, the U.S. National Weather Service. The Physical Oceanography Division of this laboratory has the mission to investigate the effect of the ocean on climate. To accomplish this we maintain an oceanographic and climate observing system to, for example, measure the upper ocean thermal structure and currents. Several data sets are obtained and developed by our laboratory's staff of scientific and technical support personnel to investigate the ocean processes and their link to climate variability and environmental changes.

In addition to the XBTs, instruments deployed to measure the temperature profile of the ocean, other instruments such as drifters and floats are sometimes also deployed to help investigate ocean currents. Many of the results obtained from our research can be viewed in real or near-real time on our laboratory's web pages at [www.aoml.noaa.gov/phod](http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/phod). Specific information about this program can be accessed at our projects web page [www.aoml.noaa.gov/phod/soop](http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/phod/soop). Of special interest to you could be the web pages where we show results obtained from high density deployments done from ships participating in the Ship Of Opportunity Program: [www.aoml.noaa.gov/phod/hdenxht](http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/phod/hdenxht). Results obtained from observations and instrument deployments from volunteer ships are transmitted in real-time to our laboratory and then used by the National Weather Service to produce their marine and atmospheric forecast. Shipping companies such as yours then use their information as an aid for their operations.

Please feel free to contact us in case you have any question regarding our activities or results, or if you are further interested in using our ocean currents and wind products. We sincerely appreciate the opportunity you give us to do our research and enhance the current ocean observing system.

Thank you very much for your time, consideration and attention.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Goni", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Gustavo Jorge Goni

United States Department of Commerce

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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# Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration



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## **December 2013 Cruise Plan – AX25**

**Ship Name:** R/V S.A. Agulhas II

**Call sign:** ZSNO

**Project Title:** Ship Of Opportunity Program High Density XBT transect AX25.

**Beginning date:** December 2013 from Cape Town, South Africa.

**Ending date:** Returning to Cape Town, South Africa in February, 2014

**Loading date:** December 2013

**Scientific Ship Rider:** University of Cape Town personnel

### **Cruise overview**

XBT data are used in ocean analysis and in climate model initialization. For instance, for El Nino prediction XBT data complement that from the TAO array and from satellite-derived sea surface temperature and sea height observations. The use of XBT data serves to measure the seasonal and interannual fluctuations in the upper layer heat storage, now being complemented by profiling float measurements. Heat transport and geostrophic ocean circulation can be measured using the high-density XBT data that determines the mesoscale field.

The XBT data also helps to document the ocean heat storage and global transport of heat and fresh water, which is crucial to improve climate prediction models that are initialized with temperature profiles. One primary objective of the XBT program is to provide oceanographic data needed to initialize the operational climate forecasts prepared by NCEP. Global coverage is now required as the forecast models not only simulate Pacific conditions but global conditions to improve prediction skill.

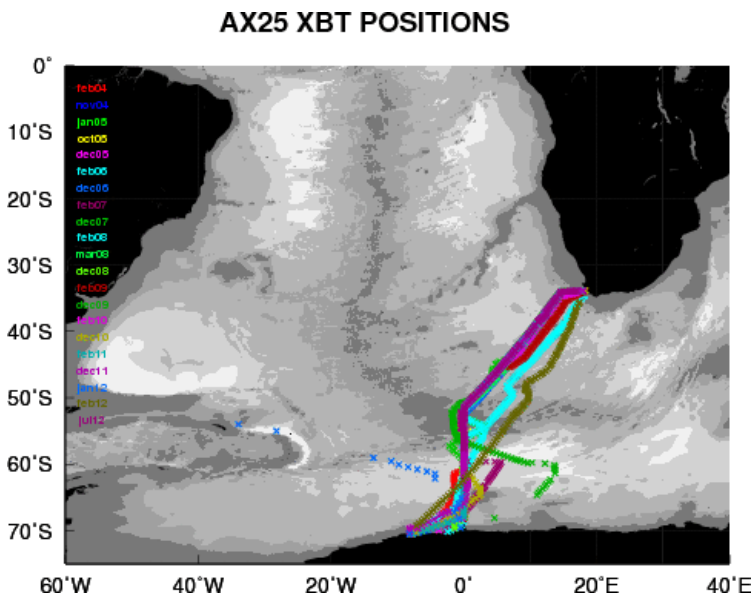
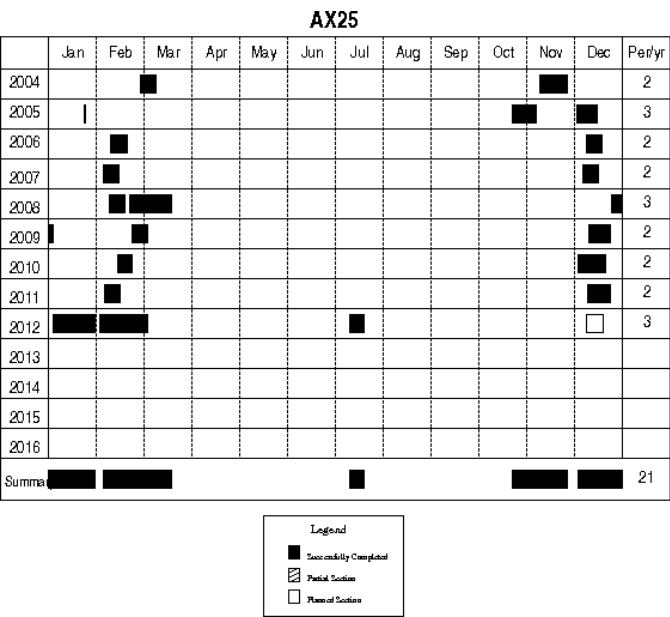
### **-High Density XBT transects**

This operation at AOML is designed to measure the upper ocean thermal structure in key regions of the Atlantic Ocean (Figure 7). XBT transects in HD mode are repeated approximately every three months and XBTs are deployed approximately 25 km apart in order to measure the mesoscale structure of the ocean to diagnose the ocean circulation responsible for redistributing heat and other water properties globally. HD XBT transects are carried out globally with AOML taking the lead in most of the operations in the Atlantic Ocean.

The HD XBT transect AX25 was implemented to monitor the variability in the upper layer interocean exchanges between South Africa and Antarctica on seasonal and interannual time scales. In addition, by exploiting the relationship between upper ocean temperature and dynamic height, XBTs are used to infer velocities and to monitor the various frontal locations in the region.

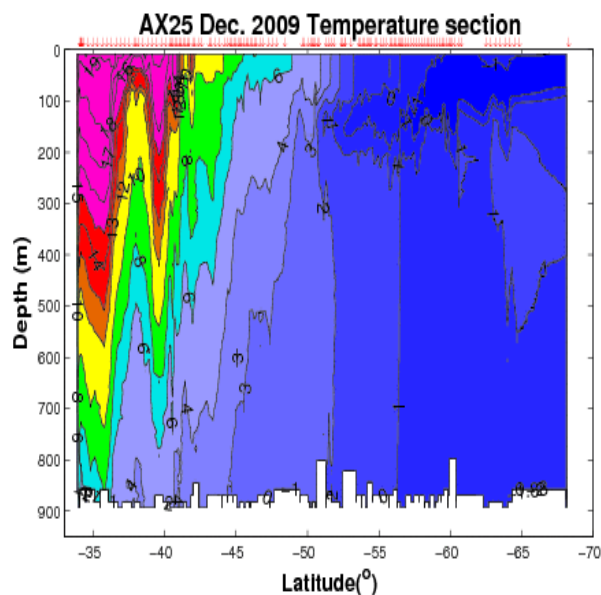
### Project and Cruise track history

The monitoring of the AX25 began February 25, 2004 (Figure 1). Figure 2 shows the transects followed since 2004.



**Figure 1:** Table of times of all section occupations since the program began in 20044.

**Figure 2:** Map of station locations of all XBT sections taken along AX25 since the program began in 2004.



**Figure 3.** This figure shows a temperature section of a typical crossing along the AX25 route. Temperature contours shown on the figure are in °C. This section was taken aboard the *R/V Agulhas* in December of 2009.

### **XBT Deployment Plan**

**PLEASE NOTE: IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE RIDER TO ENTER THE SHIP'S IMO NUMBER AND CALLSIGN INTO THE SEAS METADATA SETUP. This information is included in the first page of this Cruise Plan**

1. From **Port of Departure, Cape Town (200m deep)** to approximately **52° S**:
  - High resolution sampling every 20 to 25 km.
2. From **52° S** to as far as the ice will allow deployments:
  - High Resolution sampling every 20-25 km.

For the return journey, simply reverse these instructions.

If the ship is traveling at a different speed it will be necessary to adjust the launch times (see Table 1 as a quick guide). If the planned cruise track deviates significantly from the outline above please notify Molly Baringer at (305)361-4345 or (305)710-9240, email: [Molly.Baringer@noaa.gov](mailto:Molly.Baringer@noaa.gov).

XBT Drop rate						
Ship Speed (knots)	Desired Sampling Space					
	10 km	15 km	20 km	30 km	40 km	50 km
10	32 min	48 min	1 h 04 min	1 hr 37 min	2 hr 09 min	2 hr 42 min
11	29 min	43 min	58 min	1 hr 28 min	1 hr 57 min	2 hr 27 min
12	27 min	40 min	54 min	1 hr 21 min	1 hr 47 min	2 hr 15 min
13	25 min	37 min	50 min	1 hr 15 min	1 hr 39 min	2 hr 04 min
14	23 min	34 min	46 min	1 hr 10 min	1 hr 32 min	1 hr 55 min
15	22 min	33 min	44 min	1 hr 05 min	1 hr 26 min	1 hr 48 min
16	20 min	30 min	40 min	1 hr 00 min	1 hr 20 min	1 hr 41 min
17	19 min	29 min	38 min	57 min	1 hr 16 min	1 hr 35 min
18	18 min	27 min	36 min	54 min	1 hr 11 min	1 hr 30 min
19	17 min	25 min	34 min	51 min	1 hr 08 min	1 hr 25 min
20	16 min	24 min	32 min	48 min	1 hr 04 min	1 hr 20 min
21	15 min	22 min	30 min	46 min	1 hr 01 min	1 hr 17 min
22	14 min	21 min	28 min	44 min	58 min	1 hr 13 min
23	13 min	20 min	26 min	42 min	56 min	1 hr 10 min
24	13 min	19 min	25 min	40 min	53 min	1 hr 07 min
25	12 min	18 min	24 min	38 min	51 min	1 hr 04 min

*Table 1. Time interval between XBT launches based on ship speed and desired sampling spacing.*

If the planned sampling is interrupted for any reason (such as an autolauncher failure) the procedure will be to drop another probe as close as possible to the planned drop and continue with the desired spacing of the XBTs for that section of the cruise track (according to the above guide). If a serious malfunction of the autolauncher occurs then manually deploy the XBTs from the stern of the ship using the hand launcher. While this happens, please be troubleshooting the problems and be in contact with Zach Barton, Ulises Rivero ([Ulises.Rivero@noaa.gov](mailto:Ulises.Rivero@noaa.gov)), Kyle Seaton ([Kyle.Seaton@noaa.gov](mailto:Kyle.Seaton@noaa.gov)), Andy Stefanick ([Andrew.Stefanick@noaa.gov](mailto:Andrew.Stefanick@noaa.gov)), or Pedro Pena ([pedro.pena@noaa.gov](mailto:pedro.pena@noaa.gov)).

The ship-rider will work as needed around the clock to:

- 1) check and load the auto-launcher;
- 2) check that the system is logging data correctly;
- 3) keep a log of problems, repeated casts due to suspected XBT errors and weather conditions;
- 4) inform NOAA personnel of any difficulties; and,
- 5) deploy ARGO profiling floats and surface drifting buoys as necessary.

### **ARGO float deployments**

No ARGO floats will be deployed during this cruise.

### **Drifter deployments**

No Drifting buoys will be deployed during this cruise.

### **Summary**

This high resolution XBT transect will require 218 probes plus an anticipated 10% failure rate of 22 probes for each Atlantic crossing. This requires a total of 240 probes per crossing. Drifting buoys and ARGO floats might be deployed during this cruise.

## **High Density Check-in list for the Ship Rider**

Date Completed

**The ship rider is the primary person responsible for ensuring the success of the cruise. This includes checking that all the necessary equipment has been tested and loaded in the ship, verifying weather conditions, ship schedules, possible ship delays etc. Before traveling the rider must have all documents and contact information required for the cruise.**

### ***Equipment testing:***

- Verify that all equipment to be sent from AOML has been thoroughly tested before shipping.
- Comment if not testing was performed:

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### ***Check equipment shipping and loading:***

- Contact Robert Roddy (*Robert.J.Roddy@noaa.gov*, 305 361-4434), and/or Zach Barton (*Zach.Barton@noaa.gov*, 305-361-4548) to confirm the status of equipment shipment and loading.

### ***Contact support at AOML***

- Contact Robert Roddy and Zach Barton at least two days in advance of the cruise's planned date to coordinate ship deliveries, share itineraries, etc.

### ***Record height of deployments:***

- Please take note of and put in your report the approximate height that the deployments were made from. (Top of the water to where the probe was launched from.)

## High Density Check-out list for the Ship Rider

Date Completed

### *Data submission to AOML after the cruise*

The following files should be sent to AOML after the cruise, regardless of data transmissions during the cruise:

1. All XBT data in .BIN, and electronic XBT drop log sheet.
2. HistoryAllAttempts.txt – found at c:\ProgramFiles\AMVERSEAS\XBT\ARCHIVE
3. Cruise summary for the web page
4. Cruise Report
5. Drifting buoy log sheet and ARGO float log sheet in case of deployments of these instruments

The data can be submitted in a CD, memory stick or in a zip file as an email attachment.

### *Sent the XBT data and HistoryAllAttempts.txt to each of the following:*

Robert Roddy	<i>Robert.J.Roddy@noaa.gov</i>	_____
Yeun-Ho Daneshzadeh	<i>Yeun-Ho.Chong@noaa.gov</i>	_____
Francis Bringas	<i>Francis.Bringas@noaa.gov</i>	_____
Jaime Soto	<i>Jaime.Soto@noaa.gov</i>	_____
Zach Barton	<i>Zach.Barton@noaa.gov</i>	_____

### *Argo deployment information while underway:*

e-mailed to: *aoml.argo@noaa.gov* and *deploymentinfo@whoi.edu* \_\_\_\_\_

### *Drifting buoy deployment information while underway:*

Shaun Dolk *Shaun.Dolk@noaa.gov* \_\_\_\_\_

***Cruise summary for the webpage.*** This information goes on the webpage and includes the number of XBTs deployed, drifters/floats deployed, any data affecting issues, etc. Send an email to each of the following with your summary:

Gustavo Goni	<i>Gustavo.Goni@noaa.gov</i>	_____
Molly Baringer	<i>Molly.Baringer@noaa.gov</i>	_____
Yeun-Ho Daneshzadeh	<i>Yeun-Ho.Chong@noaa.gov</i>	_____
Silvia Garzoli	<i>Silvia.Garzoli@noaa.gov</i>	_____
Francis Bringas	<i>Francis.Bringas@noaa.gov</i>	_____

***Please email a Cruise Report to Molly Baringer, Silvia Garzoli, Gustavo Goni, Zach Barton, Robert Roddy, and Francis Bringas stating the following:***

- XBTs deployed
- Drifters deployed (ID, date, time, latitude, longitude)
- Profiling floats deployed (start time, deployment time, latitude, longitude)
- GTS transmission (Real-time, twice a day, problems)
- Additional equipment, tools, supplies needed
- Problems
- Recommendations
- Other narrative