

Summary of cruise AX180614 between Zarate and Durban

AX180614 was conducted aboard the Triton Ace. I boarded the ship at Zarate on the morning of the 29^h of May 2014 and I did the installation and testing of the equipment. One test drop was done when leaving Campana port on the 01st June. The ship went to Campana harbor for some fuel issues before initiating the trip across the Atlantic ocean the day 31st June 2014 00:53 local time.

The drops for the AX180614 commenced on the 02nd June until the ship reached longitude 019° East near shore of East London Southafrican city during the morning of the 11th June 2014.

In total 263 XBT's were dropped. High density drops commenced from a depth of 200m (52° West) once leaving de la Plata River on the 02nd June and continued until 03rd June when The intermediate density stage started (40° West) until reach 01° West on 16 08th June, after this second stage, I begun the high Density stage until reach 019° 09' East on 11th June when depth of 200 m was reached near of East London shore. There were some computer freezing and that was the cause of many manual automatics launches,

Overall the voyage went well. We had fine weather for most of the trip. However we experienced rough wind conditions from the 02^{sdn} to 4th of June.

The Triton Ace Structure isn't an ideal ship for XBT drops since the point of release is far to the water resulting in some faulty drops due to launching position. The distance from the cabin to the launcher and antenna is too far making the installation in that place almost impossible, so I had to use a rope store near to the pope to set the equipment up. There isn't power supply in that place so I have to requested a extension cord to crew, the rope store must be opened all day long, exposing the computers and electronic devices to the salt spray, wind, cold ect. Also it's a very isolated place without direct communications with the bridge, and very noisy for the propellers proximity. The system amverseas required full time attention that way I were stay in that place 23 hours per diem. (And that could be very stressing).

We arrived to East London pier on June 12th where we remained quiet approximately eight hours accomplishing load and unloading of merchandises. The ship finally arrive to Durban pier on 13th June 21:35 pm local time.

The equipment remains on board until the ships come back to U.S.A.

The Captain and crew were extremely hospitable during the trip. the crew was always available to assist as I requested, And a special mention of the Chief Officer Mr. Kumar Binay KESHRI for his commitment whit the environmental care, professionalism and support along this travel .

Dr. (Ph) Luis Yurquina
Environmental Rights Specialist
Oceanographic Tecnichian of Hidrographic Navy Service.
Argentina.

U.S Government-NOAA Rider