***Cruise Report (25/05/2016 – 06/06/2016)***

***AX180516 – Wisteria Ace***

***Technical rider: Chris Jacobs***

Departing Zarate on the 25th May, the Wisteria Ace headed down the river to make its crossing from Beunos Aires, Argentina to Durban, South Africa (AX18). This transect was undertaken with two different densities of deployments being completed, namely: High Density deployment with XBTs being deployed every 15 Km (Zarate to 40°W; 0°W to 18.5°E) and intermediate density, XBTs deployed every 30 Km (40°W to 0°W).

Travelling at an average speed of 17 Knots, this meant high density deployments had a drop every 27mins and intermediate deployments had a drop every 60mins. Numerous teething problems were encountered with the first three deployments spiking severely. This was due to the connector box not being ground directly to the ship’s frame. A new connection was made and thereafter deployments went smoothly. Various problems were encountered in trying to set up the Iridium emailing system however after a few emails received via the captain, containing new configurations and instructions, the email system was setup and worked perfectly.

With the accommodation being over 100m away and 6 decks up, many a cold night was spent in the rope room where the computer was setup. This was made slightly bearable with a camping chair and cot being provided for sleep. Although this wasn’t all too comfortable, the Wisteria Ace is an ideal vessel for the AX18 transect. A huge thank you goes out to the Captain Sabarish Raman, all the officers, and crew of the Wisteria Ace, for all the effort and assistance, with the deployments. Many thanks for the great hospitality aboard the cruise and for always making me feel welcome and safe throughout the cruise, especially during the severe weather.