**Cruise Report: AX8 Dec 2008**

**Ship Rider:** Adrian Webb

a) **XBTs deployed:** 232

b) **Drifters deployed:** Four drifters were deployed as follows.

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| ***ID DEPLOYED POSITION*** |
| 79028 12/23/2008 17:10 16 59.5' S 003 50.1' W |
| 78849 12/24/2008 12:02 12 49.1' S 006 14.2' W |
| 79014 12/25/2008 04:45 09 01.6' S 012 01.4' W |
| 79030 12/25/2008 22:18 04 59.6' S 015 54.1' W |

c) **Profiling floats deployed:** Three floats were deployed as follows.

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| ***ID DEPLOYED POSITION*** |
| 887/84816 12/23/2008 17:09 16 59.7' S 003 50.1' W |
| 759/71583 12/23/2008 10:20 18 58.7' S 001 42.3' W |
| 895/84819 12/24/2008 13:35 12 28.5' S 008 35.6' W |

d) **Equipment tools and supplies needed:** Auto-Launcher weather cover needs a new zip

e) **Problems:** Primary Auto-Launcher failed near end of cruise. Possibly caused by bad weather

f) **Recommendations:** None

g) **Other narrative:** The Safmarine Ngami will be moving from the AX 8 (SA USA) run in February to join the West Africa line. Possible replacement is the Safmarine Oranje

h) **Ship contact:** Captain Louise Angel

 email: 809ngami@maersk.com

**Summary of cruise AX81208 between Cape Town and Newark**

AX81208 was conducted aboard the M/V Safmarine Ngami. The ship left Cape Town on the 20th December. The anchor position outside Newark was reached on the 4th January. Unfortunately this ship will be moving off the AX 8 run in February. The replacement ship for this line is likely to be the Safmarine Oranje.

In total 232 XBTs were deployed. Low density deployments, at a rate of four per day, were started at 32oS. Intermediate density deployments commenced from 20oS. High density measurements were started at 10oS. Intermediate density deployments were resumed from 10oN until 20oN. For the remainder of the cruise low density measurements were made at a rate of four per day.

The weather was good for most of the cruise. However from 1 January to 4 January there were winds gusting at up to 70 knots. This bad weather appeared to have caused some XBT wire breaks or stretches necessitating a number of redeployments. The auto-launcher also failed electrically during this bad weather event. The auto-launcher was not replaced after the failure. Instead hand launches were performed until the end of the cruise.