**Cruise Report: AX8 Jul 2008**

WOCE XBT Line: AX8 0708

XBT Dates: Jul. 03 - Jul. 19, 2008

Ship: M/V Safmarine Ngami

Cruise Summary:

AX80708 was conducted aboard the M/V Safmarine Ngami. The ship left Cape Town on the 03rd July 2008. The final destination of Philadelphia was reached on the 19th July. In total 270 XBT's were deployed. Intermediate density deployments commenced from 32oS. High density measurements were done from 10oS to 20oS. 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 until the XBT's ran out on the 17th July 2008.

Five drifters were deployed as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| ***ID***  |  ***DEPLOYED***  | ***POSITION*** |
| 78880  | 07/08/2008-09:23  | 16º 00.00'S 006º 27.90'W |
| 78887  | 07/08/2008-23:19  | 13º 00.00'S 009º 55.50'W |
| 78885  | 07/11/2008-16:06  | 02º 00.00'N 021º 53.78'W |
| 72010  | 07/14/2008-12:18  | 03º 00.09'N 023º 47.32'W |
| 72008  | 07/14/2008-20:41  | 05º 00.85'N 025º 41.42'W |

The weather for the first half of the cruise wasn't great. We left Cape Town on the 4th July 2008 in stormy conditions with near gale force winds, large swells and rain. These conditions resulted in the primary launcher failing, so I had to change it with the spare which worked quite well for the rest of the trip except for the fact that it only has six working tubes. Then on the 8th July 2008 we got into the Trade winds which are great for sailing, but not so great when trying to launch XBT's off the back of the ship. With the Safmarine Ngami having a large flat vertical stern(Transom) quite a few launches failed either due to the fresh Southerly wind blowing the XBT against the stern, or the Southerly swell pushing it up against the stern. About six launches failed due to these conditions. The rest of the cruise was generally fine, with moderate wind and swell and partly cloudy and warm to hot conditions. We got the swell from Bertha on the 17th, so the ship wasrocking a bit, but due to the fact that my XBT's had already run out it didn't affect my operation. Other than the above mentioned problems no further technical problems were experienced.

F. Mckay

Port Meteorological Officer Durban, South Africa