

Summary of cruise AX080714 between Cape Town and Newark

AX080614 was conducted aboard the Maersk Vilnius. I boarded the ship in Cape Town on the 30th of June 2014. Gus McKay performed the installation and testing of the equipment prior to my boarding in Durban. After departing from Cape Town the drops for the AX080614 began on the 1st of July at approximately 200m until the 22nd of July 2014 when approximately 200m was reached.

A total of 517 XBTs were deployed, 8 profiling drifters and 11 ARGO floats throughout the voyage.

The Maersk Vilnius continues to be an ideal ship for XBT deployments as it maintains a steady speed and the point of release is near to the waterline, resulting in only a few faulty drops due to the launching position. The distance from the cabin to the launcher and antenna is close, thus making installation simpler and more efficient.

The Captain and crew were exceptionally hospitable during the voyage and as always the crew were eager to assist wherever possible during the voyage.

A.Blair

Physical Oceanographer