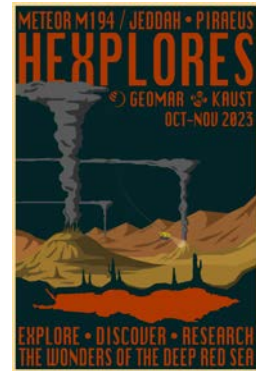


RV METEOR

Expedition M194 HEXPLORES

10.10. – 07.11.2023 | Jeddah, SA – Piraeus, GR



4. Weekly Report (30.10. – 05.11.2023)

Week four started with some last gravity coring stations in the Majarrah Mounds hydrothermal field at Hatiba Mons volcano. Here, we could recover a sediment core with a temperature of 51°C at the base of the core. After the three gravity coring stations, the scientific program of M194 was finished, and we headed towards the Saudi coast to disembark the participants from the different Saudi entities. Unfortunately, the planned disembarkation at KAUST was rejected at the last minute by the local authorities, and thus, we had to go to Jeddah. Thanks to the immediate support from KAUST CMR and the port agency, the group of seven KAUSTians, two NCW employees, and the GEOSA observer left RV Meteor with samples and equipment at around 16:30 hrs on Monday afternoon.



The M194 HEXPLORES science party and some Meteor crew in front of the ROV Kiel 6000.
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The rest of the week, we were in transit, worked on the last core descriptions, started to clean up the labs, did paperwork, and organized container logistics and reports. The ROV team packed the Kiel 6000 system, which took a few days. On the evening

of 01 November, we reached the Gulf of Suez and, one day later, our waiting position for the Suez convoy. We entered the Suez Canal on 03 November, 14:00 local time, and arrived in the Mediterranean Sea around 22:00 in the evening the same day. Now, we are in the Sea of Crete, and our estimated time of arrival in Piraeus, Greece, is Monday morning, 06 November.

Even though the last days on board were calm, especially without the 10 colleagues we left in Jeddah, we are all doing well, and the atmosphere on board is still excellent.

On behalf of all participants of M194, greetings and goodbye from RV METEOR,



Chief Scientist

(GEOMAR Helmholtz-Center for Ocean Research Kiel)