



The last 5 days at sea before reaching the port of Bremerhaven were all about the logistical preparations for the port call. The stowage of the two equipment containers was planned and the transport of scientific frozen goods was organised. Beforehand, daily station work was carried out as far as the English Channel as well as off the mouth of the Rhine in order to obtain important data for microplastics in this region. Afterwards, the equipment in the laboratories and on deck was dismantled and stowed away and laboratories were tidied up and cleaned.

The data from the previous weeks were still partly processed on board and all participants already prepared their contributions for the scientific cruise report during the last days of the cruise.

During MSM106, a total of 1001 discrete biological and chemical samples were collected, some of which have already been measured and analysed on board, but the majority still need to be measured ashore. A total of 29 CTD profiles and 20 days of continuous measurements for biomass, currents (both up to 800 m water depth) and biogeochemistry (surface) were also carried out. Part of the data is now being utilised by some of the students as part of their Master's theses.

Due to favourable currents in the English Channel (MARIA S. MARIAN sailed up to 16 knots over ground), we were able to lock and moor at the pier in Bremerhaven late on Friday evening (18.3.2022). All participants are tired from the past weeks of hard work and are looking forward to the upcoming time in Germany.

Finally, we would like to thank the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the German Research Foundation for their financial support of this expedition. We would also like to thank the Thünen Institute of Sea Fisheries, the Instituto do Mar Mindelo, the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research and the Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde for their personnel and technical support during the expedition. Special thanks also go to the German Research Fleet Coordination Centre, the shipping company Briese and especially Captain Ralf Schmidt and his crew for the professional preparation and smooth execution of the expedition.

Greetings from Björn Fiedler and all MSM106 participants

GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel