

# R/V MARIA S. MERIAN

## Cruise MSM72

Heraklion – Cádiz

02.03.2018 – 03.04.2018

5<sup>th</sup> weekly report: 02.04.2018



During the last week of our cruise we carried out CTD and uCTD measurements in the western part of the Mediterranean Sea south of the Balearic Islands, in the Alboran Sea and in the Strait of Gibraltar (Fig. 1). The weather at the beginning of the week was windy with an average of 5 Bft, but allowed all work. We progressed quickly and according to plan. On Friday, however, we had sunshine but winds up to 9 Bft, so the uCTD casts had to be discontinued. On Saturday the weather calmed down again, the uCTD work was resumed and on Easter Sunday, April 1st, we could drive our last CTD station, No. 136, at calm sea in the Strait of Gibraltar, in the afternoon. We celebrated this with a little drink. After the station we set course to the port of Cádiz, where we arrived on Monday morning. After the last CTD, the continuous data acquisition of the ADCPs and the thermosalinograph were also completed on the transit. We started to dismantle our equipment, load the container and clean the laboratories. Due to the cancelled stations at the beginning of this cruise, we entered the port of Cádiz one day earlier than expected.

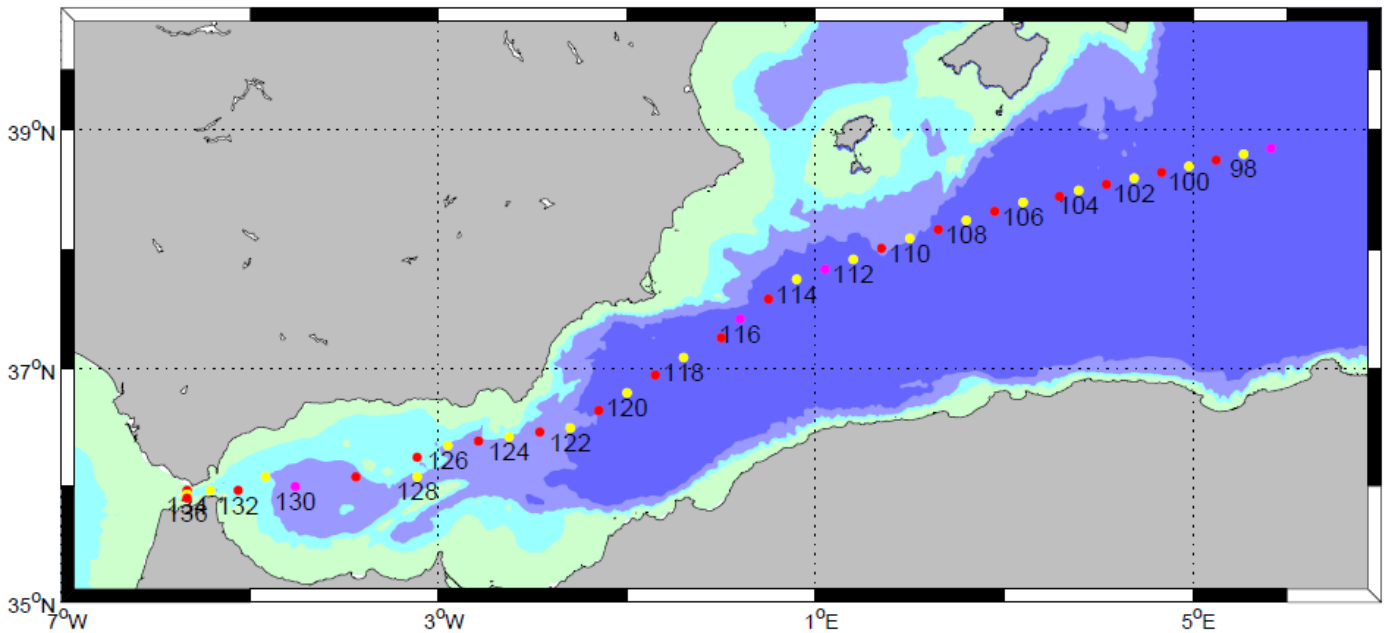


Fig. 1: Stations taken during the fifth week of the cruise. Red dots: CTD stations including chemical sampling. Magenta dots: CTD stations with two casts. Yellow dots: CTD stations without chemical sampling..

Since the end of last week a pigeon has been living with us on board. She lives in a cardboard box on the quarterdeck. In bad weather, she was also allowed to set up camp in the hangar. The ship's doctor provided her with princely care and her chances of survival are therefore good. She was also one of the most photographed models on board. She left the ship near Málaga.

On Wednesday, 28.03, we held a seminar to discuss our results and to agree on publications. We also took a group picture. On Thursday, 29.03., around 14:30 the sailing yacht Malizia II crossed our course with Boris Hermann, one of Germany's most famous extreme sailors, on board. Not only we took pictures but also MERIAN was taken by the yacht with the help of a drone.



*Fig. 2: left: Racing yacht Malizia II, top right: group picture of the scientific crew of MSM72, on the bottom right: our guest Mr. Pigeon*

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the crew of MARIA S. MERIAN. The welcome on board was warm and the helpfulness from the bridge, over the deck to the engine was great. Thanks also to the two cooks and Iris. We were always well looked after.

Greetings on behalf of all scientists on board

*D. Hainbucher*

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