

R/V METEOR

Cruise M167

(GPF18-2\_040)

11.10.2020 - 05.11.2020

Emden – Emden



## 2. Weekly report, 12. - 18.10.2020

For most part of the second week onboard R/V METEOR we steamed towards the easternmost of our two study areas, the Alboran Sea. The transit, which started with a somewhat rough crossing of the English Channel, ended on October 17 at night with a quiet entrance in the Mediterranean Sea.

During the whole week the scientists, which are mostly new to the ship, had the chance to get acquainted with the life on board and had to participate to the mandatory safety drill simulating an abandon ship situation. Science also kept the M167 participants busy, as laboratories were prepared for the first “core on deck”, science meetings were held daily in the conference room, and the first multibeam profiles were taken during transit, in order to contribute to the DAM Underway Bathymetry project.



Figure 1: a) scientists and crew during the abandon ship drill, b) Heinz Voigt-Wentzel shooting the XBT for multibeam calibration (Photo: W. Menapace)

On Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> we were finally at our first station and, due to a calm sea state, we were able to dive with the ROV SQUID from MARUM, in order to retrieve the CORK observatory we deployed on the seafloor during the M149 expedition in 2018.

Unfortunately, the first dive failed due to a hydraulic problem and on the second deployment, we could not find the CORK in the dive area. We will try again during the next week, being able to cover more seafloor surface with multiple dives. After the ROV SQUID dive we were also able to successfully deploy a small COTS-ROV from MARUM. This so called “BlueROV” underwent a number of modifications compared to the original product with respect to manipulation, control, etc. More exercises are planned in the coming days to establish more versatile and affordable ROV-work in the near future.



*Figure 2: ROV SQUID being deployed, b) BlueROV resting on deck after deployment (Photo: W. Menapace)*

The scientific program just started and all the M167 participants are looking forward to give their contribution to the expedition. Everyone on board is feeling well and is enjoying the warm temperatures and the nice weather.

*On behalf of the entire M167 Team:  
Walter Menapace (Chief Scientist)  
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*Walter Menapace*