

FS METEOR

M174 "N-Amazon"

Las Palmas - Emden, 12.04. - 30.05.2021



8. weekly report 24. - 30.05.2021

This is the last weekly report of Meteor's longest research cruise to date, the length owed to the pandemic and long travels to and from the study area. We continued to take "underway samples" until May 25, but that too has finally ended since the last filtration on May 26 was done. After that, packing and box stacking really picked up so we could finish stowing containers, or preparing equipment from our U.S. colleagues for pickup by other transportation services. Scientific meetings took place once a day in the conference room during which lectures were given, with most lectures revolving around uptake and fixation of nitrogen, phytoplankton composition, and amino acids in plankton. Contributions on physical processes and CTD data helped us put some perspective on what was happening along our cruise. Trace metals were reported on, and the last of the 13 presentations brought phosphate and the important role of this nutrient into focus.

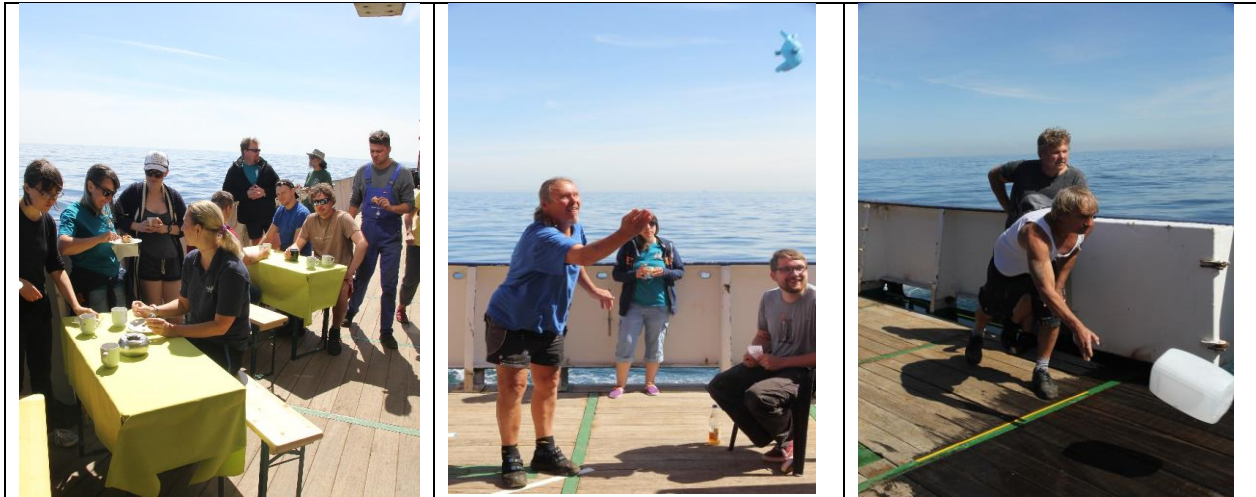
Besides these occupations, there were a lot of additional activities during the last week: The table tennis tournament, organized by Jan Parlow, the 1st steward, has been decided (congratulations to Robert Mars from the IOW!), an engine tour was offered and taken by all, the crew had to complete an important firefighting exercise and, in addition, a "man overboard" was simulated in the form of some buoys that had to be rescued. Everything went very calmly, professionally and smoothly, as far as we can judge at all.

For us scientists, a safety drill was conducted with a positioning exercise on deck followed by the "fitting" of the survival suits. The brave among us were allowed to drop into the rather cold (12°C) North Sea water of the pool and learned how important it is to push the air out of the suit when putting it on, so that one does not float with the feet on top.



Safety exercise with swimming experience in cold North Sea water and "man overboard" maneuver

The last action was a little surprise from us scientists for the crew. A celebration at an unusual time of day in the middle of the afternoon during working hours, which the captain gladly agreed to. We had prepared a "Meteor-fair" with cake, coffee, candy and games on deck. After the first refreshment, everyone who felt like it could go through various game stations, from "Meet the Pütz", "Curling with canister" to "Treasure hunt". Points were collected at a total of 5 stations and at the end there were small prizes for everyone.



Meteor-fair with coffee, cake, and games on deck – Thanks to the crew.

We had the best weather, sunshine, no wind and a wonderful shared experience with lots of fun for everyone.

An unusual highlight of the last week on board was the defense of a master's thesis. A student assistant, Angelina Klett, had handed in her master's thesis the day before the voyage began and had found the leisure on board to prepare her defense. Since the examination office in Rostock also had no problem with it, the defense could take place on board, the supervisors of the thesis and other experts were on board. Everything went well.

At the end of this research cruise, which was a complete success in every respect - scientifically as well as humanly - and which all of us on board are very grateful to have taken place, I would like to thank you once again. Thanks to Rainer Hammacher, the captain, Derk, Benjamin and Magnus on the bridge, to Alex and his people on deck, to Björn and the technical crew, to the WTD with Stefan, Heinz and Cathy, and of course to Mike, Jan and the other service staff, Martina, Petra, Patrick, and Guomin. Thanks also to the German research fleet coordination centre, especially to the DFG and Briesse Research. Without all those mentioned, these data and samples could not have been obtained and some PhD theses and PostDoc projects would not have run.

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Link zum Blog der Reise: <https://www.io-warnemuende.de/fs-meteor-m174-2021.html>