

29/01. – 04/02/2011: week 2 - From Pylos (Greece) to Valletta (Malta)

(Rapporteur Tassos Belias)

This weeks operations were located in the west Ionian sea. The day we left Pylos, on 29-01-11, we recovered the lander (Project CoralFish) and we took deep-sea CTD measurements throughout the night. On Sunday, 30-01-11, the major task was the recovery of a 3300 m mooring line, in operation for 1 year, equipped with optical sensors and with 100 high accuracy temperature sensors. While the line was pulled onto the ship the sensors were retrieved and inspected by the scientific observers. This recovery was followed by shallow water CTD measurements throughout the night.

Meanwhile the compact mooring with 25 glass spheres (LOM) was being prepared on the deck of the ship to be deployed on Monday, 31-01-11. The final preparations prior to the deployment were made on Monday morning, including placing the LOM on its anchor base, starting the sensors, etc. While lowering the LOM into the water it got entangled in a fishing line, so it was brought back on deck cleared up and deployed without any problems. The release of the LOM, the unfurling of the string and the recovery of it all was done on the same day, in the afternoon.

On the Tuesday, 01-02-11, the operations included the recovery of the lander (Project CoralFish) from about 5000m depth, the calibration of the high accuracy temperature sensors with the CTD in the deep-sea and the unfurling tests of the LOEI, a wind-up mooring line, deployed in the afternoon and recovered on Wednesday, 02-02-11, morning. We continued with the lander (Project CoralFish) deployment, followed by another test deployment of the LOEI.

On Thursday, 03-02-11, first we recovered the mooring line deployed the day before with the LOEI and went on with recovery of the lander (Project CoralFish). On Friday, 04-02-11 we recovered the last mooring line with high accuracy temperature sensors and proceeded with the calibration of these temperature sensors with the CTD in the deep-sea. This concludes this weeks' operations.



The lander (Project CoralFish) recovered.



The LOM picked up from the surface after unrolling.



The LOEI without weight.