



SO277 (GPF 19-2_012)



7. Weekly report, 21.9.-27.9.2020

This week we completed the scientific program of OMAX and started the transit back home.

On Sunday we arrived in the study area off Stromboli. We started the work with a CTD cast southeast of Stromboli to calibrate the echosounders at 14:00. For the following 30 hours until Monday evening we carried out a bathymetric survey of the west flank of Stromboli and the surrounding seafloor. Last October a major eruption took place in this area and the aim of this survey is to map the distribution of the volcanic deposits associated with that eruption. This is a unique opportunity because Italian colleagues have carried out a similar bathymetric survey of the flank of Mt. Stromboli in 2017. By calculating the difference between that data and our new data we will get precise information on the distribution and the type of volcanic deposition. This will provide valuable insights into the growth of island volcanoes and the results will inform the analysis of potential weakness zones in volcanic edifices such as the flank of Mt. Etna.

Since Monday evening we are on our way home. We have already passed the western Mediterranean and we reached the Strait of Gibraltar in the early hours of yesterday morning. Presently we are off the Portuguese coast abeam of Lisbon. The weather forecast bodes well for a calm crossing of the Bay of Biscay two days from now as we hope to sneak through a gap between two low pressure systems.

Every body onboard is well.

On behalf of all cruise participants,

Christian Berndt, Chief scientist

GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel



Bathymetric survey of the west flank of Mt. Stromboli. Sciara del Fuoco, the site of last year's eruption can be seen to the left. Photo: Thore Sager.