



SO277 (GPF 19-2_012)



8. Weekly report, 28.9.-3.10.2020

The last six days of SO277 were fairly uneventful while we completed the transit from the study area in the Mediterranean Sea back to Emden. There were some high winds from the west when we entered the English Channel and proceeded through the North Sea, but as it was either blowing from astern or we were under shelter of the French and Dutch coast they did not affect our progress.

The only exciting incident was a training operation by the Dutch coast guard on Thursday evening. A helicopter approached R/V Sonne at dusk and the crew inquired if it would be ok to practice the winching of their officers onto the vessel and back into the helicopter. It was quite impressive to watch the skill of the helicopter pilot keeping his aircraft at precisely the same relative position with respect to the ship while two officers were lowered to the heli-deck and then picked up again after the helicopter had circled the ship once.

We entered the port of Emden on Saturday morning and left the ship by 2pm.

At this point I would like to thank captain Oliver Meyer and his entire crew for their support and friendship during the voyage. Their skill and commitment ensured the successful completion of the voyage.

On behalf of all cruise participants,

Christian Berndt, Chief scientist

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