

Expedition SO280 (GPF 20-3\_087)

- IceDivA

Emden - Emden

Weekly report 5

1 - 7 February 2021



## Coming Home!

...from 36 ° N shortly after Madeira back to Emden at 53 ° N. Our original latitudinal transect ranged from 42 ° N to 32 ° N. Although we had to move two work areas further south, we are on our way back with more samples than expected. Thanks at this point to the German Weather Service (DWD) for the excellent job, guiding us on our way!

As a winter trip in the North Atlantic, our expedition remained a challenge until the end. We managed to miss the worst parts of the storm, but with still endured tail winds and waves we reached the English Channel in the middle of the week, where there was unexpectedly sunny weather awaiting us, which we took advantage of for a spontaneous group photo. Less than an hour later, under a rain cloud, we noticed that this spontaneity was just right. Fortunately, we had already used the good weather in the morning to stow all the boxes from the laboratories back into the containers.



**Figure 1:** The scientific IceDivA team. From left to right - back row: Mia Schumacher, James Taylor, Frederik Bonk, Eileen Deeken, Alexander Kieneke, Franziska Iwan, Vivien Hartmann, Corinna Jensen, Tjardo Stoffers, Simon Tewes. - Right center: Julia Jacoby & Rebecca Mensing. - Front row: Sven Hoffmann, Maik Wilsenack, Pedro Martinez, Kai George, Karen Jeskulke, Sahar Khodami, Saskia Brix, Nicole Gatzemeier, Katrin Linse.

As a contrast to the sunny moments of the return voyage, we received the sad news that a member of the deck crew on board R/V METEOR had died. The loss of a long-time colleague and well-known member of the deck crew of the Briese shipping company affected us all very much. Our condolences go out to the bereaved, and to friends and work colleagues.



**Figure 2:** Left: Sorting marine invertebrates at the sink on deck - Saskia Brix explains what can be seen from the mud.

**Right:** sifting through plankton in the laboratory. Nicole Gatzmeier shows Tjardo Stoffers and Julia Jacoby blue shimmering samples (see Figure 3).

The return trip was not wasted. Still dealing with shock and grief, the work inside the ship continued with tidying up the laboratories, securing samples, entering databases and expedition logistics. Our on-board seminars were also well received. Both knowledge transfer and software training such as “QGIS” were part of the program. Our five students received a crash course on board in marine invertebrates with the full spectrum of life forms at a depth of 5000m. This is a unique opportunity where in the current situation teaching at universities can only take place to a very limited extent without intern-ships, or not at all.



**Figure 3:** Four of the five blue ones from the Neuston catamaran: the small jellyfish *Porpita porpita*, the thread snail *Glaucus sp.*, The sailing jellyfish *Velella velalla*, blue-white shrimp (*Caridea*) and the metallic blue shimmering woodlice *Idotea metallica* on a foam raft of the violet snail.

The highlight of the week was the emotional and honourable farewell to Captain Lutz Mallon on the evening of February 5th into his well-deserved retirement. A look back at a seaman's life: "We're going home, captain, we'll get off in Emden!" It was an honour for us to get to know and appreciate Lutz Mallon on this trip. Thank you very much and gladly again!



**Figure 4:** Goodbye ... through the storm on the sun into the sun and after sunset, winter snowfall awaits us in northern Germany. What a contrast! Our corona-free life on board over the past few weeks and our return to the pandemic are just as rich in contrast. (From left to right: James Taylor, Mia Schumacher, Rebecca Mensing, Simon Tewes, Tjardo Stoffers, Vivien Hartmann, Alexander Kieneke, Corinna Jensen)

Sunday, February 7th 2021

Saskia Brix & James Taylor  
Chief Scientist Team, Senckenberg am Meer