

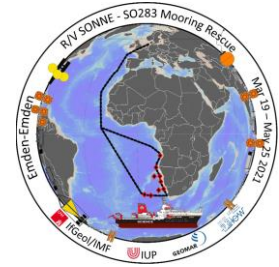
R/V SONNE

SO283 "Mooring Rescue"

Emden - Emden, 19.03. - 25.05.2021

10. Weekly Report

17.05. - 22.05.2021



The successful end of a long journey

It is commonly said that horses always run a little faster when they return to their stables. Does this also apply to ships when the home port calls? In any case, in the last almost three weeks - also due to good weather, favorable current conditions and perfectly adjusted ship's diesel engines - we have completed our transit home very quickly and effectively, so that we have now actually arrived in Emden three days before the originally planned end of the voyage. But who could be blamed for not being able to spend Pentecost in the company of his loved ones again after 64 days at sea without interruption, after more than 16,970 nautical miles? So, after two stormy days in the North Sea, the SONNE moored in the port of Emden on Saturday, 22.05.2021 at 11:00 o'clock. Here the circle of a long, exciting, successful and also extraordinary research cruise is closed.

What remains? We were able to fulfill our plans to rescue existing moorings - *Mooring Rescue* - to 100%. That's a great feeling, because taking the long journey and coming back empty-handed at the end would have clearly weighed on the mood and questioned the meaning of this cruise. In between the actual mooring work, we were able to take countless samples and record data, so the ship's time was really put to the best use. So a big green tick can really be put behind the scientific and technical goals.

However, it should also be noted that all the Corona measures and test strategies were correctly assessed in advance and excellently implemented. This started with a really very good quarantine time in the hotel in Varel. But it also showed that even the short stops in the ports of Cape Town and Walvis Bay did not endanger this trip. Thanks to everyone who acted prudently so that no one fell ill during the trip. And I would also like to say a big thank you again to all the protagonists and supporters who really went to their own limits in the run-up to the cruise so that this trip could take place at all. There were actually several moments when this trip threatened to fail in the run-up due to external influences. It was only through spirited effort that we were really able to make this ship expedition a reality in the end.

When you are at sea for 64 days without interruption, it also poses a great challenge to the ship. Everyone is equally affected by this - crew and science alike. We received excellent technical support and could come with any request - help was always given and a solution was always found. We were welcomed on board openly and warmly. Under the leadership of Captain Oliver Meyer, there was always togetherness for each other, never togetherness next to each other, and certainly not togetherness against each other. From my many years of experience, this is not something that can be taken for granted, especially not with more than two months together on board. And last but not least, we were also catered for really excellently. We will all miss the rich and delicious selection of dishes - a big thank you to the ship's cooks and the galley.

So now we are leaving our "second home". In addition to the samples and data, we will take many impressions and experiences back to our institutes and home with us that will resonate for a long time to come. For some, this is the last research cruise in their long scientific lives. For others, it was the first trip ever. We all know the privilege of having lived Corona-free for two months during these difficult times. No masks, no distance regulations, no contact restrictions. We are also very grateful for this and enjoyed our time on board very much.



The scientific team of SO283.

I close the weekly reports and the cruise with a greeting to all those at home and interested who have accompanied and followed this expedition from land.

Emden, 22.05.2021

Niko Lahajnar
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