

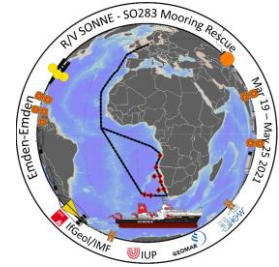
# SONNE 283

## Mooring Rescue

Emden – Emden, 19.03. – 25.05.2021

### 3. Weekly Report

29.03.-04.04.2021



## Arrived in the southern hemisphere

A unique feature of this research cruise is the very long journey to the working area. This is not surprising, because anyone who starts in Emden and travels by ship all the way down to the South Atlantic needs a lot of staying power and a well-oiled machine. We have both. After not even 14 days of steaming, we have already reached a first goal: crossing the equator. On 31.03.21 exactly at 10:37:48 UTC we made the jump from the northern hemisphere to the southern hemisphere. And contrary to the old myths of seafaring, so far no sea monsters or foaming seas are waiting for us.

On the contrary, we are continuing to diligently advance our preparations for the mooring operations of the TRR181 program. The systems are slowly taking shape and more and more sections are lying assembled on deck. You can clearly feel that we are approaching the working region in the South Atlantic nautical mile by nautical mile.



Flotation modules are prepared and assembled for the upcoming TRR181 program moorings (© Universität Hamburg/Knut Heinatz).

Careful preparation of long-term mooring systems also includes testing the acoustic releases. If something must not break or where technical problems must not occur, it is with the acoustic releases. They are the guarantee that the systems can be recovered after a long measuring time in the sea. For this reason, the devices are checked through with special care in advance. This includes a test run under real pressure and distance conditions. For this purpose, a metal box was loaded with all the releases and sent into the depths of the Atlantic. All the releases passed their test run, in individual cases with the exception of minor technical refinements, and can be used for the following mooring operations.



A cage full of acoustic releases goes on a test run in the depths of the Atlantic Ocean (© Universität Hamburg/Niko Lahajnar).

In addition to the mooring preparation, work in the laboratories continues unabated. The online measuring systems are better adjusted every day and produce a large amount of continuous data during the crossing into the South Atlantic. And the plankton samples from the net hauls are also being examined and processed with great care and enthusiasm.

So we have actually hardly noticed that we have now been at sea for over two weeks. And yet we are also reminded again and again that time does not stand still - not here on board and not at home either. A special feature awaited us today for lunch. The ship's mess hall was festively decorated and we were able to enjoy a culinary feast for Easter conjured up by the ship's cooks. It was a welcome change from the regular research routine at sea - thank you.

All are well and greet those at home with sunny Easter wishes from aboard.

At Sea, 04.04.2021

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