

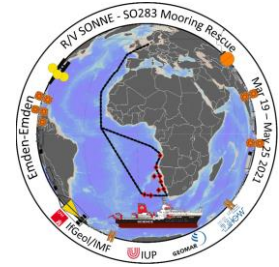
# SONNE 283

## Mooring Rescue

Emden – Emden, 19.03. – 25.05.2021

### 9. Weekly Report

10.05.-16.05.2021



## The long transit back home

On the regular research cruises, you usually only have a few days to clean up the labs after the last station, sort the samples, back up the data and pack the boxes. Often everything is packed into boxes quickly and hastily, and it is then doubly difficult to catch up on the work from the ship at the home institutes. Ship is ship, land is land. In our case, the situation is quite different. We have a good 2.5 weeks or 5,500 nautical miles from the last station to the home port to complete, evaluate, clean up, repair and maintain everything that would otherwise have to be caught up on at home. In addition, we have continued to record our underway measurement systems as well as the ship's own ADCPs and also the EK-60 until 12.05. until just before the Exclusive Economic Zone of Cape Verde. From this point of view, the long transit is also a benefit for science - we definitely get the best out of it. Many a laboratory was therefore still very busy this week. Filtration, microscopy, documentation and repairs were going on. So we didn't really notice that we had crossed the equator again on May 9 in the direction of the northern hemisphere. On Friday evening, May 14, we already passed the Tropic of Cancer, on Saturday, May 15. the Canary Islands were already east of us. Today on Sunday Madeira was almost within reach. The sea was noticeably rougher in the last few days due to the coastal parallel winds off NW Africa, but this still only had a very moderate effect on RV SONNE. The tropical climate was slowly over; yes, it actually went mile by mile towards the north, towards home.



Dr. Martin Schmidt from IOW taking a deep CTD profile. (© Universität Hamburg/Niko Lahajnar).

The transit time was also used to look back. This was not only about the cruise itself, but also about individual cruise participants. For example, there are young students on board, some of whom are embarking on their first research cruise and have performed very bravely. And in contrast to the newcomers, an eventful scientific research career is slowly coming to an end with

this cruise. After more than 30 research expeditions, on this ship Dr. Martin Schmidt from the IOW is embarking on his last major voyage. He was able to tell the young people countless anecdotes from his life as a researcher and always kept a watchful eye on data quality on this voyage as well. Lessons learned.

What lessons remain? Mooring work is a challenge for everyone involved. Planning starts well before the trip at the institutes. Mistakes are usually not forgiven and often result in loss of data or equipment. Therefore, even on board, careful preparation is the basic requirement to safely and successfully moor systems in the water for a long time. It is no coincidence that mooring operations actively involve all the ship's key personnel. A plankton net or CTD can be run a second time if necessary - that's not possible with unplugged, long moorings. And all hands on deck are needed. It is teamwork, good planning with fine-tuned coordination, and yes, a lot of physical effort, too. My gloves are witnesses to the fact that without tackling, no system would go out or in successfully. Everyone pitched in to make *Mooring Rescue* a success.



Working gloves before and after a research cruise focusing on mooring work (© Universität Hamburg/ Niko Lahajnar).

So for the last few days we are still working on our samples and data before actually heading back to our home port in Emden next week.

On board everyone is well and greets those who stayed at home - we are happy to come home.

At sea, 16.05.2021

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