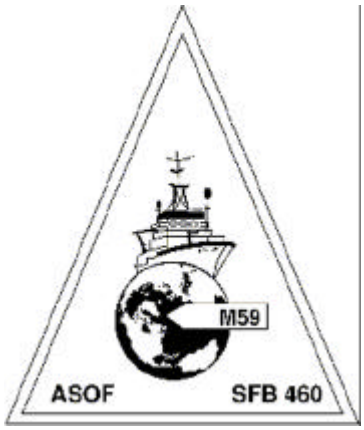
METEOR Reise M59, Fahrtabschnitt 1
Ponta Delgada – Reykjavik
3. Wochenbericht, 14. Juli – 20. Juli 2003



The weather conditions of the third week of the cruise were as favourable as those of the previous week were not. The CTD work started along EU ASOF-W section 4 Sunday morning July 13th at 0510 in the deepest part the section and were completed Monday noon July 14th just 5 nm from the coast of Greenland. Course was again set for the EU ASOF-W section 3 and the first of nine moorings to be deployed along this section. The plan was to start deployment early morning Tuesday July 15th and continue deployment work all day until all moorings were out. The night of the 15th was used to make a detailed search for the missing F1 mooring and a last attempt to recover F2 ADCP, unfortunately neither proved to be successful.

The deployment of the first EU ASOF-W mooring F2 started on Tuesday morning July 15th at 0705. The mooring was out 22 minutes later at 0727. During the morning we deployed moorings: F2, O1 and F1. The afternoon began with the maiden deep-water (1800 m) deployment of HOMER. This instrument is moored in a frame and pays out (and reels in) fishing line headed by a buoyant glass sphere containing a CTD. It was designed specifically to examine the variability in the properties and thickness of the dense Denmark Strait overflow layer that the current meter moorings monitor. This first HOMER has been programmed to make a profile of the bottom 400 m once a week until it is recovered next year, future deployments should extend its range and reduce the time between samples. If all goes well HOMER could become an important oceanographic tool allowing high temporal resolution measurements to be made in areas where sampling has been infrequent, irregular or nearly impossible (e.g. under ice) until now. The HOMER team paid tribute to the FS Meteor and her crew which allowed them to make the deployment possible.

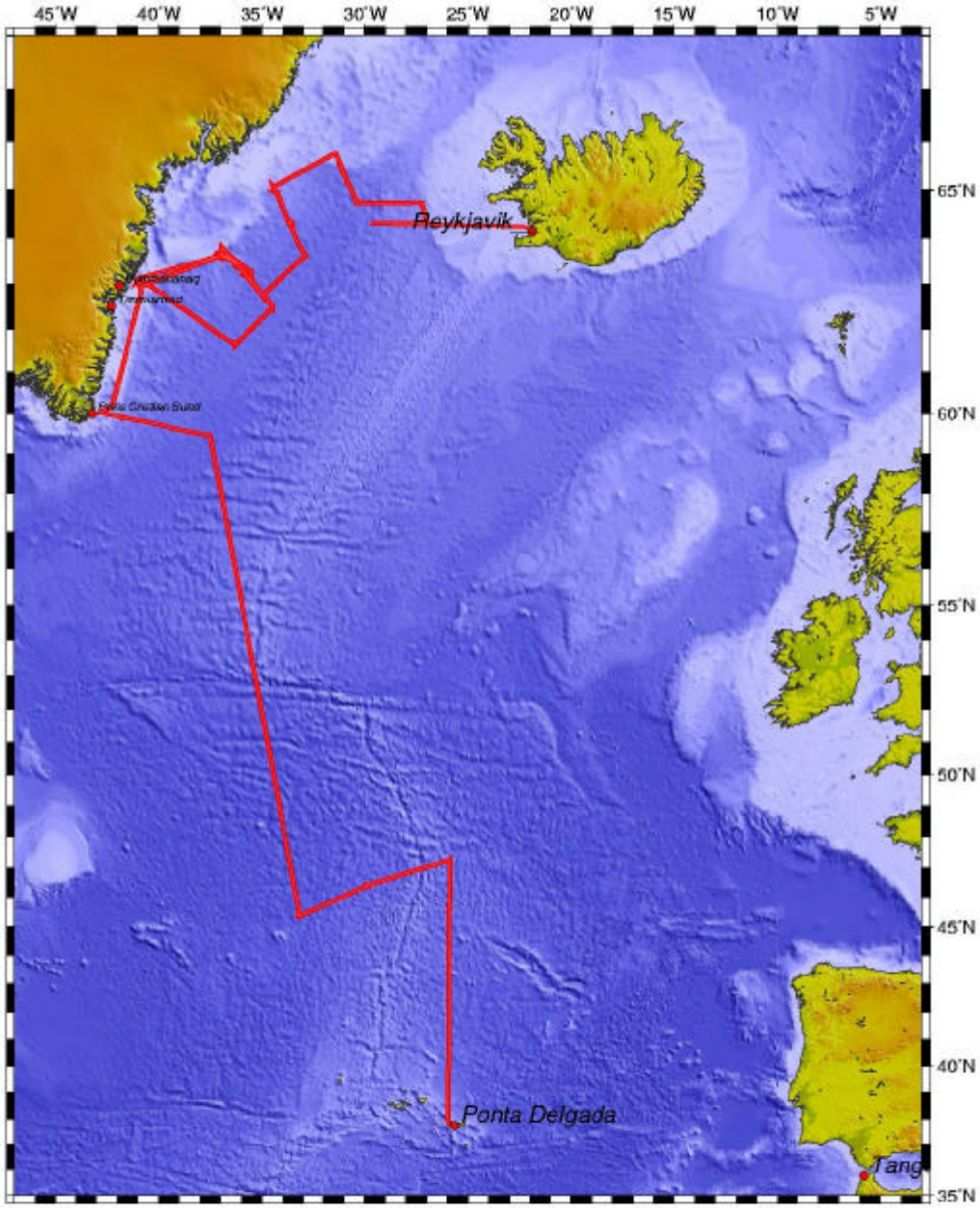
After HOMER, moorings UK1, G1 and UK2 were deployed during the afternoon in extremely good weather. Rumour has it that scientists not on duty could be found roasting themselves on the ‘Peildeck’, this is unconfirmed but we did have a clear sighting of 3-5 Fin whales close to the ship. The two last moorings G2 and O2 were deployed during the evening with the last mooring O2 completed at 2145. METEOR cruise M59/1 celebrated the recovery of the 100th Aanderaa current meter from East Greenland since the start of the EU

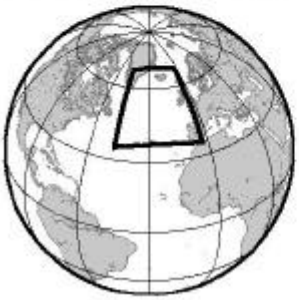
VEINS programme in 1997. The loss of moorings on this cruise highlighted the thought that though we may control their deployment it is within the gift of the ocean to allow us to recover them.

CTD work commenced along ASOF-W section 2 on Wednesday morning July 16th at 0415 in the deepest part of the section. Section 2 was finished on Thursday morning July 17th at 0645 The next ASOF-W section, section 1, was started on Thursday afternoon July 17th at 1345 in the shallowest part of the Greenland continental shelf and ended on the Icelandic shelf Saturday morning July 19th at 0356. The last ASOF-W CTD section was started Saturday morning July 19th at 0609. This section coincides with the Icelandic standard section Faxaflói but covers only the steepest part of the Icelandic continental slope. After the last station was occupied on Saturday evening July 19th at 1820 course was set for Reykjavík. RV METEOR berthed in Reykjavík Sunday afternoon July 20th at 1400.

As the cruise draws to a conclusion all on board are fine, a little more tanned than last week and they send their best wishes to their loved ones back home and look forward to seeing them soon. We very much appreciate the professionalism and seamanship of the crew, officers and Captain of the F.S. Meteor which made this work a success.

The Figures below show the cruise track of RV METEOR from June 27th to July 20th (Figure by RV METEOR) and HOMER on deck and during deployment (Photo by J. Read).





M59/1 Ponta Delgada - Reykjavik
26.06.2003 - 22.07.2003
University of Hamburg
1:30,000,000 scale
Mercator projection (WGS 84)
km
0 500
Map processed with GMT on board RV Meteor at cruise M59/1 by RF Forschungsschiffahrt GmbH