A16N, leg 2. Week 1 update

Greetings from the Ronald H. Brown!

We set sail from Rota, Spain on April 13th at 14:45, and completed the boarding at 15:15, when five foreign nationals joined the science crew already aboard, via a water taxi named "Obama". The scientists who were already doing leg 1 had a chance to rest and reload batteries during the break in Spain, and so we face leg 2 in good spirits.

The ship has some generator issues that prevent her from sailing at good speed and so we started our transit….and transited at 9-10kn (with wind and currents in our favor) for almost 5 days. Our first target: a repeat of the last station occupied by leg 1.


The Ronald H. Brown in the Cadiz Bay, seen from the water taxi. Photo credit: Laura Cimoli

The question on our minds: how would the longer than expected break (2.5 weeks) impact the synopticity of the whole line?

On April 17th, at 23:00 UTC we finally found out. We sampled again station 75 (76 on this leg). Based on a quick look at CTD data from both stations, we can work with this (see figure on the right). Good to know we are starting on the right foot!

During our long transit, we also had time to decorate our remaining BGC-floats that we hope to deploy during this second leg.
We have already deployed our first, on station 80 (Apr 19th). That was a busy station, complete with full cast, bio cast, BGC-Argo float and drifter deployment.
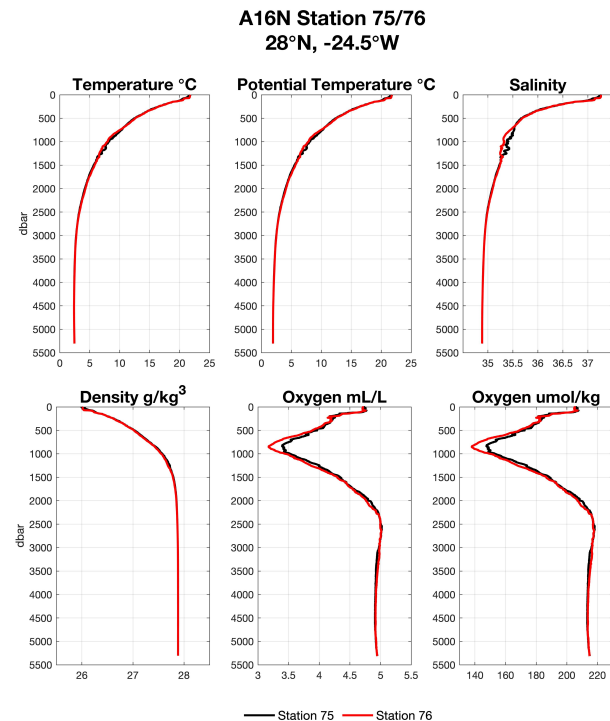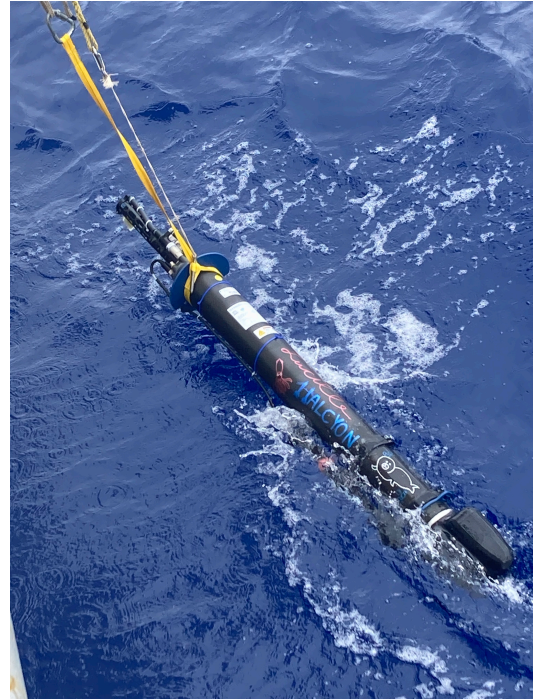

A16N stations 75 (leg 1, black) and 76 (leg 2, red). Figure by Leah Chomiak (CIMAS/AOML)

Good luck Lucille! May you provide us with many good BGC profiles for the next few years!

As of the writing on this, we are completing the cast on station 84. Looking out for the weather as we head north.

Onwards!

BGC-Argo float F1354, aka Lucille, starts her voyage on a mission to profile the North Atlantic Ocean. Photo credit: Laura Cimoli