

A20 Weekly Cruise update #3:

This last week has been one of pleasant routine. We've become a well-oiled machine of prepping the CTD rosette, deploying, recovering and sampling the rosette, and steaming to the next station. Wash, rinse, repeat. The weather has been beautiful; generally sunny with temps in the 70's. The waters are calm and clear, with the CTD visible down to about 20m. The good weather and smooth operations have allowed us to maintain 35 nm spacing between stations.

As tradition dictates, at the deepest station (43) we secured a mesh bag filled with Styrofoam cups, decorated by scientists and crew, to the rosette and sent them to the bottom of the ocean. Going to a depth of 5850 m the bag, nearly overflowing when it entered the water, came back less than a quarter full. The great pressure from that depth forcing all the air out of the Styrofoam and shrinking the cups (fig 1).

Over the last week we've covered ~14 degrees of latitude and are now firmly within the tropics. To enjoy the warm sunny weather, we had a Sunday barbeque on the back deck allowing for a welcome break from the routine we have become accustomed to. During the last several stations Mahi-Mahi and other fish have been observed swimming around the ship.

We've made swift progress on the transect, and there now remains only about a week left of science before we turn north west and head into port.



Figure 1. Before (left) and after (right) photos of the decorated Styrofoam cups.

Current Counts:

60 stations

11 SOFAR drifters

7 BGC-Argo floats

3 Core Argo floats

Ryan Woosley – Chief Scientist

Andreas Thurnherr – Co-Chief Scientist