

June 30 – July 5, 2022



We are happy to report another week of perfect weather, calm seas and great progress. Our luck with the weather has not been limited to the large scale. During almost every CTD deployment and recovery there is rain visible somewhere nearby, but so far, our deck teams have not gotten more than a sprinkle or two.

The only potentially significant technical problem to report is that our main winch has sprung a small leak at one of

the main bearings of the drum. Since the leak is not in the hydraulic system, the oil is not under pressure and there has not been any contamination or spillage. (The leaking oil is easily caught in a pan.) Unless the leak gets significantly worse it is unlikely that our operations will be affected. (Since the only remaining backup is the A-frame this is a significant potential concern.)

The operations have continued to go well. Since replacing many of the Niskin lanyards there have not been any more broken ones, and the only bottle problems during the last week has been the occasional minor leak, as well as a single bottle that may have been deployed with the lower cap uncocked. The day before yesterday we deployed our third float, again during the day shift.

We have just finished at station 179 (125:59.520 W) and begun steaming to the next waypoint. Some days ago, we crossed the subtropical front and, based on satellite altimetry, we expect to begin sampling the California Current sometime tonight. Clouds have also changed from clusters of cumulus to the continuous deck of stratus clouds that usually dissipate in the afternoon.

Outside work, card games, board games and a ping pong tournament have been keeping many of the scientists and crew entertained.

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(chief and co-chief scientists)