

„ Sunday 22nd to Tuesday 24th of April everybody arrived in Funchal on Madeira. Our container with the seismic equipment was loaded onto Poseidon on the 24th and we unpacked and stowed everything on the 25th. At 9am on the 26th we left port to steam northeast towards the working area south of Portugal in the Gulf of Cadiz. Wind force 5 to 6 right out of port gave a proper introduction to the two of us who had never been on a cruise. After a bad day and some pills they are feeling fine now like the rest of us.

After leaving the exclusive economical zone around Madeira we did a test CTD and XBT station in the afternoon of the 27th. All instruments worked well and we already found thermohaline structures which should be reflective to seismic sound.

Today on the 28th we finally reached the work area to start with the deployment of two autonomous glider systems. Unfortunately a late test with one of them resulted in a failure we had already seen on a previous cruise. Since this failure is rather serious (it lost all communication and it was only after power cycling able to reconnect) it is not going to get wet. Three hours ago we deployed the second glider and after initial tests are now doing the first serious dive. We hope that a small warning this instrument...

That's how far I came with this report.

Here's the rest.

The small warning turned out to be more serious. The glider has problems with its fin. Though the steering worked most of the time, it complained that the speed with which the fin turned was too low. We recovered the second glider shortly after.

I do, however, have hope that this problem can be overcome so that it can be redeployed.

At the moment we are doing a CTD/XBT transect towards the location of two ocean bottom hydrophones (OBH) which we intend to recover tomorrow. Later that day we hope to be joined by RRS Discovery and begin the seismic oceanography experiment in earnest.

Despite these setbacks the mood is still good and everybody on board enjoys the good food and the hospitality of Poseidon's crew. “