

„Last week ended with the recovery of a malfunctioning glider. We then turned northeast and began work on a CTD/XBT/LADCP transect. On Sunday 29th of April we recovered 2 OBH systems that were deployed by RRS Discovery some 10 days earlier. We then turned around to a location at which RRS Discovery had done repeated seismic data collections. A few hours later we started deploying our Vertical Seismic Profiler (VSP), 19 self-recording hydrophones lowered from the ship.

FS Poseidon's captain and mates bested themselves when, for the next 18 hours, they were able to keep the ship steady within a cable of the nominal position. RRS Discovery must have believed that we had an automated positioning system. After recovering the VSP we did a 13 hour CTD-Yoyo station while RRS Discovery deployed their seismic streamer system. After she had passed FS Poseidon we together began a seismic/CTD/XBT/LADCP transect towards the northeast. Following the constantly moving RRS Discovery we approached the end of their streamer, did a CTD station, and afterwards hurried to catch up again. Doing this we were and are able to keep a station distance of about 12nm.

An XBT was thrown between each CTD to increase resolution. At the end of the transect a star shaped pattern of seismic data collections was planned that we intended to complement with CTDs, XBTs, Microstructure profiles, and OBHs. When we arrived there on the 2nd of May the weather had, however, degraded to Beaufort 7-8 and RRS Discovery took in their streamer. For the next 24 hours we took some shelter near Faro. On the 3rd we finally did the star shape. All this within miles of the extremely busy shipping lane between Gibraltar and Cape St. Vincent.

After the star we returned to the transect this time in southwesterly direction.

Now we are nearing its end and hope to again attempt a glider deployment. The conditions are, however, not favourable at the moment with winds 6 to 7 and rough seas. Five hours later: Indeed the conditions did not allow the deployment of the glider. A whale next to the ship and pigeon on deck today, a group of Dolphins surfing our bow wave near Faro, and terns at night were welcome distractions from the work around the clock. “