

Short report

ALKOR Cruise 388: 31. 03. 04. 04. 2012

Cruise ALKOR 388 was dedicated to the recovery of a small observation lander deployed in Sept 2011. Station work in the UK EEZ was permitted for the area of the abandoned well site 22/4b which has been intensively studied by our institution during previous research cruises with the German RV ALKOR (AL66, 259, 290, 374).

The cruise started in Kiel at 09:30h on 31.03. The captain chose a route through the Kattegat and Skagerrak to the area of investigation in the northern North Sea at 57°55, 17N / 01° 37, 51E. During the 01. 04. we had to call at Fredrikshavn (North Denmark) to avoid an approaching gale. In the morning of the 02. 04 we left Fredrikshavn and rounded Cape Skagen. During our passage through the Skagerrak our advance was significantly retarded by strong winds from NW reducing our speed to an average of 5-6kn.

Meanwhile the weather forecast announced another gale with wind speeds of BF 8-9 for the sector Forties where our study area is located. Since only 4 days were left for our cruise and with more than 250nm to go and the forecast of a gale for our study site we decided to turn around and to cancel our cruise to the UK EEZ. We arrived back at Kiel on the 04. 04. 2012.