

Short cruise report of ALKOR journey 383

The cruise served as PRACTICAL AT SEA for the students of Biological Oceanography at the IFM-GEOMAR Kiel.

The objective was to give an impression of the special circumstances of scientific work on board of a research vessel.

For that purpose measurement of the hydrography, nutrient chemistry and the plankton composition as well as benthos investigations with grab, dredge and video were executed.

The journey led from the Kiel Bay with moderate salinities into the Kattegat/Skagerrak with high salinities to Frederikshavn with a change of scientific personnel and from there back to Kiel low salinities.

Samples were taken on 16 pelagic stations. Benthos samples have been taken on xx stations

On each pelagic station the following instruments were used: water bottle rosette equipped with CTD, fluorescence and oxygen probes, Secchi - disc, quantameter, multi-fluorescence probe and Apstein plankton nets with 20 and 200µm gauze. The methods for the benthos stations were: hydrographic probe, video in a towed frame, 5 grabs and one dredge tow for Epifauna.

The measurements should show the differences of the plankton communities in the different areas and explain these differences on the basis of the physical and chemical analyses of the environmental parameters. The cruises were planned to show the steep hydrographical gradient from Kiel Bay to the Northern Kattegatt and its biological consequences.