

Cruise Report of Proceedings

Ship... Frederick Russell

Cruise No. 6/82

Cruise Dates (Inclusive, port to port) May 10 - 20, 1982

It is requested that the following aspects of the cruise may be covered in this report of proceedings for dispatch or delivery to the Director, Research Vessel Services immediately on return to port.

- a) Main objectives of the cruise.
- b) Geographical area. Reference stations or points in latitude and longitude.
- c) Sea and weather conditions encountered.
- d) Conduct of cruise, main problems encountered and success or otherwise of the programme.
- e) Equipment performance.
- f) Ship performance.
- g) Any recommendations.
- h) Signature and date.

Brief comments are preferred but if necessary please continue on another sheet.

- a) Examination of the sea bed by TV and by grab and dredge sampling. Fauna and deposits in tide swept areas, and under more stable conditions in the western English Channel.
- b) English Channel. North of $49^{\circ}50'N$, and between $01^{\circ}30'W$ and $04^{\circ}45'W$. Stations in the following areas:
 - 1) S. of Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight.
 - 2) The Solent, off Yarmouth.
 - 3) S. of St Alban's Head.
 - 4) S. of Portland.
 - 5) Off the S. Devon and Cornwall coasts between Start Point and the Lizard.
- c) Apart from strong E. winds for the first 2 days, conditions were generally calm, but with sea fog on one or two days.
- d) The main objectives of the cruise were accomplished. However off the Devon and Cornwall coasts a thick suspension of moribund plankton near the bottom made TV viewing difficult, and work was transferred to stations farther offshore where the water was clearer. A total of 60 hours viewing time with underwater TV was obtained during the cruise.
- e) The scientific equipment worked well, with only minor mishaps throughout the cruise.
- f) The RRS Frederick Russell performed well at the very slow speeds necessary for towing the TV sledge.

The new plotting room on the upper deck was found very suitable for controlling operations during the long TV tows, the main laboratories being used for maintenance of the underwater gear, sorting of dredge samples etc.

The Decca Navigator repeater was installed in the plotting room for this cruise.

Other requirements in this room are:

- 1) Telephone

- 2) It would be an advantage if the Simrad Echo Sounder were capable of installation in the plotting room. The PDR with Mufax Recorder at present in this room is not really suitable for shallow water operation, and is extravagant on recording paper when used in this way.
- g) The lack of a good intercommunication system on the Frederick Russell continues to be a hindrance to proper operation of the ship, and is a potential danger to personnel. The shortcomings of the existing system were noted in my two cruise reports for 1981, and good communication was stated as a requirement for the 1982 cruise. While the portable radios available on board are no doubt a help for certain operations such as docking, they are not really suitable for control of launching and hauling of gear. Other NERC ships have a reliable Tannoy System which meets this requirement, and the absence of such a system on Frederick Russell presents a serious deficiency which is a continuing risk both to crew and scientific personnel.

N.A. Holme

N.A. Holme
25 May 1982

