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Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

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CRUISE REPORT CHAIN 112, LEGS I and II 6 March - 5 April, 1973

By

R. Heinmiller, Chief Scientist

August 1973

TECHNICAL REPORT Prepared for the Office of Naval Research under Contract N00014-56-C0241; NR 083-004.

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Ferris Webster, Acting Chairman Department of Physical Oceanography

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Cruise Report

CHAIN 112, Legs I and II R. Heinmiller, Chief Scientist

The W.H.O.I. portion of the MODE I array was to be installed on the first two legs of CHAIN 112, along with other work to be done at Site D. The original schedule called for the ship to leave Woods Hole on the 6th of March and return on the 20th. After a two-day layover in Woods Hole, Leg II was scheduled for 22 March through 2 April, terminating in Bermuda.

Objectives of the cruises were:

- Setting of sixteen intermediate moorings and one surface mooring at the MODE Site (centered at 28° N., 69° 40'W.). See Figure 4.
- Recovery of two MODE-Site maintenance moorings
 - Recovery of three intermediate moorings in the vicinity of Site D (39° 10'N., 70° 00'W.).
 - Setting of three new intermediate moorings at Site D. These were to be set by a faking-box technique, rather than the conventional method
 - CTDs at each new mooring
 - Bathymetry and meteorological observations
 - Gravity section, Woods Hole to MODE area and return

Leg I

R/V CHAIN left Woods Hole at 1840R on the 6th of March, 1973. We spent several hours in Vineyard Sound calibrating the radio direction finder, using a transmitter on the W.H.O.I. dock. After a CTD on the Continental Shelf, the ship proceeded south, following the 70th meridian to facilitate a gravity section. On the morning of 9 March, just inside the northern edge of the MODE area, we stopped for a series of acoustic anchor release test lowerings which lasted seven hours. All releases checked out without problems.

Early on the morning of the 10th we arrived at the site of Station 474, which had been set in December, 1972 as a long-term site-maintenance mooring, and which was close to the proposed site of MODE moorings #1 and #25. After a check of the release on 474 we proceeded to set the surface mooring (#25) about three miles north, designated Station 480. This mooring used an experimental float and wire terminations but had no release or backup recovery glass ball section. It was intended primarily as a navigation marker. Station 474 was then recovered before launching MODE mooring #1, Station 481. Normal launch procedure for both surface and subsurface moorings is to drop the flotation and pay out the mooring line and instruments while the ship steams at about two knots. The anchor is attached and dropped and allowed to freefall to the bottom. The transponder in the anchor release is tracked until the anchor bottoms. All moorings are shown as set in the figures. Release checks were completed and the ship underway by 2300R on the 10th. The ship moved to a site three miles north of 481 for a CTD.

Early on the morning of the 11th we recovered <u>Station 473</u>, the other site-maintenance mooring set in December. After a bathymetric survey we set <u>Station 482</u>, MODE #8. This mooring had to be towed about two miles at the end of the launch to get the proper depth due to set from a surface current estimated at one and one-half knots. A CTD was taken three miles away.

The CHAIN then proceeded to the site of MODE #15, the first of the moorings in the outer ring of six. This mooring was set as

-2-

Station 483 on the morning of the 12th. Moorings #16 (Station 484), #11 (Station 485), and #12 (Station 486) in quick succession. In each case a bathymetric survey was done before setting and a CTD was done after launch about three miles away. During the setting of <u>Station 486</u> a large tanker passed astern, between the second and third clusters of glass balls. However, the vessel apparently did not come in contact with the mooring line.

We arrived at the site of MODE mooring #13 at 2230R on 14 March. Since the bottom was flat no survey was done. The mooring was launched without difficulty and the anchor dropped. However, after descending to a depth of about 3,000 meters the acoustic transponder began coming back up. The radio was still on the surface. The mooring string was recovered and it was found that the twenty-meter nylon tagline had parted at the splice just below the release. This aborted mooring was designated <u>Station 487</u>. After a CTD the mooring was reset as Station 488 on the morning of the 15th.

<u>Station 489</u> (MODE #14) was set without difficulty early on the 16th and after a CTD the ship proceeded north towards Site D. CHAIN arrived at Site D on the morning of the 18th in steadily worsening weather. It was decided to leave all the Site-D moorings until Leg II. The ship docked in Woods Hole at 1100R on 19 March. The ship's track in the MODE array on Leg I is shown in Figure 1.

Leg II

Work scheduled for Leg II now included, besides the originally planned eight moorings, all three of the Site-D moorings. CTDs, bathymetry, and meteorological observations were to be continued.

-3-

The scheduled sailing date of 22 March was first postponed one day due to bad weather. On the morning of the 23rd an auxiliary generator breakdown forced an additional delay. CHAIN eventually left Woods Hole at 1540R on 25 March. Discussions were held with the MODE Ship Committee and an extension until 4 April was tentatively granted.

Upon arrival at the location of <u>Station 479</u> early on the 26th two releases were tested. Shortly after, <u>Station 479</u> was released and recovered.

Station 490, the replacement mooring, was set from the faking box in steadily deteriorating weather. In this launch technique the entire mooring is assembled and laid out in an especially-designed box on the fantail. The anchor is dropped and the mooring allowed to run out freely with the ship steaming slowly. Launch took ten minutes and anchor bottoming another twenty. There appeared to be fouling in the middle glass-ball section.

By the time the ship had arrived at <u>Station 477</u> and we had released the mooring the weather had worsened. Recovery of the mooring was difficult and several glass balls were broken during the operation. <u>Station 491</u>, the replacement mooring, was set in the afternoon. Due to heavy seas the mooring did not pay out of the faking box smoothly and some minor fouling was observed.

By the time we reached <u>Station 478</u>, the last of the Site-D moorings to be replaced, the weather was too rough to allow any work. The ship jogged into the wind all night of the 26th and all day the 27th. The faking box suffered some damage on the fantail.

-4-

By the time the weather had moderated on the afternoon of the 28th it had been decided, in view of the condition of the faking box and the fouling problems on earlier launchs, to launch the final Site-D mooring by the conventional method.

At 1830R on the 28th <u>Station 478</u> was released and hauled without difficulty. A release test was done late in the evening and <u>Station</u> <u>492</u> was launched in the early hours of March 29. Moorings in the Site-D area are shown in Figure 2. The ship proceeded south towards the MODE area.

Shortly after entering the MODE area on the 30th we did a series of release lowerings and a test CTD, and continued south. After checking <u>Station 489</u> (MODE #14) we arrived at the proposed site of mooring #6 at noon on March 31. After a brief bottom survey the mooring was launched as <u>Station 493</u>, followed by a CTD which revealed several problems with the CTD winch. The wire and winch were to give continual trouble for the rest of Leg II.

<u>Station 494</u> (MODE #5) was set early on the 1st of April, followed by a CTD. While steaming towards the site of MODE #10 the CTD wire was streamed over the side and rewound in an effort to improve the lay on the drum and the level winding. While the wire was streamed, the ship passed close by a buoy which was later identified as a drift buoy belonging to the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory.

The launch of <u>Station 495</u> (MODE #10) went smoothly but the setting of MODE #9 was delayed several hours into the early hours of April 2, by computer difficulties which prevented final calculation of the shot lengths. Launch was finally begun just before 0500Q and the anchor was dropped at 0624Q. However, about an hour later, at a depth of

-5-

approximately 3,000 meters, the transponder began indicating decreasing ranges. The mooring was picked up and it was found that the nylon anchor tag line had been cut about three meters below the release, in a manner very similar to <u>Station 487</u> on Leg I. The aborted station was <u>496</u>. The gear was reset successfully as <u>Station 497</u>. The ship moved several miles away for a CTD and a test of an AMF depth telemetering pinger on the CTD wire.

After <u>Station 498</u> (MODE #4) was set, the release on the central mooring, <u>Station 481</u>, was checked before proceeding to the surface mooring. The 2398 kc radio beacon on the surface float had failed sometime earlier. A party was sent aboard in an attempt to repair it. However, it was found that the well containing the transmitter had leaked and the electronics had been damaged. The transmitter and keyer package was removed from the float.

MODE moorings #3 (Station 499), #2 (Station 500), and #7 (Station 501) were set in quick succession, each followed by a CTD.

The ship left the site of <u>Station 501</u> at 0930Q on 4 April and arrived in St. Georges, Bermuda at 1035Q on the 5th. Figure 3 shows the ship's track in the MODE array on Leg II.

Subsequent inspection of the parted anchor tag lines from <u>Stations</u> <u>487</u> and <u>496</u> indicated that the probable cause of failure was tangling of the tag line in the acoustic release.

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Experiments Initiated and/or Completed and Date Collected on CHAIN 112, Legs I and II

Recovery of MODE site maintenance moorings (473 and 474) - Schmitz
 Initiation of MODE I array (480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 488, 489, 493, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500 and 501) - Schmitz, Fofonoff, Webster, Wunsch

- Continuation of long-term mooring array on the Slope near Site D (replaced <u>477, 478</u>, and <u>479</u> with <u>490</u>, <u>491</u> and <u>492</u>) R. Thompson
 Test of Alden surface buoy (<u>480</u>) Walden
- Gravity section Dean
- Exposure of plastic samples (498) W. Vachon, Draper Lab.
- Test of AMF depth telemetering pinger W. Coburn, AMF
- Thirteen CTDs Volkmann
- Bathymetry MODE Council
- Meteorological measurements MODE Council
- Exposure of corrosion samples (recovered on <u>474</u> and reset on <u>482</u>) -Dexter

-7-

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	Leg I	Leg II
Røbert Heinmiller	x	х
James Gifford	Х	х
George Tupper	Х	х
David Simoneau	Х	Х
John Scharff	Х	Х
Roderique LaRochelle	Х	Х
Harold Armstrong	X	Х
Avron Zwilling		Х
William Horn	Х	Х
Joseph Poirier		Х
Robert Jordan		Х
Alan Bruen	Х	X
Robert Walden	Х	
Paul Stimson		Х
William Schmitz	X	Х
Robert Millard	Х	
Gordon Volkmann		Х
Douglas Moore	Х	
Stephen Dexter	X	
Stanley Hayes		X
Edward Anderson	1000	Х
Michael Parke	X	X
Susan Tarbell	X	X
Caroline Harlow	X	
Jerry Dean	X	
Nancy Bauchmann	Х	X
Frederic Schneider		X
Susan Ashton (M.I.T.)		X
Dallas Abbott (M.I.T.)		X
Richard Shepard (M.I.I./Draper Lab.)	N.	Х
Robert Reid (M.I.I./Draper Lab)	X	
Glenn Fileri (Harvard)	X	
Adam Giffard (Centre Films)	X	
James U.Sullivan (Student)	X	

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SHIP'S TRACK ON LEG I

- SETTING
- RECOVERY
- () MOORING ABORTED

FIG. 1



SHIP'S TRACK IN SITE D AREA ON LEG IL

- SETTING
- RECOVERY

FIG. 2



SHIP'S TRACK ON LEG IL

• SETTING

IN MODE AREA ()MOORING ABORTED



SHIP'S TRACK IN MODE AREA

● () MOORINGS SET

MOORINGS RECOVERED

A MOORING LOST

FIG. 4-LEGS I & II, CHAIN 112





The Part .

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-14-













STATION 481

(CONTINUED)

- 15 16" GLASS BALLS IN HARD HATS ON 15 m 3/8" CHAIN

ACOUSTIC RELEASE, TRANSPONDING

20 m 3/4" NYLON

3 m 1/2" CHAIN STIMSON ANCHOR, 2500 LBS













-22a-



STATION 485

(CONTINUED)

O 8 17" GLASS BALLS IN HARD HATS ON 8 m 3/8" CHAIN VACM - 4859 25 m 12 m 464 m 459 m TEMP/DEPTH RECORDER - 485,10 3/8" DACRON 374 m TEMP/DEPTH RECORDER - 485,11 37 m 413 m 429 m TEMP/DEPTH RECORDER - 485,12 2 m 1/2" DACRON CURRENT METER - 485,13 19 m 3/8" DACRON 36 m 3/8" DACRON 14 17" GLASS BALLS IN HARD HATS ON 14 m 3/8" CHAIN ACOUSTIC RELEASE, TRANSPONDING 20 m 3/4" NYLON 3 m 1/2" CHAIN STIMSON ANCHOR , 2450 LBS.









-25a-



(CONTINUED)













-30a-



(CONTINUED)









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STIMSON ANCHOR, 2500 LBS.

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1. Moorings

2. Ocean Currents

3. MODE

I. Heinmiller, R.

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- 1. Moorings
- 2. Ocean Currents

3. MODE

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- 2. Ocean Currents
- 3. MODE

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