



## R/V Gaia Blu Cruise report n.1

### **PIONEER: Processes in the IONian Sea: Exploring, Experimenting, Researching**

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# Operational Assessment and Scientific Report of the PIONEER Cruise

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Background and Purpose

In March 2022, the CNR received the donation of the 84 meters long ocean vessel Falkor from the Schmidt Ocean Institute and renamed her Gaia Blu. This new fundamental CNR infrastructure will allow the Italian marine scientific community to carry out the new era of oceanographic research in the open and deep sea.

For this purpose, the Gaia Blu vessel has been equipped over the last year with new instrumentation suitable for the acoustic investigation of the seabed, the subseafloor, the water column and for their sampling. The use of this new instrumentation in the context of future oceanographic campaigns requires a careful operational test phase in order to verify and analyze any possible issue on the field, especially in deep waters, where the technical and technological challenges are greater.

The Institute of Marine Sciences (ISMAR) - which represents the largest CNR marine scientific community including physical, geological, chemical and biological oceanographers - was tasked to propose an oceanographic campaign that could combine the need to test the ship and at the same time achieve scientific objectives. The proposed oceanographic cruise 'PIONEER: Processes in the IONian Sea: Exploring, Experimenting, Researching' had therefore the dual purpose of testing the new equipment instruments of the ship and to conduct interdisciplinary and exploratory research on complex oceanic circulation of the Ionian Sea, its climatic and environmental implications; subseafloor geological and sedimentary processes along the seabed and how they impact the transport and dispersion of contaminants, sediments and biodiversity.

### 1.2. Scope of the report

The scope of the report is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the RV Gaia Blu oceanographic cruise, focusing on its operational aspects. This includes an analysis of various measurements, surveys, and sampling activities conducted by the CNR marine institutes. The report aims to identify both the strengths and challenges encountered during the campaign, offering constructive insights into the effectiveness of different operations. Additionally, it seeks to generate practical recommendations for improvement in specific areas, such as CTD operations, wet and dry lab functionality, control room efficiency, seawater sampling, on-deck activities, and various specialized measurements. The scope extends to suggestions for refining methodologies, setting future campaign objectives, optimizing equipment usage, and exploring potential collaborations or integrations with other projects or institutions. The ultimate

goal is to contribute to the enhancement of overall operational efficiency and the success of future oceanographic endeavors conducted aboard the RV Gaia Blu.

### 1.3. Scientific objectives of the oceanographic campaign

The main scientific objectives of the PIONEER cruise are:

a) **Dynamics of the intermediate and deep waters in the Ionian Sea.** The ocean circulation of the Ionian Sea is extremely complex with thermohaline characteristics dictated by delicate ventilation processes connected to the formation of dense waters in neighboring basins and to circulation patterns that can undergo significant changes, with strong impacts on the Mediterranean climate and on weather-climatic events, even extremes, in adjacent regions. The results of the PIONEER campaign, by integrating existing time series, can contribute to improving the knowledge of the Ionian circulation and analyze the origin, transport, mixing and climatic feedback of the different water masses, and the relative impact on the dynamics of biogeochemical cycles.

b) **Interactions between intermediate circulation and seabed morphology.** The analysis of transects of sediment cores together with L-ADCP measurements during the PIONEER campaign can improve the reconstruction of ocean circulation over the geological time scale by studying the internal geometry, sedimentary characteristics and chronostratigraphic framework of contouritic sedimentary bodies.

c) **Geo-biodiversity of sites of deep fluid circulation.** These sites represent extreme life environments controlled by delicate geochemical and microbial balances that are still unevenly studied in the Mediterranean Sea. The genesis of these sites is closely connected to the geological context and to the presence of faults, including at the lithospheric scale, canyons, subduction processes. The objectives of the PIONEER campaign are to understand the interplay between the geological and chemical-physical characteristics and the biological diversity of both the benthic and deep-sea pelagic communities.

d) **Anthropogenic impact in the deep sea.** The Ionian Sea is surrounded by coastal sites characterized by intense anthropic signature (e.g. Sites of National Interest such as Taranto, and Crotona) which represent important sources of contamination almost unknown in terms of their impact onto the deep sea. The results of the PIONEER campaign address the study of contamination (chemical, biological, plastics, including persistent and emerging classes) in relation to coastal-offshore sediment transport, oceanographic dispersal dynamics and atmospheric deposition with a final aim to define background values in the deep-sea environment.

### 1.4. Background on the Study Area

- *Tectonic and Geological Background*

The Ionian Sea straddles the Eurasia–Africa plate boundary and hosts remains of the Tethyan ocean, the oldest in situ oceanic crust in the world (Catalano et al., 2001; Speranza et al., 2012; Dellong et al., 2018; Dannowski et al., 2019; Tugend et al., 2019). It has been described as the last remaining segment of oceanic crust

subduction in the central Mediterranean ([de Voogd et al., 1992](#); [Faccenna et al., 2004](#); [D' Agostino et al., 2008](#)) and has recorded a long history of sedimentation, erosion, vertical movements and tectonic activity.

Consumption of the oceanic lithosphere has caused the emplacement of the Calabrian Arc (CA, Figure 1), a narrow and arcuate subduction system related to plate convergence, and to the southeastward retreat of the subducting slab ([Malinverno and Ryan, 1986](#); [Cernobori et al., 1996](#); [Doglioni et al., 1999](#); [Argnani and Bonazzi, 2005](#); [Minelli and Faccenna, 2010](#); [Polonia et al., 2011](#); [Gutscher et al., 2015](#)). Slab tearing plays a major role in producing a deep fragmentation of the subduction system ([Polonia et al., 2016](#)), asthenospheric upwelling, dynamic topography and magmatism ([Govers and Wortel, 2005](#); [Faccenna et al., 2011](#); [Rosenbaum et al., 2008](#); [Schellart, 2010](#); [Polonia et al., 2017](#)).

The migrating Calabria trench drives the entire subduction complex outward, but different boundary conditions on the plate interface lead to arc-orthogonal segmentation along lithospheric faults ([Doglioni et al., 2012](#); [Polonia et al., 2016](#); [Gutscher et al., 2015](#); [Argnani, 2020](#)) that were the source of major earthquakes in the Calabrian Arc ([Argnani et al., 2012](#); [2023](#); [Polonia et al., 2013](#); [Billi et al., 2020](#)) and drives dewatering from below and the formation of mud volcanoes.

Mud volcanism, or sedimentary volcanism, represents one of the most intriguing phenomena of the Earth's crust, with important implications in energy resource exploration, seismicity, geo-hazard and atmospheric budget of greenhouse gases. Evidence of mud volcanoes and allochthonous material emplacement was reported in many regions of the Ionian Sea ([Praeg et al., 2009](#); [Panieri et al., 2013](#); [Ceramicola et al., 2014](#); [Gutscher et al., 2017](#); [Loher et al., 2018](#)) where they are manifestations of plate convergence and underthrusting of unconsolidated sediments and can be considered as markers of overpressure-related geofluid circulation, efflux, and ascent.

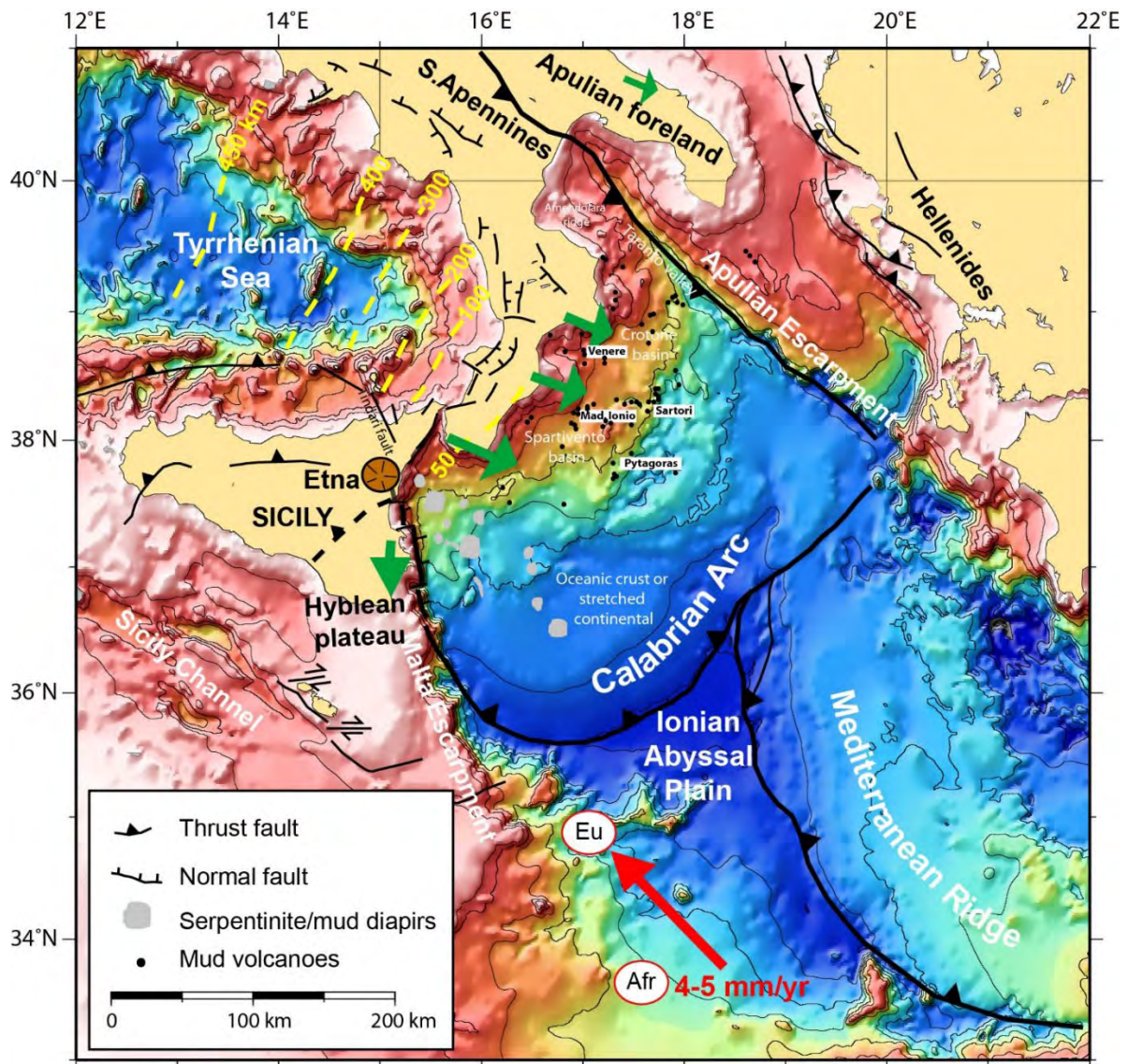
Mud volcanoes are geological structures that can release large amounts of gas (e.g., CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N) and result from the upward migration of mobilized subsurface sediments, gas, and water by focused fluid flow and the extrusion of a mixture of these components, referred to as mud breccia ([Camerlenghi et al., 1992](#); [Cita et al., 1981](#); [Mazzini and Etiope, 2017](#); [Pape et al., 2010](#)). The onset of mud volcanism can be related to seismic activity, with many examples of earthquakes affecting or triggering onshore and offshore mud volcanoes (MVs) ([Hensen et al., 2019](#) and references therein). However, mud volcanism and seepage at large (pockmarks, mud diapirs, mud pools) can occur in different tectonic and sedimentary settings, related or unrelated to fault controlled mechanisms (e.g. [Rovere et al., 2014](#); [2020](#); [2022](#)) and characterized by a complex suite of emitted gas which are the result of different and interacting processes along the plumbing system (thermo-metamorphism, methanogenesis, anaerobic oxidation of methane) ([Franchi et al., 2017](#)). Mud volcanoes and seepage systems (cold seeps) are well studied on land but on the

seafloor, where they are much more common, the volumes of released sediments and methane are poorly known.

Previous surveys across the CA have documented numerous cold seeps encompassing different tectonic settings, from extensional on the upper slope to compressional on the accretionary wedge (Praeg et al., 2009; Panieri et al., 2013; Bohrmann et al., 2015; Ceramicola et al., 2014; Loher et al., 2018a,b; Cuffaro et al., 2019; Doll et al., 2023; Argnani et al., submitted). Several structures have been reported to show signs of recent mud breccia extrusion (Ceramicola et al., 2014; Foucher et al., 2009; Panieri et al., 2013; Praeg et al., 2009) or fluid seepage (Foucher et al., 2009). Most extrusive features occur along structural lineaments related to compressional, transpressive or transtensive tectonics of the CA (Polonia et al., 2011; Ceramicola et al., 2014b; Gutscher et al., 2017; Panieri et al., 2013; Praeg et al., 2009). The onset of mud volcanism on the CA is inferred to have originated >3 Ma ago (Late Pliocene; Praeg et al., 2009) and the study of mud breccia and microfossil assemblages indicated source materials as old as the Late Cretaceous for some of the piercing features (Morlotti et al., 1982; Panieri et al., 2013; Praeg et al., 2009). The ecosystems associated with these deep vent sites (e.g. tubeworms growing on authigenic carbonate hardgrounds) have been studied for few case studies (Loher et al., 2018b), while the majority remain unexplored.

In the western part of the CA, geophysical data reveal a number of sub-circular magnetic bodies beneath the seafloor intruding the accretionary wedge. Indirect evidences (seismic reflection profiles, multibeam, potential field and geochemical data) suggest that these diapirs may be made of inherited Mesozoic Tethyan serpentinites, which rise along transtensive faults controlling rifting processes perpendicular to the subduction arc (Polonia et al., 2017). Sampling the sedimentary cover on top the diapirs might provide important information on the age and nature of the Tethyan basement, and on the connection with deep fluid circulation and how this can open a window into the deep Earth and deep microbial life sustained by serpentinitic and thermogenic processes (IODP pre-proposal P968, Polonia et al., 2019).





**Figure 1.4.1.** Geodynamic setting of the study area. Slip vector in the African reference frame is indicated by a red arrow. In green GPS vectors in the Apulian fixed reference frame in which the motion of Calabria is parallel to the slip vector suggesting active crustal compression as a result of subduction of the Ionian lithosphere beneath the Calabrian Arc (D'Agostino et al., 2008). The NWward dipping subducting slab of the African plate is represented by the yellow contours spacing from 100 to 450 km in the Tyrrhenian Sea (Selvaggi and Chiarabba, 1995). Eu: Europe, Afr: Africa. Black dots: mud volcanoes in the Calabrian Arc accretionary wedge from Rovere et al. (2017). Grey areas: serpentinite/mud diapirs as proposed by Polonia et al. (2017).

- *Oceanographic Background*

Deep-water exchanges between the western and the eastern Mediterranean basins occur within the shallow Sicily Channel (Figure 2), which makes the deep-water circulation of the two sub-basins rather independent from each other (Sparnocchia et al., 1999; Napolitano et al., 2003; Béranger et al., 2004; Schroeder et al., 2006). In the eastern basin, the Eastern Mediterranean Deep Water (EMDW) is formed, alternately, in separate regions of the Eastern Mediterranean Sea, i.e., the southern Adriatic Sea and the Aegean Sea (Gačić et al., 2010). This cold and high salinity winter water, after deep convection, flows into the Ionian Sea (Wüst, 1961; Roether and Schlitzer, 1991; Schlitzer et al., 1991; Roether et al., 1996; Bensi et al., 2013a; Bensi et al., 2013b; Bellacicco et al., 2016), i.e., the deepest sub-basin of the Mediterranean Sea, which has a maximum depth close to the mean depth of the global ocean. Such a thermohaline circulation is, therefore, characterized by a superposition of intermediate and deep, zonal and meridional overturning cells (Bergamasco and Malanotte-Rizzoli, 2010).

The Ionian Sea is crossed by the open thermohaline cell of the Mediterranean, where the main water masses circulate from east to west: the Atlantic Water (AW) and the Intermediate Water (IW, which can originate from the Levantine and/or Cretan Sea). It also receives in its deep basin the dense water formed in the Eastern Mediterranean (the Eastern Mediterranean Deep Water, or EMDW): until the late 80s, the Adriatic Sea was the main source of deep water, but then a significant climatic change occurred, known as the Eastern Mediterranean Transient (EMT), which activated a new source of dense water in the Aegean Sea. The Aegean water was warmer, saltier and denser than the one previously formed in the Adriatic Sea, so it occupied the deepest layers of the Ionian (Roether et al., 1996). Around 1995, the Aegean source declined and the Adriatic became an active source again, producing new water with higher temperature and salinity than before the EMT (Theocharis et al., 2002; Roether et al., 2007).

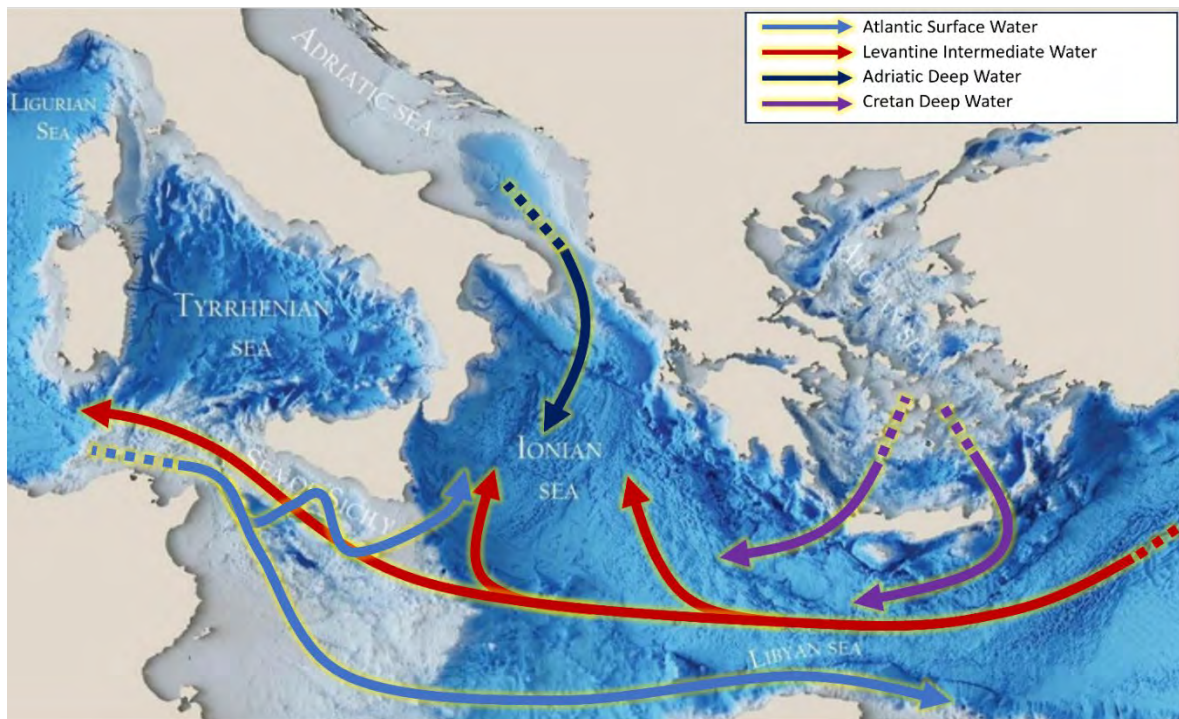
The oceanographic studies in the last decade have concentrated on the Adriatic–Ionian bimodal oscillating system (BiOS), i.e. the sea surface circulation in the Ionian, at decadal timescales, switches from a cyclonic basin-wide gyre occupying the entire northern area to anticyclonic meandering (Civitarese et al., 2010). During the cyclonic circulation mode, the Ionian and Adriatic seas are invaded by highly saline Levantine Intermediate Water (LIW). Conversely, during anticyclonic circulation, the two basins are affected by low-salinity surface Atlantic Water coming from the western Mediterranean, with profound impacts on circulation pattern and nutrients availability. The deep-water circulation is characterized by significant spatial and variability which has been addressed in few studies based on deep mooring stations.

For the Ionian Sea, boundary currents show intense downwelling due to their interaction with the topographic constraints while the deepest part of the basin is characterized by extremely weak stratification ([Holte and Straneo, 2017](#); [Send and Testor, 2017](#); Waldman et al., 2018). Moreover, the Ionian Sea shows a semi-diurnal lunar tidal (M2) and a dominant motion that is around the inertial frequency, mainly as freely propagating internal waves (Gerkema and Zimmerman, 2008; [van Haren and Gostiaux, 2011](#)). For this particular reason, the Ionian Sea constitutes a unique example for studying the fundamental dynamics and processes of the abyssal layers in the Mediterranean basin, also in the light of turbulent and diapycnal mixing due to internal-wave breaking ([Rubino et al., 2012](#); [Artale et al., 2018](#)).

In particular, Artale et al. (2018), by analyzing water column characteristics of the Ionian Sea, observed during the last three decades, focused on the hydrological processes occurring at the bottom layer. They found that the ocean circulation in this abyssal plain is strongly affected by an interplay between advection and diffusion. The progressive warming and salinification of this sub-basin produced warmer near-bottom waters, causing an anomalous heat storage of  $\sim 1.6 \text{ W/m}^2$ , i.e., a value three times larger than the equivalent climate trend occurring in the same period at global scale ([Bindoff et al., 2007](#)). The analysis of Artale et al. (2018) investigated the triggering of a diapycnal mixing due to rough bathymetry. In particular, to explore topographic-induced mixing, these authors estimated dissipation rates from the "CTD strain-based" parameterization ([Kunze et al., 2006](#)), showing the role of sea bottom in enhancing isopycnal vertical strain.

Finally, The Ionian Sea is directly impacted by several coastal settlements and industrial activities (i.e., Taranto, Crotona, Augusta), as well as river runoffs, representing important sources of contamination for the intermediate and deep waters. In particular, the peculiar cost-to-sea Taranto system of inter-connected land-locked basins (formed by the Mar Piccolo, Mar Grande, Gulf of Taranto and Mar Ionio) remains poorly investigated ([Liubartseva et al., 2021](#)).





**Figure 1.4.2.** Sketch representing the general circulation of the Central and Eastern Mediterranean Sea, with a focus on the Ionian Sea.

- *Morphotectonics, oceanography and sedimentation*

The Ionian Sea is characterized by a complex morphology reflecting the combined effect of tectonic, sedimentary, oceanographic and biological processes (Marani et al., 1993; Argnani et al., 1993, 2001; Micallef et al., 2022). Active tectonics, sediment supply, oceanography and vertical movement reshape the seafloor forming unstable steep slopes, canyon systems, sedimentary basins and controlling current sediment paths, deposition, and geometry (Savini and Corselli, 2010; Ceramicola et al., 2014a; Zecchin et al., 2020).

The Ionian Basin sedimentary processes are affected by gravitational sediment transport. Frequent slope instability processes, triggered by tectonic activity (Merlini et al., 2000; Argnani et al., 2001), seismic shaking and tsunami propagation (Polonia et al., 2021), allow sediment transport from the continental shelf into the deep basin (Marani et al., 1993; Zecchin et al., 2020). Other sedimentary processes and deposits include drifts and large sediment waves along the Malta and Apulian Escarpments (Marani et al., 1993; Rebesco et al., 2021). These features have been associated with the flow of bottom currents, mainly the Levantine Intermediate Water (LIW) and the Adriatic Deep Water (ADW) (e.g. Marani et al., 1993; Pepe et al., 2018; Rebesco et al., 2021). At the base of the Malta Escarpment, sediment waves have been steadily growing and migrating since about 500 ka due to variation in sediment input resulting from the tectonic uplift in NE Sicily and Calabria and the onset of a bottom current regime (Rebesco et al., 2021).

Despite these recent investigations and the study of large contourite systems in the adjoining area of the Sicily Channel (Gauchery et al., 2021 a,b), the areal extent,

internal geometry, and volume of active drift deposits in the Ionian Sea remain poorly constrained, mainly due to the lack of a systematic grid of high-resolution seismic profiles acquired at the regional scale and calibrated throughout sediment cores.

The unique oceanographic and geological characteristics, including the strategic position of the Central Mediterranean swept by westerlies, allowed the deposition and preservation of key sedimentary horizons (e.g. tephra layers), which contain excellent proxies for constraining the chronological and stratigraphic framework of sedimentary records (Narcisi & Vezzoli, 1999; Insinga et al., 2014).

Furthermore, Quaternary sediments of the Mediterranean Sea are characterized by the occurrence of organic carbon-rich sapropels (Total Organic Carbon, TOC >2%), deposited during wet climate periods in the Mediterranean region (Vigliotti et al., 2011). Sapropels are useful for paleoclimate and paleoceanographic reconstructions of the entire Mediterranean and its connection with the Atlantic Ocean. In the Ionian Sea and Gulf of Taranto, few studies have covered their occurrence (e.g. Negri et al., 1999; Emeis et al., 2003; Goudeau et al., 2013), showing significant differences in TOC, magnetic content and thus redox conditions in which deposited, that need to be better understood.

- *Biogeochemical cycles*

The Ionian Sea is an oligotrophic basin characterized by low productivity (D'Ortenzio and Ribera d'Alcalà, 2009), without reaching the lowest values of the Levantine Basin. Surface phytoplankton blooms are occasional and limited in space, often linked to mesoscale instabilities in the flow due to the interaction with the bathymetry in the phase of nutricline uplift due to the general circulation (e.g., D'Ortenzio et al., 2003).

As in other oligotrophic areas the microbial food web based on bacteria dominates, even though picoeukaryotes and, in some cases diatoms, play a role (Civitaresse et al., 1996; Boldrin et al., 2002; Casotti et al., 2003; Placenti et al., 2018). Stocks of dissolved and particulate matter in the Ionian basin are also known to be influenced by water circulation properties (Malanotte-Rizzoli et al., 1999). The influence of the Adriatic water is mostly evident in the north-western part of the basin in the form of higher phytoplankton biomass, particularly diatoms, while water of Atlantic origin makes up its southern part, with the exception of the whole eastern side bordering the coasts, when oligotrophic water from the Cretan Sea (Casotti et al., 2003) or the anticyclonic phase of the BIOS drive the surface circulation.

Winter mixing does not reach the nutricline basin wide thus hampering injection of nutrients into the surface layer (Civitaresse and Gacic, 2001; D'Ortenzio and Ribera d'Alcalà, 2009). On the other hand particulate export is not negligible (Boldrin et al., 2003), which highlights the importance of atmospheric inputs (Ribera d'Alcalà et al., 2003; Powley et al., 2017). The latter, together with nutrients may also carry pollutants which makes the characterization of vertical fluxes in the open Ionian sea an important

issue. Mesoscale features such as small eddies and coastal filaments may also support photosynthetic capacity locally (e.g. [Casotti et al., 2003](#)).

One important biogeochemical event affecting the deep layers occurred at the time of the EMT with the subduction of water presumably rich in respirable carbon, which remarkably increased deep respiration and oxygen utilization rate ([Klein et al., 2003](#), [La Ferla et al., 2003](#), [Zaccone et al., 2003](#)). Considering the recent alternation in newly formed dense water supply to Ionian deep waters, the previous observation raises the question on the extent to which exogenic substances conveyed to the sea along the coastlines may reach the bottom. In addition, the anomalous higher temperature in the deep layers of the basin, if compared to oceanic deep layers, increasing metabolic rates may have favoured specific adaptations of bacteria connected with the rise in temperature ([Zaccone et al., 2010](#)).

Current knowledge of the spatial and temporal variations in the microbial activities involved in the carbon cycles occurring in the Ionian Sea revealed an increase in bacterial growth efficiency. This could be dependent on the occurrence of higher temperature in the deep layer of the Ionian Sea, recently observed by [Artale et al. \(2018\)](#). Taken all things together, also the deep pelagial of the Ionian sea constitutes an important area of investigation which confronts with a poor past sampling of that layer, especially for what concerns unicellular and metazoan plankton.

## 1.5. Summary

The first scientific campaign of the CNR oceanographic vessel, Gaia Blu, ended on 9 December 2023 in the port of Crotona. The scientific campaign was divided into two "legs" and involved more than 50 people including researchers, technologists, technicians from the CNR institutes ISMAR, IRBIM, ISP, IBF with the remote support of IAS and IGG. The campaign was also an opportunity for training-on-the-job new researchers and technologists hired on PNRR projects and doctoral students from Italian and European universities. During the second "leg", two technicians from CNR-ISPC and the CNR-URS were present on board to film the campaign and provide multimedia support for the video conference connection with some middle schools, as part of a project of scientific dissemination coordinated by the Communication and Education Office of the CNR Area of Tor Vergata, virtually bringing very young students for a day on board the ship.

The activities that took place were numerous and made use of all the ship's infrastructural equipment. This stress-test highlighted all the ship's potential but also its critical issues, on which all the participants expressed their views which were collected in a report that has been delivered to the ship's coordination and management office for the necessary improvement actions.

During the 22 days of navigation, despite the unfavorable weather conditions typical of the late autumn season, 3600 nautical miles were explored in an area of approximately 130,000 square km, up to 4000 meters below sea level. Here, bathymetric and reflectivity data of the seabed and the water column and seismo-acoustic profiles were acquired. The seabed and the sub seabed was sampled through 15 sediment cores with gravity and piston gears to

reconstruct the paleoceanography and paleoclimate of the Mediterranean in the last tens of thousands of years and the deep circulation of interstitial fluids of both mantle and biogenic origin in seepage sites. To analyze the superficial and undisturbed portion of the seabed, 19 box coring stations were performed. The sediments thus recovered were sampled for sedimentology and stratigraphy analyses, for the measurement of classic and emerging contaminants and the estimate of the microplastic content, to define the microbiological and meiofauna characteristics and make eDNA extractions.

36 CTD/Rosette casts were performed to investigate the chemical-physical properties of the water column and define its stratification. During profiling, the following parameters were measured: temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, fluorescence, inherent optical properties; Water samples will be analyzed for alkalinity, pH, inorganic carbon and dissolved organic matter. Furthermore, environmental DNA analyses with eDNA metabarcoding will be carried out on bacteria and metazoans, phytoplankton and zooplankton, especially in correspondence with the box cores where a comparison will be attempted between demersal and benthic environments. To sample pelagic organisms and characterize them from both a morphological and molecular point of view, a WP2 net was used up to a depth of 500 m. A turbulence profiler was used to characterize the mutual interaction between different water masses and understand how their mixing may impact circulation and pelagic communities.

Radiometers and instruments were used to measure the optical properties of the first 100 m of the water column. Furthermore, to increase the density of data, a continuous surface water analysis system was put into operation through a pumping and filtering system, measuring the water parameters with the same instruments used in profiling mode. In addition to scientific use, these optical data are fundamental for the calibration of the algorithms used in the processing of satellite images that the CNR produces for the marine operational service of the European Copernicus programme.

During the first days of the cruise, a BGC-Argo float of the CNR-ISMAR fleet (contributing to EURO-ARGO ERIC and to the Italian node Argo-Italy) was deployed in the middle of the Ionian Sea. The float was equipped with sensors to autonomously measure 0-2000 dbar profiles of the following Essential Ocean, Climate and Biological Variables (EOVs, ECVs and EBVs) temperature, salinity, pressure, oxygen, chlorophyll, optical backscatter, dissolved organic matter, downwelling irradiance, particle size distribution and zooplankton taxonomy. During the cruise, the sampling strategy adopted for the BGC-Argo float was to profile every day, thus providing a spatio-temporal coverage of the measured EOVs, ECVs, and EBVs that complemented cruise activities within the investigated region.

During navigation, observation transects of macro plastics were carried out, useful for training on Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithms for the automatic recognition of these pollutants floating on the sea surface. Furthermore, an experiment of transmission-listening of acoustic signals was carried out on one of the stations that make up the INFN's "cubic kilometer" (KM3NeT) submarine telescope for cosmic neutrinos, which in addition to measuring the flux of cosmic muons at abyssal depths, monitors the physical and acoustic properties of this stretch of Ionian Sea a few tens of kilometers deep off the coast of Capo Passero.

## 1.6. Areas, scientific parties and investigation periods

The oceanographic campaign aboard the RV Gaia Blu was primarily focused on the exploration of the Ionian Sea and the Gulf of Taranto. The investigation periods spanned from November to December 2023. The cruise was organized into 2 legs, the first focused on the deeper Ionian domain, south of 38°N, the latter on the Gulf of Taranto (delimited by the line connecting Santa Maria di Leuca and Punta Alice) and the northern Ionian Sea.

1° LEG CATANIA 18 NOVEMBER - CROTONE 28 NOVEMBER			
Name	Duty	Role	Affiliation
Marzia Rovere	Party Chief	Researcher	ISMAR-CNR
Simone Colella	CTD-Rosette/radiometry/IOP	Researcher	ISMAR-CNR
Malek Belgacem	CTD-Rosette/O <sub>2</sub> , salinity, nutrients/LADCP	Post doc researcher	ISMAR-CNR
Florian Kokoszka	CTD-Rosette/ salinity/LADCP	Technologist PNRR	ISMAR-CNR
Valtere Evangelista	CTD-Rosette/DOM	Technician	IBF-CNR
Gianluca Volpe	Flow through/radiometry/IOP	Researcher	ISMAR-CNR
Jaime Pitarch Portero	Radiometry/IOP/Secchi	Researcher PNRR	ISMAR-CNR
Francesco Falcieri	Microstructure probe	Researcher	ISMAR-CNR
Emanuele Organelli	BGC Argo	Researcher	ISMAR-CNR
Giovanni La Forgia	BGC Argo	Technologist PNRR	ISMAR-CNR
Elisa Camatti	Net sampling/DNA metabarcoding	Researcher	ISMAR-CNR
Simone Redolfi Bristol	Net sampling/DNA metabarcoding	Technologist PNRR	ISMAR-CNR
Luca Gasperini	Coring/box coring	Researcher	ISMAR-CNR
Donatella Insinga	Coring/box coring	Researcher	ISMAR-CNR
Giuseppe Suaria	Box coring/microplastics/marine litter	Researcher	ISMAR-CNR
Marina Vingiani	Microbiology/DNA metabarcoding	PhD student	UNIGALWAY
Valentina Ferrante	Surveyor	Researcher	ISMAR-CNR
Camilla Palmiotto	Surveyor	Researcher	ISMAR-CNR
Giuseppe Lo Mauro	Surveyor/coring	PhD student	UNIBARI
Sara Meschiari	Surveyor	Post doc researcher	ISMAR-CNR

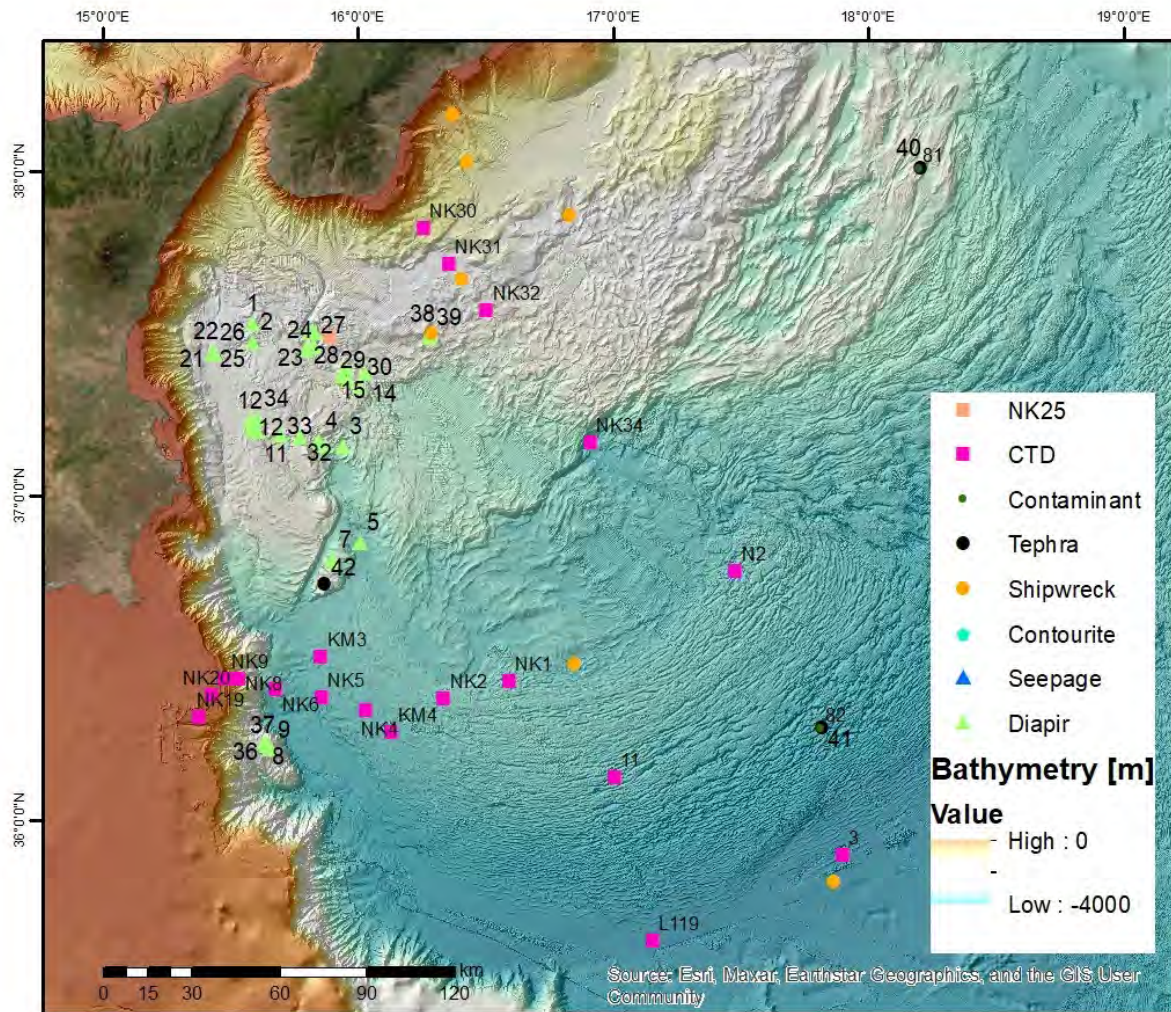
**Table 1.4.1.** List of personnel involved in Leg 1 of the PIONEER 2023 cruise.





**Figure 1.4.1.** Scientific party of Leg 1.

The planning of activities during Leg 1 was contained in the latest version of the cruise proposal and station coordinates were prepared for clearing and permitting processes.



**Figure 1.4.2.** Plan of activities during Leg 1 of the PIONEER 2023 cruise.

The actual survey carried out during Leg 1 can be summarized as follows:



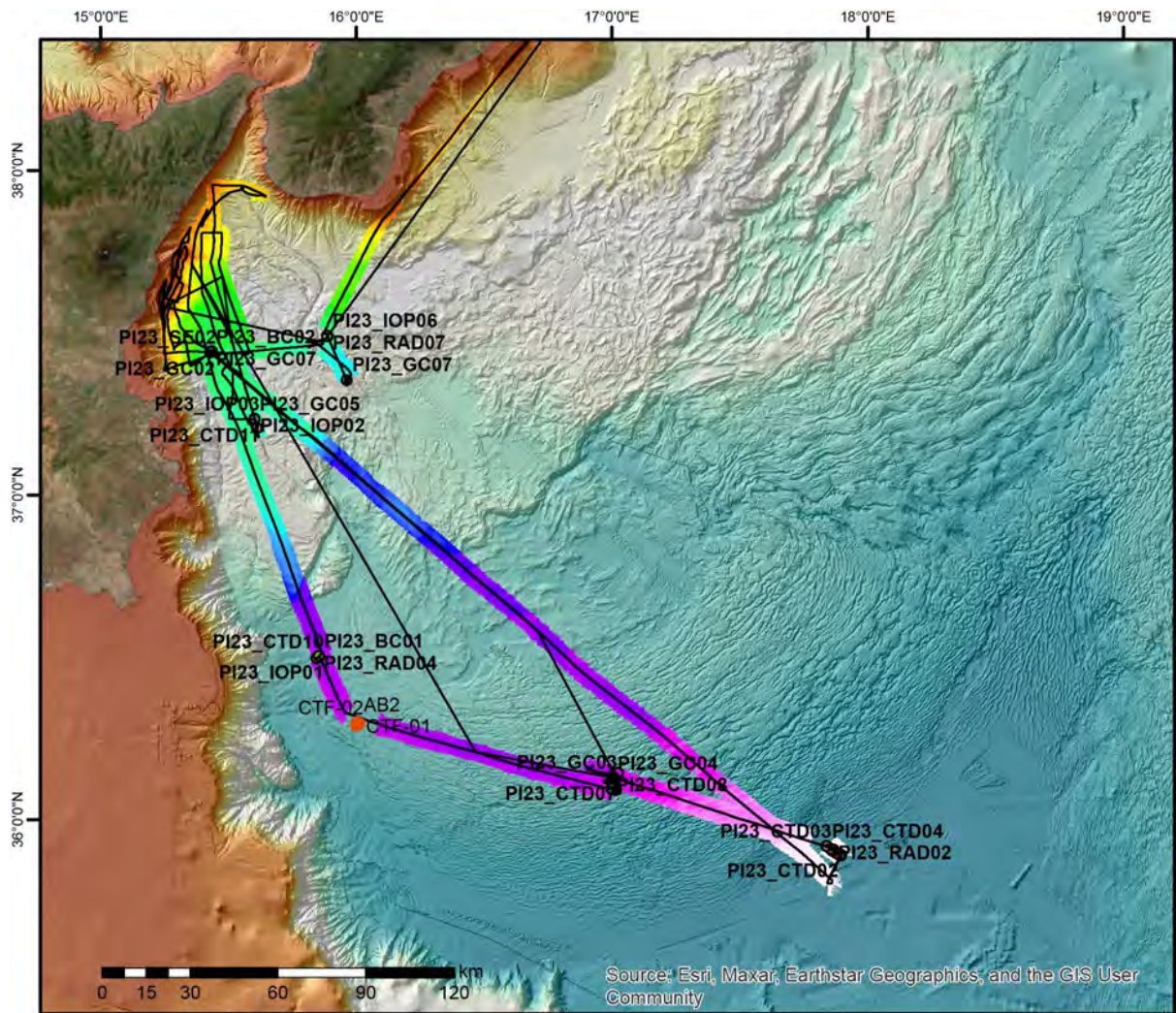


Figure 1.4.3. Effective survey carried out during Leg 1 of the PIONEER 2023 cruise.

<b>LONG-WGS84</b>	<b>LAT-WGS84</b>	<b>UNIQUE STATION</b>	<b>PROBE STATION</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>UTC</b>
15.4252840	37.4397183	22	PI23_GC01	11/19/2023	10:15
15.4257995	37.4397298	22	PI23_CTD01	11/19/2023	12:44
15.4253333	37.4399500	22	PI23_RAD01	11/19/2023	13:05
15.4240883	37.4376900	25	PI23_GC02	11/19/2023	14:54
17.8034764	35.8592846	3	PI23_CTD02	11/20/2023	11:00
17.7735288	35.8754639	3	PI23_RAD02	11/20/2023	12:34
17.8016820	35.8571664	3	PI23_BGC-ARGO	11/20/2023	14:39
17.7978333	35.8567833	3	PI23_TURB01	11/20/2023	14:50
17.7859000	35.8645100	3	PI23_TURB02	11/20/2023	15:25
17.7710300	35.8725402	3	PI23_TURB03	11/20/2023	16:06
17.7641266	35.8771676	3	PI23_TURB04	11/20/2023	16:27
17.7486668	35.8863064	3	PI23_CTD03	11/20/2023	17:39
17.7486965	35.8863386	3	PI23_CTD04	11/20/2023	18:17
16.9446415	36.1161806	11	PI23_CTD05	11/21/2023	4:20
16.9449421	36.1160480	11	PI23_RET01	11/21/2023	6:03
16.9449315	36.1160306	11	PI23_RET02	11/21/2023	6:35
16.9450260	36.1159937	11	PI23_RET03	11/21/2023	7:26
16.9448458	36.1160290	11	PI23_CTD06	11/21/2023	8:14
16.9449696	36.1159728	11	PI23_RAD03	11/21/2023	8:44
16.9396549	36.1149227	11	PI23_CTD07	11/21/2023	9:39
16.9396885	36.1149011	11	PI23_CTD08	11/21/2023	10:00
16.9393776	36.1149245	11	PI23_GC03	11/21/2023	12:00
16.9445414	36.1108402	11	PI23_GC04	11/21/2023	14:30
16.9464504	36.1064620	11	PI23_TURB07	11/21/2023	16:18
16.9381524	36.1026309	11	PI23_TURB08	11/21/2023	16:42
16.9570202	36.0748000	11	PI23_TURB09	11/21/2023	19:40
16.9482654	36.0762982	11	PI23_TURB10	11/21/2023	20:08
16.9397572	36.0786545	11	PI23_TURB11	11/21/2023	20:35

15.8334819	36.5002579	KM3	PI23_CTD09	11/22/2023	5:37
15.8338188	36.5002732	KM3	PI23_RET04	11/22/2023	7:16
15.8337545	36.5003168	KM3	PI23_RET05	11/22/2023	7:38
15.8338615	36.5002524	KM3	PI23_RET06	11/22/2023	8:16
15.8338336	36.5002567	KM3	PI23_IOP01	11/22/2023	8:32
15.8321477	36.4991427	KM3	PI23_RAD04	11/22/2023	9:20
15.8318793	36.4990038	KM3	PI23_CTD10	11/22/2023	9:43
15.8280957	36.4963960	KM3	PI23_TURB12	11/22/2023	10:46
15.8238109	36.4936041	KM3	PI23_TURB13	11/22/2023	11:24
15.8338440	36.5005226	KM3	PI23_BC01	11/22/2023	13:15
15.6025775	37.2045969	34	PI23_RAD05	11/24/2023	11:31
15.5928171	37.2320770	34	PI23_GC05	11/24/2023	13:05
15.5927596	37.2320119	34	PI23_CTD11	11/24/2023	14:58
15.5930278	37.2316963	34	PI23_IOP02	11/24/2023	15:35
15.5931002	37.2317115	34	PI23_IOP03	11/24/2023	15:57
15.4249793	37.4387192	26	PI23_GC06	11/26/2023	12:29
15.4248333	37.4386667	26	PI23_RAD06	11/26/2023	12:31
15.4252438	37.4386143	26	PI23_SE02	11/26/2023	13:03
15.4251650	37.4384617	26	PI23_RET07	11/26/2023	13:35
15.4252287	37.4384806	26	PI23_RET08	11/26/2023	13:46
15.4252434	37.4384797	26	PI23_RET09	11/26/2023	14:06
15.4258523	37.4404940	26	PI23_BC02	11/26/2023	15:17
15.4261495	37.4407131	26	PI23_CTD12	11/26/2023	16:45
15.4258605	37.4408505	26	PI23_IOP04	11/26/2023	17:40
15.4258580	37.4408479	26	PI23_IOP05	11/26/2023	17:43
15.4261143	37.4408321	26	PI23_CTD13	11/26/2023	18:10
15.4260412	37.4409386	26	PI23_TURB14	11/26/2023	18:27
15.4282686	37.4413426	26	PI23_TURB15	11/26/2023	19:25
15.4254045	37.4410531	26	PI23_TURB16	11/26/2023	20:18
15.9502332	37.3504892	29	PI23_GC07	11/27/2023	6:57
15.8769211	37.4855426	NK25	PI23_CTD14	11/27/2023	9:33

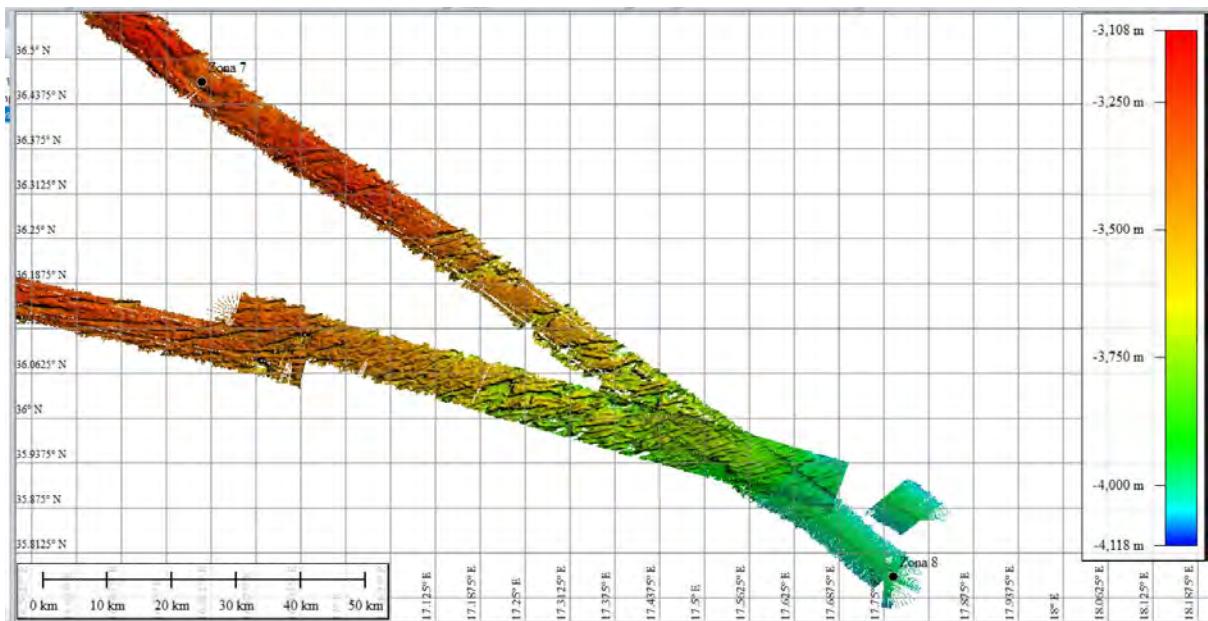


15.8766667	37.4855000	NK25	PI23_RET10	11/27/2023	10:21
15.8766667	37.4855000	NK25	PI23_RET11	11/27/2023	10:31
15.8771574	37.4854581	NK25	PI23_RET12	11/27/2023	10:53
15.8772470	37.4855452	NK25	PI23_RAD07	11/27/2023	11:39
15.8756117	37.4866414	NK25	PI23_IOP06	11/27/2023	12:18

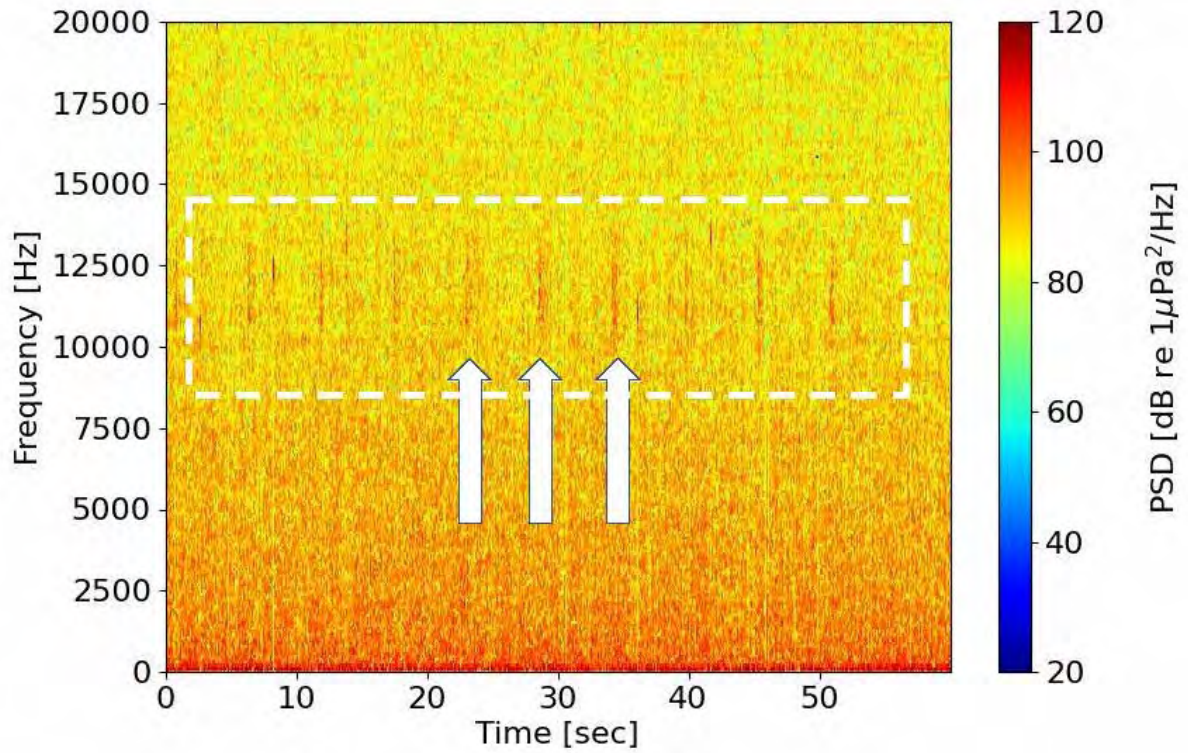
**Table 1.4.2.** Effective measurement stations performed during Leg 1 of the PIONEER cruise 2023 with multiple platforms and probes. For correct depth of deployment of single probes and devices refer to the tables describing each activity. BC = box corer; GC = gravity corer; RAD = radiometer; IOP = Integrated (Optical) Observing System; RET = plankton net; CTD = CTD/Rosette; TURB = microstructure probe; SE = Secchi measurement; BGC-ARGO = deployment of drifting buoy. PI23 is the short name for PIONEER 2023. The unique station refers to the number of the station in the planning and permitting phase.

The Logbook of activities carried out during PIONEER 2023 is attached as Annex 1.

Activities in the first leg concentrated, among others, on the investigation of the Ionian deep water circulation, dissipation mechanisms at boundary layers, zooplankton biodiversity, optical properties of the upper water column, sediment sampling for deep-fluid (mantle) circulation and paleotephra. As side activities of national interest, multibeam bathymetric surveys were carried out over suggested locations of shipwrecks upon the request of the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE). Furthermore, a transit over the CTF-01 station was carried out with the pinging of 12 kHz signals transmitted by the hull-mounted CHIRP echosounder to be recorded by the hydrophones of the mooring station.



**Figure 1.4.4.** Transit over 2 shipwreck targets indicated by MASE.



**Figure 1.4.5.** Spectrogram recorded by station CTF01 of the "cubic kilometre" (KM3NeT) submarine telescope for cosmic neutrinos. Arrows indicate the Gaia Blu's signals received by the hydrophones installed on the submarine observatory. The signal is sampled at 195300 Hz and the analysis is performed over 2048 FFT points and aHamming window with 50% overlap.

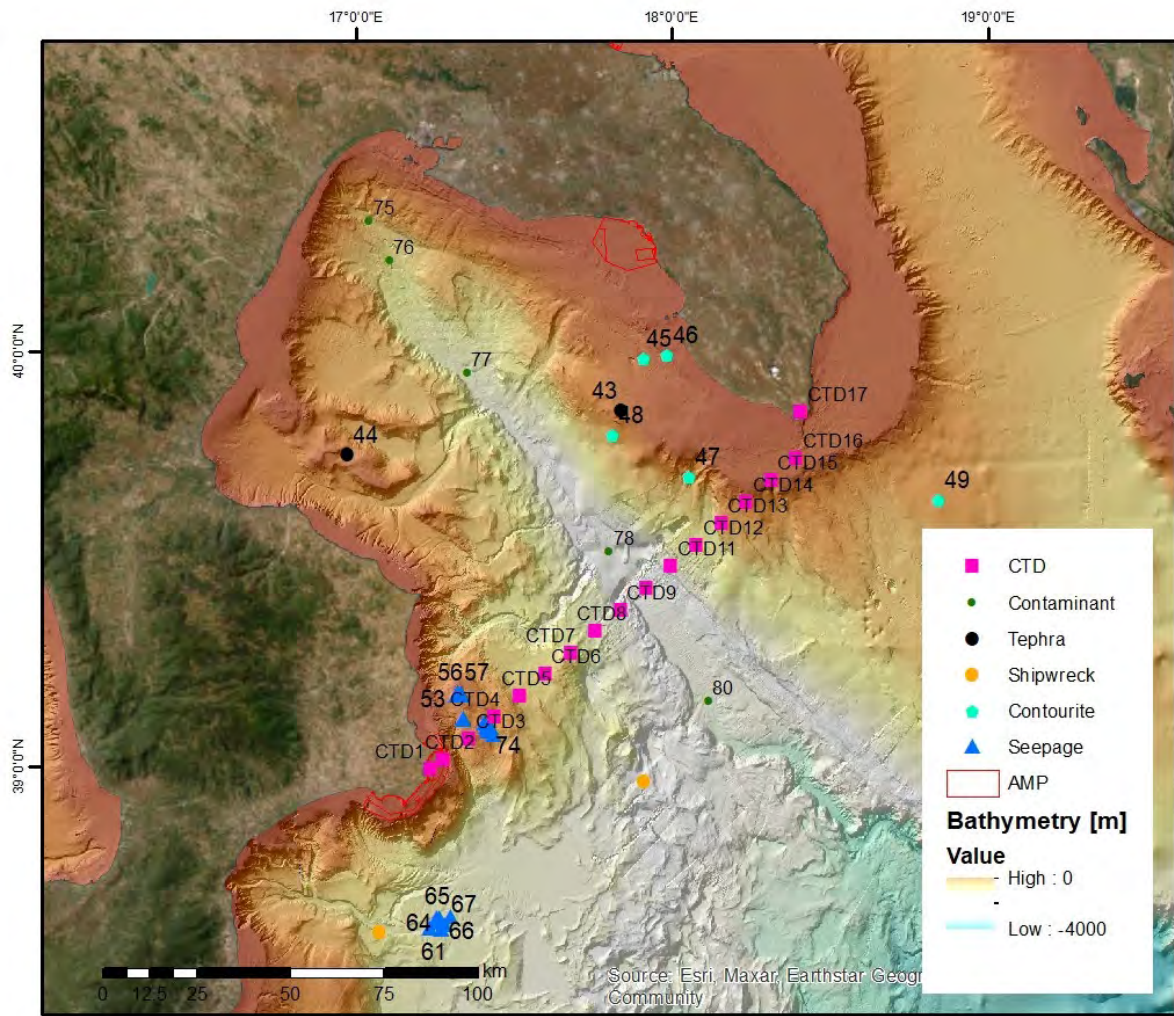
2° LEG CROTONE 28 NOVEMBER - CROTONE 9 DECEMBER			
Marzia Rovere	Party Chief	Researcher	ISMAR-CNR
Malek Belgacem	CTD-Rosette/O2, salinity, nutrients/LADCP	Post doc researcher	ISMAR-CNR
Florian Kokoszka	CTD-Rosette/nutrients, salinity/LADCP	Technologist PNRR	ISMAR-CNR
Lorenzo Consorti	CTD-Rosette/Carbon	Researcher	ISMAR-CNR
Jaime Pitarch Portero	Flow through	Researcher PNRR	ISMAR-CNR
Andrea Gallerani	Coring/box coring	Technician	ISMAR-CNR
Fabio Savelli	Coring/box coring	Technician	ISMAR-CNR
Claudio Pellegrini	Coring/box coring/sedimentology	Researcher	ISMAR-CNR
Stefania Romano	Box coring/contaminants	Researcher	ISMAR-CNR
Emanuela Frapiccini	Box coring/bisphenolA/IPA	Researcher	IRBIM-CNR
Marina Vingiani	Microbiology/DNA metabarcoding	PhD student	UNIGALWAY
Giuseppe Suaria	Box coring/microplastics/marine litter	Researcher	ISMAR-CNR
Chiara Pambianco	Box coring/organic matter	Post doc researcher	UNIVENEZIA
Alessandra Mercorella	Surveyor	Technician	ISMAR-CNR
Giulia Lisi	Surveyor	PhD student	UNIBOLOGNA
Alessandro Remia	Surveyor	Technologist	ISMAR-CNR
Andrea Argnani	Surveyor	Researcher	ISMAR-CNR
Vittorio Tulli	Video-maker, Photographer	Technician	URS-CNR
Danilo Pavone	Video-maker, Photographer	Technician	DSU-CNR

**Table 1.4.3.** List of personnel involved in Leg 2 of the PIONEER 2023 cruise.



**Figure 1.4.5.** Scientific party of Leg 2.

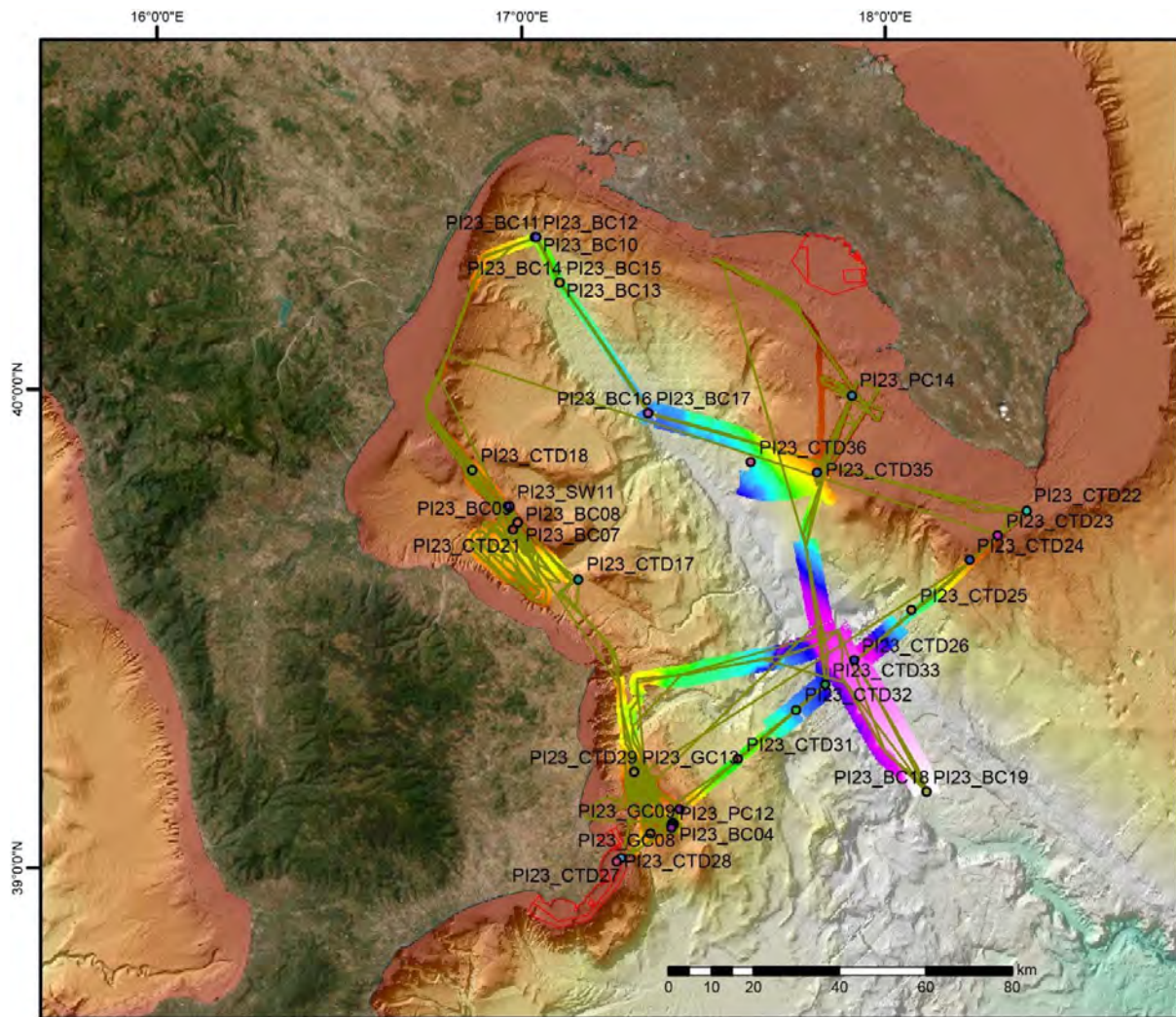




**Figure 1.4.6.** Plan of activities during Leg 1 of the PIONEER 2023 cruise.

The actual survey carried out during Leg 2 can be summarized as follows:





**PROBE STATION**

- |             |              |              |                                |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| ● PI23_BC03 | ● PI23_BC17  | ● PI23_CTD27 | ● PI23_PC14                    |
| ● PI23_BC04 | ● PI23_BC18  | ● PI23_CTD28 | ● PI23_PC15                    |
| ● PI23_BC05 | ● PI23_BC19  | ● PI23_CTD29 | ● PI23_SW11                    |
| ● PI23_BC06 | ● PI23_CTD15 | ● PI23_CTD30 | — Nav Leg2                     |
| ● PI23_BC07 | ● PI23_CTD16 | ● PI23_CTD31 | □ AMP                          |
| ● PI23_BC08 | ● PI23_CTD17 | ● PI23_CTD32 | <b>Bathymetric acquisition</b> |
| ● PI23_BC09 | ● PI23_CTD18 | ● PI23_CTD33 | <b>Value</b>                   |
| ● PI23_BC10 | ● PI23_CTD19 | ● PI23_CTD34 | — -41.55                       |
| ● PI23_BC11 | ● PI23_CTD20 | ● PI23_CTD35 | — -2599.46                     |
| ● PI23_BC12 | ● PI23_CTD21 | ● PI23_CTD36 |                                |
| ● PI23_BC13 | ● PI23_CTD22 | ● PI23_GC08  |                                |
| ● PI23_BC14 | ● PI23_CTD23 | ● PI23_GC09  |                                |
| ● PI23_BC15 | ● PI23_CTD24 | ● PI23_GC13  |                                |
| ● PI23_BC16 | ● PI23_CTD25 | ● PI23_PC10  |                                |
|             | ● PI23_CTD26 | ● PI23_PC12  |                                |

**Figure 1.4.7.** Effective survey carried out during Leg 2 of the PIONEER 2023 cruise.

<b>LONG-WGS84</b>	<b>LAT-WGS84</b>	<b>UNIQUE STATION</b>	<b>PROBE STATION</b>	<b>DEPTH (m)</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>UTC</b>
17.3630983	39.0684617	50	PI23_CTD15	607	29/11/2023	9:25
17.2997867	39.0498400	CTD3	PI23_CTD16	416	30/11/2023	5:53
17.3592333	39,0700900	50	PI23_BC03	609	30/11/2023	7:43
17.3594300	39.0702967	50	PI23_GC08	607	30/11/2023	8:56
17.3572492	39.0646017	69	PI23_BC04	615	30/11/2023	10:32
17.3575523	39.,0654860	69	PI23_GC09	612	30/11/2023	12:46
17.1228167	39.5851842	44	PI23_CTD17	676	01/12/2023	11:12
16.8430087	39.8172263	44	PI23_CTD18	420	01/12/2023	22:13
16.9401796	39.7400423	44	PI23_PC10	370	02/12/2023	9:35
16.9402860	39.7399369	44	PI23_CTD19	370	02/12/2023	10:27
16.9405970	39.7395868	44	PI23_BC05	368	02/12/2023	12:05
16.9408583	39.7396773	44	PI23_BC06	368	02/12/2023	12:40
16,9613782	39.7060328	44	PI23_CTD20	287	03/12/2023	8:23
16.9610417	39.7060017	44	PI23_BC07	281	03/12/2023	8:55
16.9610785	39.7061703	44	PI23_BC08	281	03/12/2023	9:47
16.9610541	39.7061235	44	PI23_BC09	281	03/12/2023	10:51
16.9400483	39.7400000	44	PI23_SW11	369	03/12/2023	13:28
16.9472033	39.6928333	44	PI23_CTD21	387	03/12/2023	14:49
17.0276062	40.3010565	75	PI23_BC10	1008	04/12/2023	6:16
17.0279018	40.3010382	75	PI23_BC11	1007	04/12/2023	6:58
17.0279755	40.3009762	75	PI23_BC12	1008	04/12/2023	7:47
17.0888153	40.2052608	76	PI23_BC13	1209	12/4/2023	9:30
17.0888453	40.2052503	76	PI23_BC14	1208	12/4/2023	10:30
17.0888267	40.2053195	76	PI23_BC15	1205	12/4/2023	11:23
17.3230827	39.9283483	77	PI23_BC16	1708	12/4/2023	14:28
17.3231142	39.9284625	77	PI23_BC17	1708	12/4/2023	15:38
18.3397578	39.7000908	CTD16	PI23_CTD22	121	12/4/2023	21:43
18.2596927	39.6501930	CTD15	PI23_CTD23	196	12/4/2023	23:02

18.1799657	39.6003575	CTD14	PI23_CTD24	412	12/5/2023	0:13
18.0198747	39.5000712	CTD12	PI23_CTD25	1356	12/5/2023	2:16
17.8602032	39.4003308	CTD10	PI23_CTD26	2274	12/5/2023	4:46
18.0418263	39.1212138	80	PI23_BC18	2594	12/5/2023	8:01
18.0419523	39.1211730	80	PI23_BC19	2592	12/5/2023	9:10
17.2201800	38.9998968	CTD02	PI23_CTD27	62	12/6/2023	6:54
17.2074262	38.9928310	CTD01	PI23_CTD28	40	12/6/2023	7:29
17.3565582	39.0614055	69bis	PI23_PC12	590	12/6/2023	9:38
17.2591450	39.1800333	Biocostruzioni	PI23_CTD29	160	12/6/2023	12:02
17.2593233	39.1796972	Biocostruzioni	PI23_GC13	160	12/6/2023	12:46
17.3801570	39.1001835	CTD04	PI23_CTD30	588	12/6/2023	14:33
17.5399743	39.2000775	CTD06	PI23_CTD31	1129	12/6/2023	16:44
17.7003868	39.3002415	CTD08	PI23_CTD32	1662	12/6/2023	19:19
17.7795797	39.3502480	CTD09	PI23_CTD33	1893	12/6/2023	21:26
17.8772493	39.9536830	45	PI23_PC14	200	12/7/2023	9:14
39.7702262	17.7727548	48	PI23_CTD34	710	12/8/2023	10:54
39.7705110	17.7727482	48	PI23_PC15	712	12/8/2023	12:23
17.7770233	39.7953937	possible cascading point	PI23_CTD35	538	12/8/2023	17:06
17.5974290	39.8204475	along slope	PI23_CTD36	1492	12/8/2023	20:09

**Table 1.4.5.** Effective measurement stations performed during Leg 2 of the PIONEER cruise 2023 with multiple platforms and probes. For correct depth of deployment of single probes and devices refer to the tables describing each activity. BC = box corer; GC = gravity corer; PC = Piston corer; SW = SeaWater; CTD = CTD/Rosette. PI23 is the short name for PIONEER 2023. The unique station refers to the number of the station in the planning and permitting phase.

Activities in the second leg concentrated, among others, on the investigation of the Earth System Cycles along an external transect of the Gulf of Taranto, pelagic and benthic biodiversity, sediment and water sampling for the comprehensive study of seepage systems, paleoceanographic reconstructions and contamination in deep sea sediments.

## 1.7. Activities, methodologies and tools

The PIONEER oceanographic campaign aboard RV Gaia Blu involved a diverse range of activities and methodologies and focused on various aspects of marine research, covering physical, chemical, geological and biological parameters. Specific activities included CTD measurements and L-ADCP, seawater sampling with Niskin bottles, the deployment of microstructure profiler, plankton net, coring and box coring sediment sampling devices, the operation of specialized geophysical equipment such as multibeam, CHIRP, ADCP. The wet and dry labs provided essential spaces for conducting experiments and analyses. The control room facilitated coordination and communication during operations. The following paragraphs provide a detailed assessment of the operations carried out.

## 2. CTD and LADCP Operations

### 2.1. Insights

CTD profiles (Conductivity, Temperature and Depth) were carried out with a Seabird SBE-911+ mounted on a 12-bottle Rosette sampler, with all sensors calibrated yearly. About the Rosette, two casts were released to provide a proper water sampling of the water column for the deepest stations (e.g. 12 bottles in the deep layers, below 1000 m depth, and then 12 others in the superior layers, from 1000m to the surface). Additional casts were performed on demand to carry the IOP instrumentation (fixed on the Rosette structure) to measure the optic properties and radiometry of the water column (see the Section IOP/Radiometry). Regarding the CTD measurements, the raw 24 Hz profiles were processed using the standard Seabird software SBE data Processing (Version 7.26.7) to obtain bin-averaged data on a 1-m regular vertical grid.

The main variables measured are temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), seawater conductivity (mS/cm), and pressure (decibar). Salinity (PSU) is inferred by the Seabird software on the fly from conductivity and temperature, using the TEOS equation. Values are recalculated later during the data processing using the Gibbs Sea Water (GSW) Oceanographic Toolbox. Observations presented thereafter are preliminary results that were obtained before the re-calibration process.

To acquire a full depth-ocean velocity, two Lowered ADCPs are mounted on the CTD carousel. The system is composed of two workhorse LADCPs (WH 300). One upward-looking and one downward-looking. While in the water, the Lowered ADCPs (LADCPs) utilize acoustic pings to gather short-range velocity profiles (approximately 100 m) relative to the moving instruments. To obtain absolute velocities in the Earth's frame of reference, these short profiles are combined, and the effects of instrument motion are corrected using additional constraints.

The system consisted of two RD instrument Workhorse ADCPs (WH 300) operating at a frequency of 300 kHz. One ADCP looked upward (Slave s/n 1805), while the other looked downward (Master s/n 1465). The downward-looking ADCP allowed for tracking instrument velocity over the seabed, providing a constraint for LADCP profiles near the seabed. LADCP measurements were conducted at 25 CTD stations and processed using the LDEO Matlab LADCP-processing system based on the velocity-inversion method initially developed by Visbeck (2002).

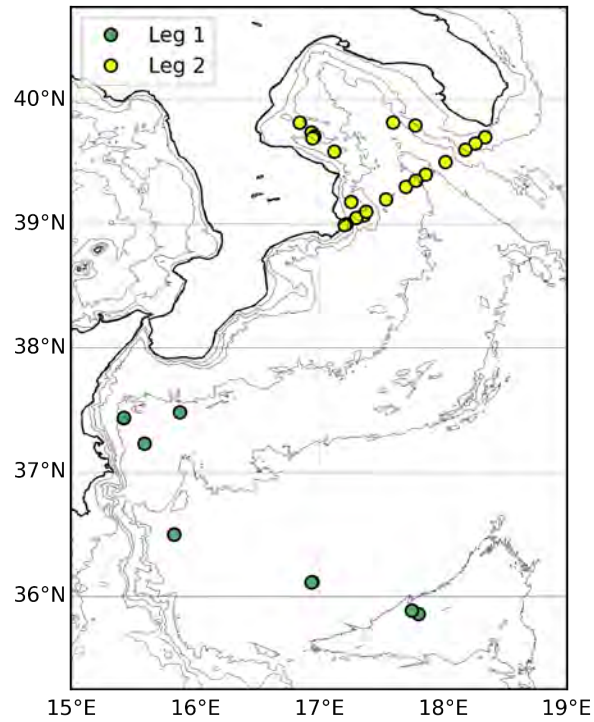
This software utilized the raw LADCP data, processed CTD data to generate vertical profiles of the u- and -v velocity components (Figure 2.1.4).

Leg	CTD	Filename	Cast type	Date, time (UTC)	Lon. (dd)	Lat. (dd)	Depth max (m)	Bottom depth (m)
1	CTD01	PI23_CTD01	Full column	2023-11-19 12:40:30	15.425	37.439	202	220
1	CTD02	PI23_CTD02_st3deep	Full column	2023-11-20 09:01:30	17.803	35.857	3896	3950
1	CTD03	PI23_CTD03_st3iop1	Carrying IOP	2023-11-20 17:28:02	17.748	35.886	99	3950
1	CTD04	PI23_CTD04_st3sup	Sup 0-1000m	2023-11-20 17:59:24	17.748	35.886	1001	3950
1	CTD05	PI23_CTD05_st11deep	Full column	2023-11-21 03:23:20	16.944	36.116	3382	3414
1	CTD06	PI23_CTD06_st11sup	Sup 0-500m	2023-11-21 08:05:03	16.944	36.115	505	3414
1	CTD07	PI23_CTD07_st11iop01	Carrying IOP	2023-11-21 09:29:37	16.939	36.114	98	3601
1	CTD08	PI23_CTD08_st11iop02	Carrying IOP	2023-11-21 09:49:19	16.939	36.114	98	3601
1	CTD09	PI23_CTD09_stKM3deep	Full column	2023-11-22 04:41:28	15.833	36.500	3273	3304
1	CTD10	PI23_CTD10_stKM3sup	Sup 0-400m	2023-11-22 09:26:53	15.831	36.498	402	3304
1	CTD11	PI23_CTD11_st34	Full column	2023-11-24 14:18:36	15.592	37.232	2152	2200
1	CTD12	PI23_CTD12_st26	Full column	2023-11-26 16:10:20	15.426	37.440	1971	1989
1	CTD13	PI23_CTD13_st26_bis	Sup 0-60m	2023-11-26 18:07:42	15.426	37.441	72	1989
1	CTD14	PI23_CTD14_stNK25	Full column	2023-11-27 08:55:01	15.876	37.485	2206	2227
2	CTD15	PI23_CTD15_st50	Full column	2023-11-29 09:13:46	17.361	39.069	569	
2	CTD16	PI23_CTD16_stctd03	Full column	2023-11-30 05:19:22	17.299	39.050	394	
2	CTD17	PI23_CTD17	Full column	2023-12-01 11:00:07	17.122	39.585	645	
2	CTD18	PI23_CTD18	Full column	2023-12-01 22:04:19	16.843	39.817	395	
2	CTD34	PI23_CTD34_st48	Full column	2023-12-02 10:19:39	16.940	39.740	349	
2	CTD19	PI23_CTD19_st44	Full column	2023-12-02 10:19:39	16.940	39.740	273	

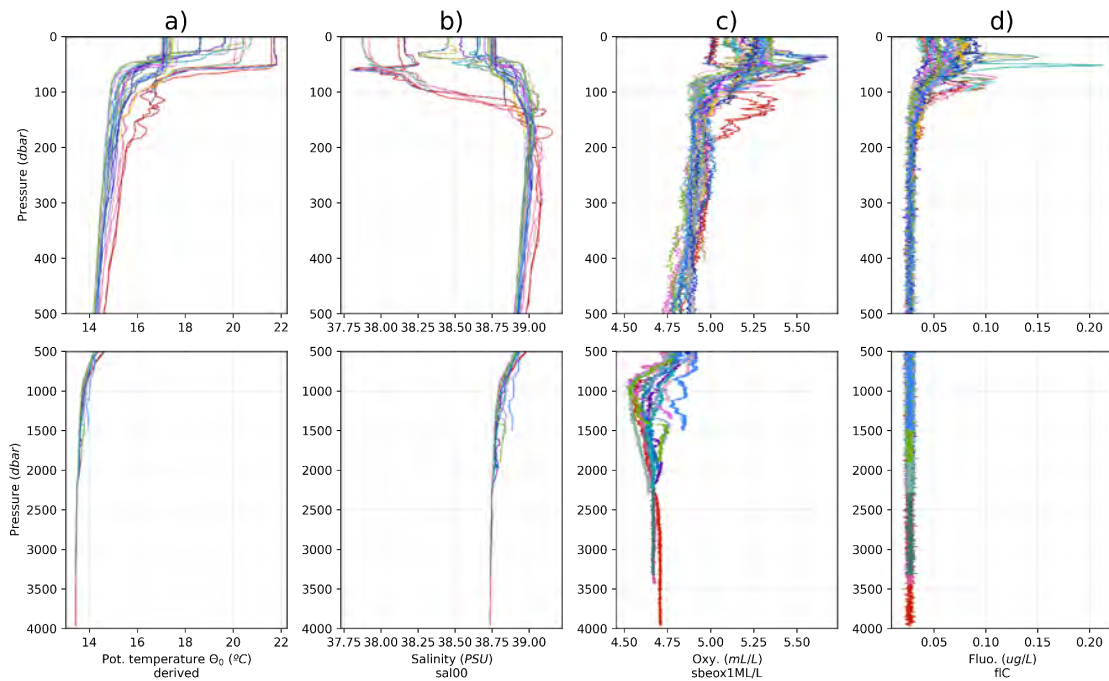


2	CTD20	PI23_CTD20	Full column	2023-12-03 08:16:37	16.961	39.705	368	
2	CTD21	PI23_CTD21	Full column	2023-12-03 14:41:34	16.946	39.692	122	
2	CTD22	PI23_CTD22_stctd16	Full column	2023-12-04 21:39:04	18.340	39.700	181	
2	CTD23	PI23_CTD23_stctd15	Full column	2023-12-04 22:58:42	18.260	39.650	401	
2	CTD24	PI23_CTD24_stctd14	Full column	2023-12-05 00:05:02	18.180	39.600	1337	
2	CTD25	PI23_CTD25_stctd12	Full column	2023-12-05 01:53:25	18.020	39.500	2256	
2	CTD26	PI23_CTD26_stctd10	Full column	2023-12-05 04:08:57	17.859	39.400	52	
2	CTD27	PI23_CTD27_stctd02	Full column	2023-12-06 06:52:07	17.220	38.999	30	
2	CTD28	PI23_CTD28_stctd01	Full column	2023-12-06 07:27:33	17.207	38.992	135	
2	CTD29	PI23_CTD29_stGCbiogeo	Full column	2023-12-06 11:58:21	17.259	39.179	569	
2	CTD30	PI23_CTD30_stctd04	Full column	2023-12-06 14:23:22	17.380	39.100	1113	
2	CTD31	PI23_CTD31_stctd06	Full column	2023-12-06 16:24:18	17.539	39.199	1646	
2	CTD32	PI23_CTD32_stctd08	Full column	2023-12-06 18:51:26	17.700	39.300	1877	
2	CTD33	PI23_CTD33_stctd09	Full column	2023-12-06 20:55:21	17.780	39.350	697	
2	CTD35	PI23_CTD35	Full column	2023-12-08 16:55:23	17.777	39.795	533	
2	CTD36	PI23_CTD36	Full column	2023-12-08 19:45:08	17.597	39.820	1477	

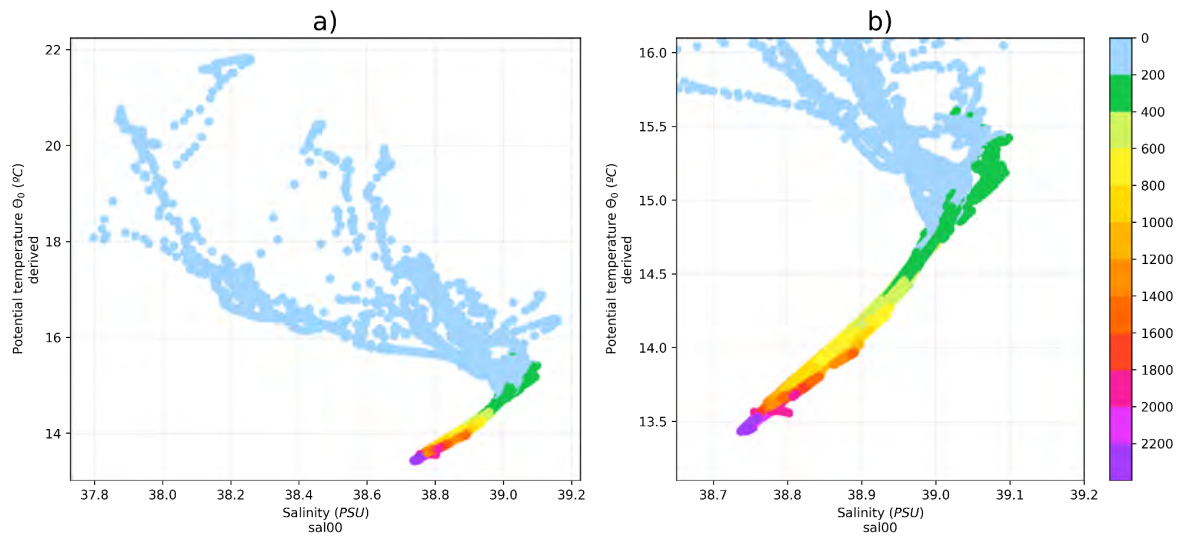
**Table 2.2.1.** General metadata information of each CTD casts (*Deep*: full-column depth coverage, from surface to bottom; *Sup*: superior depth range coverage, from surface up to 1000m, to complete the water sampling; *IOP*: downcast performed up to 100m deep to carry IOP's instrumentations).



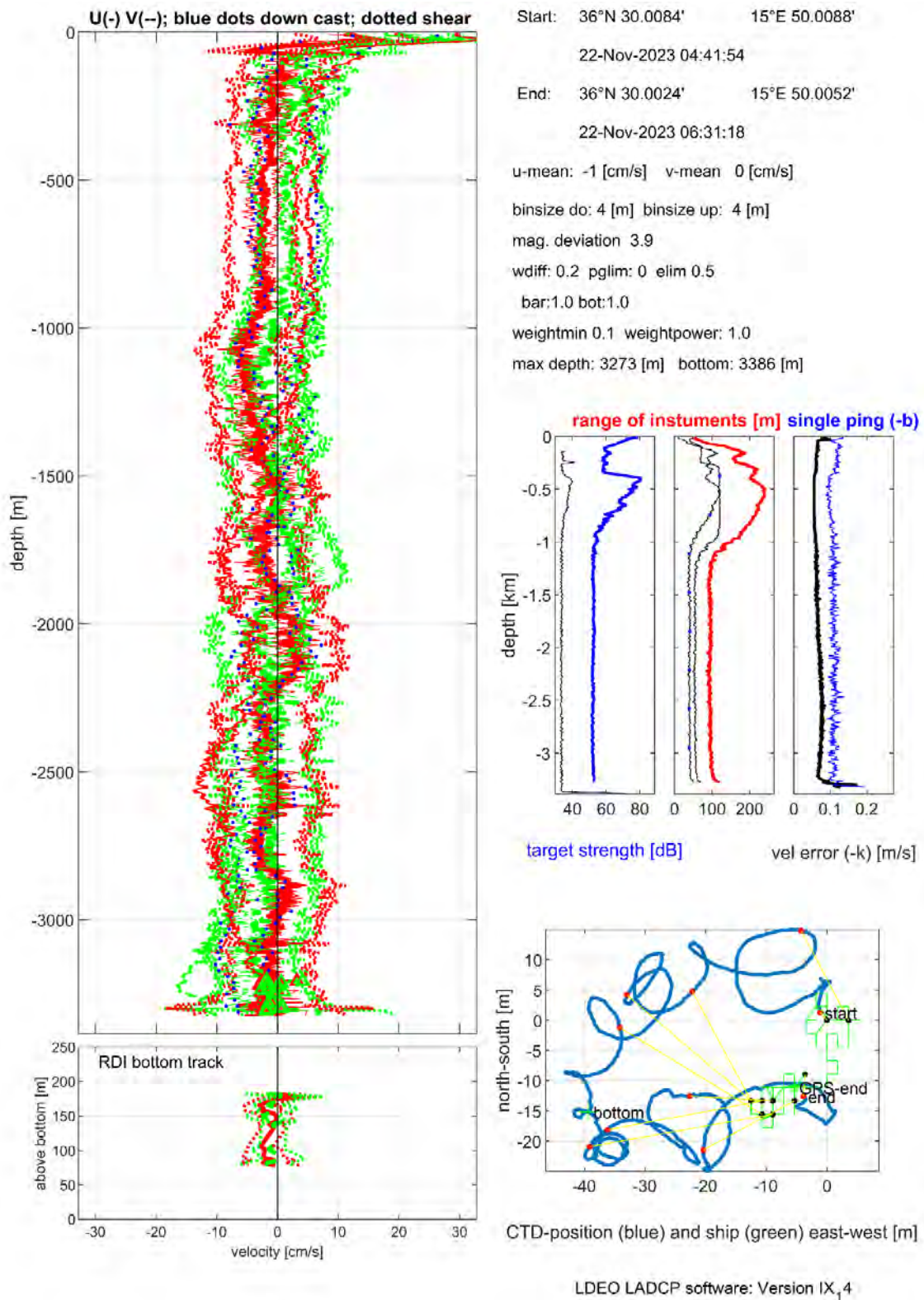
**Figure 2.1.1.** Geographical position of the CTD casts over the Ionian sea bathy-morphology (GEBCO, 2020; isobaths: -100m,-500m,-1000m,-2000m,-3000m,-4000m). In green: Leg 1; yellow: Leg 2.



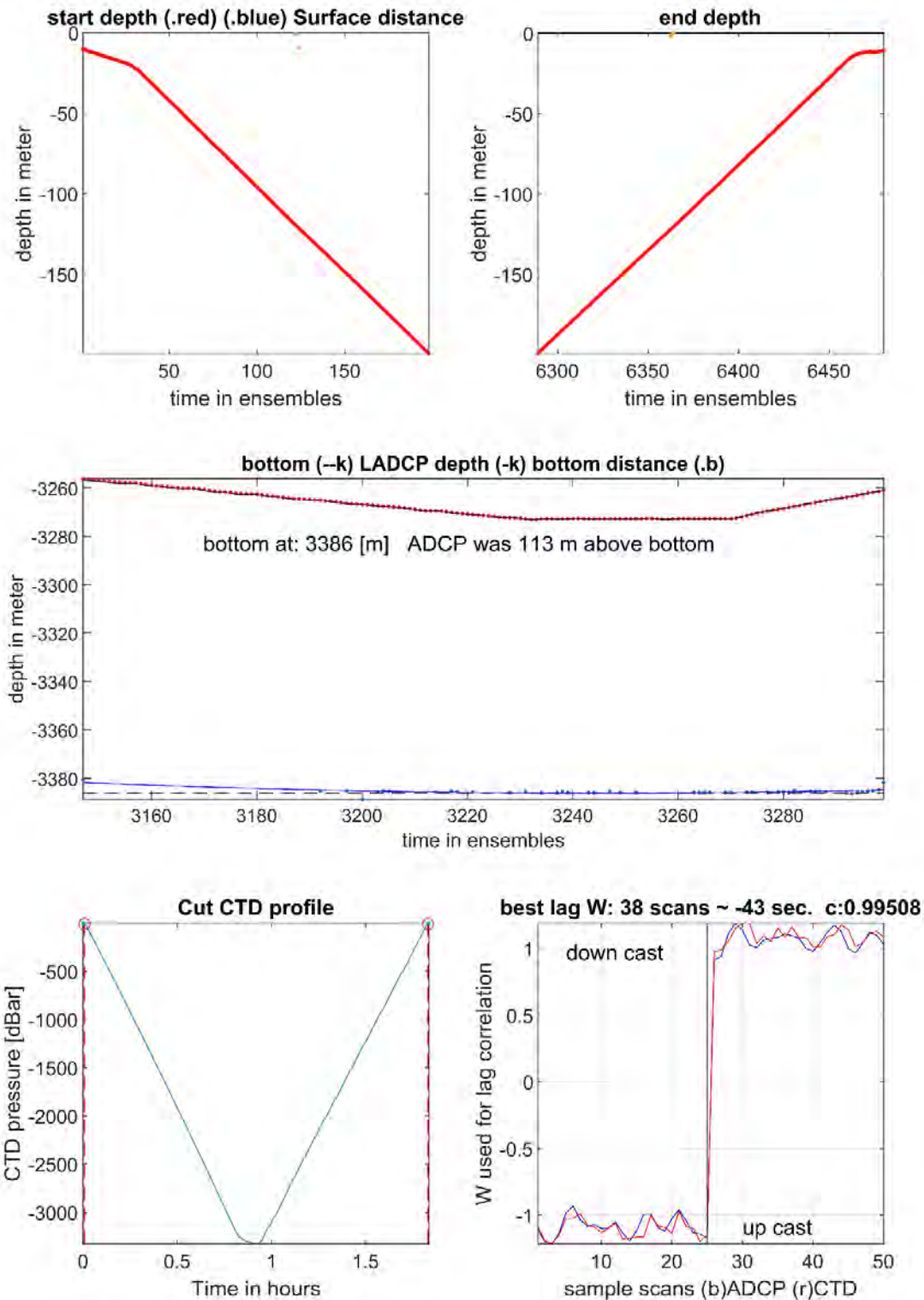
**Figure 2.1.2.** Overview of the vertical profiles obtained from the CTD sensor. a) Temperature; b) salinity; c) oxygen; d) fluorescence. The water-column is splitted with two panels to present the upper (Top: 0-500m) and the deep layers (Bottom: 500m-bottom).



**Figure 2.1.3.** General temperature-salinity diagrams. In colour: pressure ranges of measurements (in decibar) Left: all values; Right: zoom over intermediate layers.



**Figure 2.1.4.** Overview plot of station CTD09. Main panel: eastward (in red) and northward (in green) velocities: full solution with error bars, down and upcast solutions, shear solution, bottom track. bottom-left panel: bottom track velocities. Bottom-right panel: ship and instrument drift during cast. Center-right panels: target-strength, range and error profiles. Top-right text: metadata and velocity referencing constraints used for processing.



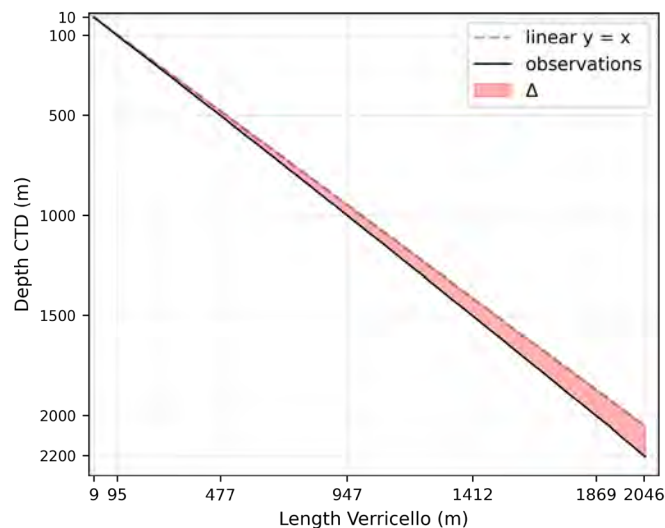
**Figure 2.1.5.** Surface/ seabed detection and CTD/LADCP times series match (example from station CTD09). upper panels: start and end of the cast (in red), and the detected sea-surface (in yellow). central panel: bottom depth of the cast (from CTD depth in black, from LADCP in red) with the detected sea-bed (in blue). Bottom right panel: CTD/LADCP times series match (downcast: left, upcast: right). Bottom-left panel: time range of CTD cast (dashed red lines).



## 2.2. Challenges

The CTD acquisition took place as expected and, after pre-processing, the quality of the data appears good and meets the expected standards.

However, there is discrepancy between the cable length indicated by the winch system and the actual depth of the CTD, even at shallow depths (e.g. for 50 m displayed by the CTD, the winch underestimates at 48 m). The CTD depth inferred from the pressure sensor is reliable, while the cable length, digitally calculated from the winch parameters, proved to be unreliable. Repeated observations have shown that this difference increases with depth (about 5 m difference at 100 m depth, 50 m at 1000 m and up to 300 m at 3000 m). An example of this behavior can be seen in the following image.



**Figure 2.2.1.** Differences noted between CTD probe depth and winch length. This difference increases with depth. Taking into consideration a payout strictly equal to the depth of the CTD ( $y=x$ ), there would be high risk of touch down.

In addition, during profile PI23\_CTD02 problems occurred to the pulley that led the operator to stop the descent several times to adjust the winch settings. When the probe was lifted, the 0 of the CTD (at the sea surface) corresponded to a value of 30 m on the winch, which could be stopped in time by the intervention of the operator. Subsequently, for the other profiles, this difference could be observed and documented and operations could continue in complete safety.

## 2.3. Recommendations

The main recommendation that emerged during the practice on board concerns the use of the winch and checking the difference between the unrolled length and the CTD depth. Once the definitive correspondence between the cable length and the CTD depth has been established, a simple procedure can be used, during the implementation for each profile:

Example of protocol:

1- check the local depth using the multibeam (e.g. 677 m).

2- round down to the nearest decade (e.g. if 677 m consider 670 m).

3- subtract a safety distance (e.g. 40 m, corresponding to the altimeter range): 670m - 40m = 630 m.

4- consider this depth value, and find its correspondence with the length of the cable (e.g. according to our observations, 630m of depth corresponds to 600 m of cable).

5- report the payout value of 600 in the payout, and not the depth of 630 m, in order to limit the maximum depth of the descent to a reasonable safety distance from the bottom.

6- start the profile (slowly, at 20 m/min, then faster, 40 m/min, up to 60 m/min = 1 m/s) and continue to check the CTD value and its difference with the winch during the downhill.

7- once the descent has been completed and the probe has reached the bottom area (e.g. payout cable value 600, CTD depth of approximately 630 m and beam depth of the seabed of approximately 670 m), increase the payout (e.g. payout value of 620 to the square of payout 600 m) then slowly continue the descent (20 m/min) to finish the last metres of the profile, up to a proximity of 15-20 m from the bottom, checking the distance from the bottom using the altimeter.

Furthermore, as a general recommendation it would be necessary to train more people in the use of the winch to ensure the possibility of carrying out measurements during all work shifts 24 hours a day.

### **3. Seawater Sampling**

#### **3.1. Insights**

Seawater sampling was carried out using a Carousel 32 twelve positions for Niskin. This is a rosette sampler that can hold up to 12 Niskin bottles of 12 liters each. It allows the collection of water samples at different depths and locations. The sampler is triggered by a remote control. The Niskin plastic bottles have a spring-loaded mechanism that closes the bottle when the command is given. They can collect water samples from any depth. Water samples were collected and analyzed for different parameters as follows.

- *Dissolved oxygen sampling*

Besides the CTD SBE43 oxygen profiles, 24 discrete oxygen samples were collected during 5 CTD casts from Niskin bottles to calibrate the CTD oxygen sensors and correct for any drift. Seawater samples were collected at different depth levels to cover the full range of dissolved oxygen (DO) in the water column.

Samples were immediately fixed with ½ ml of manganous chloride ( $MnCl_2$ ) and ½ sodium hydroxide solution (NaOH/NaI). Samples were shaken and taken back to the onboard lab and stored in the dark normally for three to four hours of sample collection to allow the precipitate formation. After adding the reagents  $Mn^{2+}$  is oxidized by the molecule of oxygen in the seawater sample, to the point that it precipitates as  $Mn(OH)_2$  at the bottom of the bottle.

- *Salinity sampling*

During 6 CTD stations, probes at 7 depth levels were sampled for salinity analysis. samples were collected in 250ml flasks and stored at least 12 hours prior analysis.

- *Inorganic nutrient sampling*

Seawater samples for inorganic nutrients were collected during the CTD upcast at standard depths using 50 ml flasks. Samples were immediately stored at -20°C.

- *eDNA sampling*

During Leg 1, deep and surface seawater for eDNA analysis was sampled at 5 CTD stations collecting several liters of water (maximum 10 liters) from Niskin bottles and filtering in the wet lab shortly afterwards. During Leg 1, at each selected station, seawater for eDNA analysis was collected at 6 or 7 different depth levels (Table 3.1.1). Thus, filters were stored at -80°C for further molecular analysis.

Then, deep seawater for eDNA analysis was sampled at all the CTD stations during Leg 2; 10 litres collected from each Niskin rosette deployment and filtered in the wet lab shortly afterwards (Fig. 3.1.1). Thus, filters were stored at -80°C for further molecular analysis.

**A.**



**B.**



**Figure 3.1.1.** A. Deployment of the Niskin Rosette system. B. Operations of rinsing the plastic tanks with Niskin water before sampling 10 liters.

Date	Station	Depth (m)	Sample name
20/11/2023	3	4081	PI23_CTD02_st3_eDNA_1
20/11/2023	3	3250	PI23_CTD02_st3_eDNA_5
20/11/2023	3	1500	PI23_CTD02_st3_eDNA_12
20/11/2023	3	750	PI23_CTD04_st3_eDNA_3
20/11/2023	3	400	PI23_CTD04_st3_eDNA_5
20/11/2023	3	100	PI23_CTD04_st3_eDNA_8

20/11/2023	3	5	PI23_CTD04_st3_eDNA_12
21/11/2023	11	3377	PI23_CTD05_st11_eDNA_1
21/11/2023	11	2600	PI23_CTD05_st11_eDNA_5
21/11/2023	11	1000	PI23_CTD05_st11_eDNA_12
21/11/2023	11	500	PI23_CTD06_st11_eDNA_1
21/11/2023	11	80	PI23_CTD06_st11_eDNA_7/8/9
21/11/2023	11	5	PI23_CTD06_st11_eDNA_12
22/11/2023	KM3	3272	PI23_CTD09_KM3_eDNA_1
22/11/2023	KM3	2600	PI23_CTD09_KM3_eDNA_4
22/11/2023	KM3	2000	PI23_CTD09_KM3_eDNA_7
22/11/2023	KM3	900	PI23_CTD09_KM3_eDNA_11
22/11/2023	KM3	110	PI23_CTD10_KM3_eDNA_3
22/11/2023	KM3	35	PI23_CTD10_KM3_eDNA_6
22/11/2023	KM3	5	PI23_CTD10_KM3_eDNA_11
26/11/2023	26	1971	PI23_CTD12_st26_eDNA_1
26/11/2023	26	1100	PI23_CTD12_st26_eDNA_3
26/11/2023	26	150	PI23_CTD12_st26_eDNA_7
26/11/2023	26	60	PI23_CTD12_st26_eDNA_8
26/11/2023	26	40	PI23_CTD12_st26_eDNA_10
26/11/2023	26	5	PI23_CTD12_st26_eDNA_11
27/11/2023	NK25	2200	PI23_CTD14_NK25_eDNA_1
27/11/2023	NK25	1500	PI23_CTD14_NK25_eDNA_3A PI23_CTD14_NK25_eDNA_3B
27/11/2023	NK25	675	PI23_CTD14_NK25_eDNA_5
27/11/2023	NK25	150	PI23_CTD14_NK25_eDNA_8A PI23_CTD14_NK25_eDNA_8B
27/11/2023	NK25	50	PI23_CTD14_NK25_eDNA_10
27/11/2023	NK25	5	PI23_CTD14_NK25_eDNA_12

**Table 3.1.1.** Samples collected at each station and each depth level for eDNA analysis during Leg 1.

- Enzymatic activity (EEA) and nutrients analysis samplings

Deep and surface seawater for enzymatic activity and nutrients analysis was sampled at the CTD stations collecting respectively 100 ml and 15 ml from Niskin bottles. Thus, sampled water was stored at +4°C and -20°C respectively for enzymatic activity analysis and nutrients analysis. During Leg 1, water for enzymatic analysis and nutrient analysis was collected in 5 stations at different depth levels (Tab. 3.1.2, 3.1.3).

Date	Station	Depth (m)	EEA sample name
20/11/23	3	4081	PI23_CTD02_st3_EEA_1
20/11/23	3	3900	PI23_CTD02_st3_EEA_2
20/11/23	3	3800	PI23_CTD02_st3_EEA_3
20/11/23	3	3500	PI23_CTD02_st3_EEA_4
20/11/23	3	3250	PI23_CTD02_st3_EEA_5

20/11/23	3	3000	PI23_CTD02_st3_EEA_6
20/11/23	3	2750	PI23_CTD02_st3_EEA_7
20/11/23	3	2500	PI23_CTD02_st3_EEA_8
20/11/23	3	2250	PI23_CTD02_st3_EEA_9
20/11/23	3	1750	PI23_CTD02_st3_EEA_11
20/11/23	3	1500	PI23_CTD02_st3_EEA_12
20/11/23	3	1250	PI23_CTD04_st3_EEA_1
20/11/23	3	1000	PI23_CTD04_st3_EEA_2
20/11/23	3	750	PI23_CTD04_st3_EEA_3
20/11/23	3	500	PI23_CTD04_st3_EEA_4
20/11/23	3	400	PI23_CTD04_st3_EEA_5
20/11/23	3	200	PI23_CTD04_st3_EEA_7
20/11/23	3	100	PI23_CTD04_st3_EEA_8
20/11/23	3	25	PI23_CTD04_st3_EEA_11
20/11/23	3	5	PI23_CTD04_st3_EEA_12
21/11/23	11	3377	PI23_CTD05_st11_EEA_1
21/11/23	11	3250	PI23_CTD05_st11_EEA_2
21/11/23	11	3000	PI23_CTD05_st11_EEA_3
21/11/23	11	2800	PI23_CTD05_st11_EEA_4
21/11/23	11	2600	PI23_CTD05_st11_EEA_5
21/11/23	11	2400	PI23_CTD05_st11_EEA_6
21/11/23	11	2200	PI23_CTD05_st11_EEA_7
21/11/23	11	1750	PI23_CTD05_st11_EEA_9
21/11/23	11	1500	PI23_CTD05_st11_EEA_10
21/11/23	11	1250	PI23_CTD05_st11_EEA_11
21/11/23	11	1000	PI23_CTD05_st11_EEA_12
21/11/23	11	500	PI23_CTD06_st11_EEA_1
21/11/23	11	400	PI23_CTD06_st11_EEA_2
21/11/23	11	300	PI23_CTD06_st11_EEA_3
21/11/23	11	200	PI23_CTD06_st11_EEA_4
21/11/23	11	150	PI23_CTD06_st11_EEA_5
21/11/23	11	100	PI23_CTD06_st11_EEA_6
21/11/23	11	80	PI23_CTD06_st11_EEA_7/8/9
21/11/23	11	50	PI23_CTD06_st11_EEA_10
21/11/23	11	25	PI23_CTD06_st11_EEA_11
21/11/23	11	5	PI23_CTD06_st11_EEA_12
22/11/23	KM3	3272	PI23_CTD09_KM3_EEA_1
22/11/23	KM3	3100	PI23_CTD09_KM3_EEA_2
22/11/23	KM3	3000	PI23_CTD09_KM3_EEA_3
22/11/23	KM3	2600	PI23_CTD09_KM3_EEA_4
22/11/23	KM3	2400	PI23_CTD09_KM3_EEA_5
22/11/23	KM3	2200	PI23_CTD09_KM3_EEA_6



22/11/23	KM3	2000	PI23_CTD09_KM3_EEA_7
22/11/23	KM3	1800	PI23_CTD09_KM3_EEA_8
22/11/23	KM3	1500	PI23_CTD09_KM3_EEA_9
22/11/23	KM3	1250	PI23_CTD09_KM3_EEA_10
22/11/23	KM3	900	PI23_CTD09_KM3_EEA_11
22/11/23	KM3	500	PI23_CTD09_KM3_EEA_12
22/11/23	KM3	300	PI23_CTD10_KM3_EEA_1
22/11/23	KM3	110	PI23_CTD10_KM3_EEA_3
22/11/23	KM3	60	PI23_CTD10_KM3_EEA_4
22/11/23	KM3	35	PI23_CTD10_KM3_EEA_6
22/11/23	KM3	20	PI23_CTD10_KM3_EEA_9
22/11/23	KM3	5	PI23_CTD10_KM3_EEA_11
26/11/23	26	1971	PI23_CTD12_st26_EEA_1
26/11/23	26	1750	PI23_CTD12_st26_EEA_2
26/11/23	26	1100	PI23_CTD12_st26_EEA_3
26/11/23	26	800	PI23_CTD12_st26_EEA_4
26/11/23	26	400	PI23_CTD12_st26_EEA_5
26/11/23	26	150	PI23_CTD12_st26_EEA_7
26/11/23	26	60	PI23_CTD12_st26_EEA_8
26/11/23	26	40	PI23_CTD12_st26_EEA_10
26/11/23	26	5	PI23_CTD12_st26_EEA_11
27/11/23	NK25	2200	PI23_CTD14_NK25_EEA_1
27/11/23	NK25	1750	PI23_CTD14_NK25_EEA_2
27/11/23	NK25	1500	PI23_CTD14_NK25_EEA_3
27/11/23	NK25	1100	PI23_CTD14_NK25_EEA_4
27/11/23	NK25	675	PI23_CTD14_NK25_EEA_5
27/11/23	NK25	400	PI23_CTD14_NK25_EEA_6
27/11/23	NK25	150	PI23_CTD14_NK25_EEA_7
27/11/23	NK25	50	PI23_CTD14_NK25_EEA_10

**Table 3.1.2.** Samples collected at each station and each depth level for enzymatic activity analysis during Leg 1.

Date	Station	Depth (m)	Nutrients sample name
20/11/23	3	4081	PI23_CTD02_st3_NUT_1
20/11/23	3	3500	PI23_CTD02_st3_NUT_4
20/11/23	3	3000	PI23_CTD02_st3_NUT_6
20/11/23	3	2500	PI23_CTD02_st3_NUT_8
20/11/23	3	1500	PI23_CTD02_st3_NUT_12
20/11/23	3	1250	PI23_CTD04_st3_NUT_1
20/11/23	3	500	PI23_CTD04_st3_NUT_4
20/11/23	3	100	PI23_CTD04_st3_NUT_8

20/11/23	3	5	PI23_CTD04_st3_NUT_12
21/11/23	11	3377	PI23_CTD05_st11_NUT_1
21/11/23	11	3000	PI23_CTD05_st11_NUT_3
21/11/23	11	2600	PI23_CTD05_st11_NUT_5
21/11/23	11	1000	PI23_CTD05_st11_NUT_12
21/11/23	11	500	PI23_CTD06_st11_NUT_1
21/11/23	11	100	PI23_CTD06_st11_NUT_6
21/11/23	11	80	PI23_CTD06_st11_NUT_7/8/9
21/11/23	11	50	PI23_CTD06_st11_NUT_10
21/11/23	11	25	PI23_CTD06_st11_NUT_11
21/11/23	11	5	PI23_CTD06_st11_NUT_12
22/11/23	KM3	3272	PI23_CTD09_KM3_NUT_1
22/11/23	KM3	2600	PI23_CTD09_KM3_NUT_4
22/11/23	KM3	2000	PI23_CTD09_KM3_NUT_7
22/11/23	KM3	1500	PI23_CTD09_KM3_NUT_9
22/11/23	KM3	900	PI23_CTD09_KM3_NUT_11
22/11/23	KM3	500	PI23_CTD09_KM3_NUT_12
22/11/23	KM3	300	PI23_CTD10_KM3_NUT_1
22/11/23	KM3	110	PI23_CTD10_KM3_NUT_3
22/11/23	KM3	60	PI23_CTD10_KM3_NUT_4
22/11/23	KM3	35	PI23_CTD10_KM3_NUT_6
22/11/23	KM3	20	PI23_CTD10_KM3_NUT_9
22/11/23	KM3	5	PI23_CTD10_KM3_NUT_11
26/11/23	26	1971	PI23_CTD12_st26_NUT_1
26/11/23	26	1100	PI23_CTD12_st26_NUT_3
26/11/23	26	150	PI23_CTD12_st26_NUT_7
26/11/23	26	60	PI23_CTD12_st26_NUT_8
26/11/23	26	40	PI23_CTD12_st26_NUT_10
26/11/23	26	5	PI23_CTD12_st26_NUT_11
27/11/23	NK25	2200	PI23_CTD14_NK25_NUT_1
27/11/23	NK25	1500	PI23_CTD14_NK25_NUT_3
27/11/23	NK25	675	PI23_CTD14_NK25_NUT_5
27/11/23	NK25	400	PI23_CTD14_NK25_NUT_6
27/11/23	NK25	50	PI23_CTD14_NK25_NUT_10
27/11/23	NK25	5	PI23_CTD14_NK25_NUT_12

**Table 3.1.3.** Samples collected at each station and each depth level for nutrients analysis during Leg 1.

- DOC and CDOM samplings

Samples for dissolved organic matter (DOM) were collected directly from the Niskin bottles in 250 ml polycarbonate acid-washed bottles after 3 rinsing and immediately filtered with a

peristaltic pump through a 0.22  $\mu\text{m}$  Sterivex-GV filter. Samples were collected at the following CTD stations: CTD\_02, CTD\_04, CTD\_05, CTD\_06, CTD\_09, CTD\_10, CTD\_12, CTD\_14 at all the depths, except some depths due to problems with sampling bottles. The filtered subsamples for dissolved organic carbon (DOC) and for chromophoric DOM (CDOM) were collected into 200 ml dark glass bottles and stored at 4°C until analysis. The measurements will be carried out in the laboratories of the Biophysics Institute of CNR in Pisa.

### 3.2. Challenges

Since the used Rosette system is vintage, the operation and closing of the bottles have been progressively improved. It was possible to replace the drainage neck of bottle 8, as well as the rubber bands of bottles 2, 5 and 11. The quality of sampling was not affected by these substitutions.

The altimeter mounted at the base of the Rosette allowed the detection of the seabed at approximately 40 m above it. This short distance highlights the importance of ensuring a good match between the winch length and the depth inferred by the CTD probe pressure sensor.

### 3.3. Recommendations

A new carousel system is under purchase as part of the resident equipment of the R/V Gaia Blu, it is the same brand and has the same dimensions of the system previously used on board the R/V Falkor. Concerns exist on the space availability in the Baltic Room of the vessel, dedicated to the launch and recovery of the DTC/Rosette system and maneuverability and safety of the operations in such a small space, especially during water sampling.

## 4. Wet Lab

### 4.1. Insights

- *Dissolved oxygen analysis*

In the wet-lab, oxygen samples were analyzed by automated Winkler titration (Fig. 3.1.1) with thiosulfate solution  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ , this is done using a computer controlled potentiometric end-point titration procedure. To do so, an acid solution (Sulfuric acid) was added gradually to the sample to reduce the Manganese in  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ . Once the titration finished, the thiosulfate volume was recorded.

**A.**

**B.**



**Figure 3.1.1.** A. Dissolved oxygen samples (after 2-3 hours storage) and B. the Metrohm Winkler titration instrument used on board for the analysis.

- *Salinity analysis*

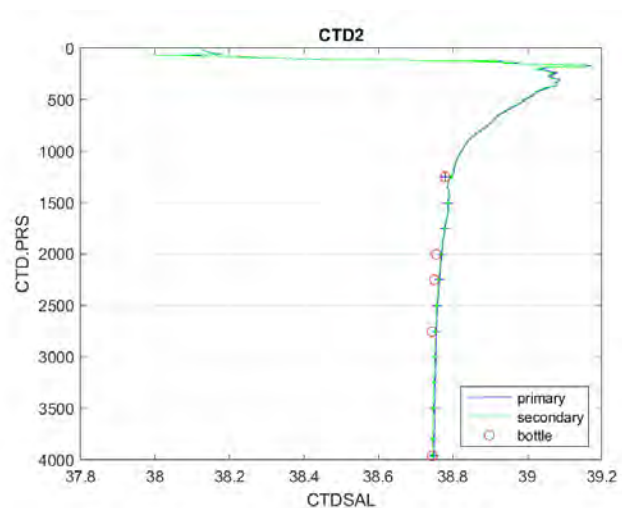
Samples were analyzed on board using the Guideline Portsal Salinometer (Fig. 3.1.2A). The salinometer was standardized prior to analysis using the IAPSO standard seawater. The batch number was P167 of the standard seawater samples with a K15 factor of 0.99988 and practical salinity of 34.995. Figure 3.1.2B shows an example of the salinity measurements from the CTD bottle file and the corresponding salinity values analyzed on board (in red circles).

Figure 3.1.2B shows a vertical profile of salinity from the CTD derived bottle files (blue: primary sensor and green: secondary sensor), and the corresponding salinity water samples measured onboard (red circles).

**A.**

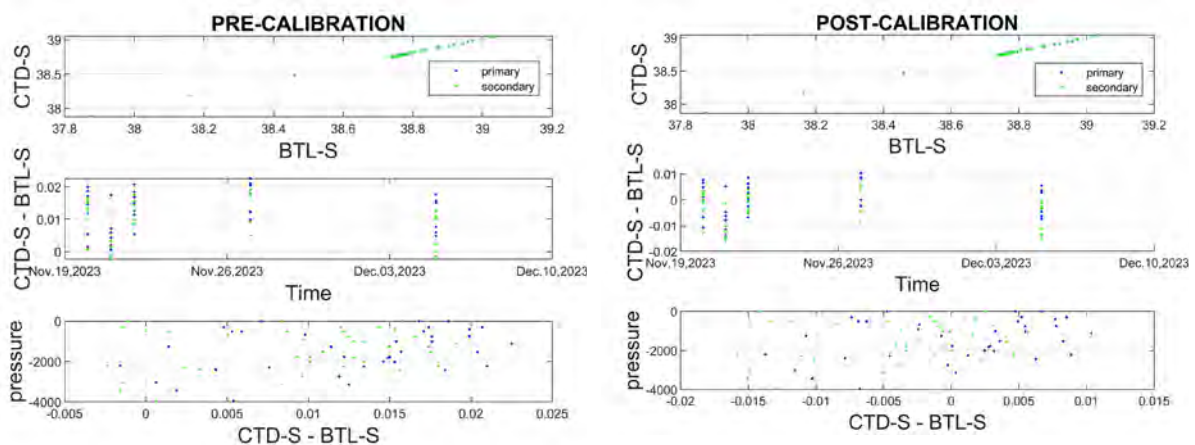


**B.**



**Figure 3.1.2.** A. Portasal Salinometer on RV Gaia Blu, B. comparison between salinity values from the CTD sensors (primary in Blu and secondary in green) and the salinometer (in red circles).

A slope of 0.9997 was calculated and applied the CTD data to correct the bias in both sensors. The mean difference between precalibrated CTD-Salinity and BTL-Salinity was 0.0124 (primary sensor) and 0.0098 (secondary sensor). By applying the new slope, the average mean improved to be 0.0056 (primary sensor) and 0.0057(secondary sensor). The results are shown in the following plots.



**Figure 3.1.3.** Scatter plot of CTD salinity and bottle salinity relation and vertical distribution of the difference between CTD salinity and Bottle salinity before calibration.

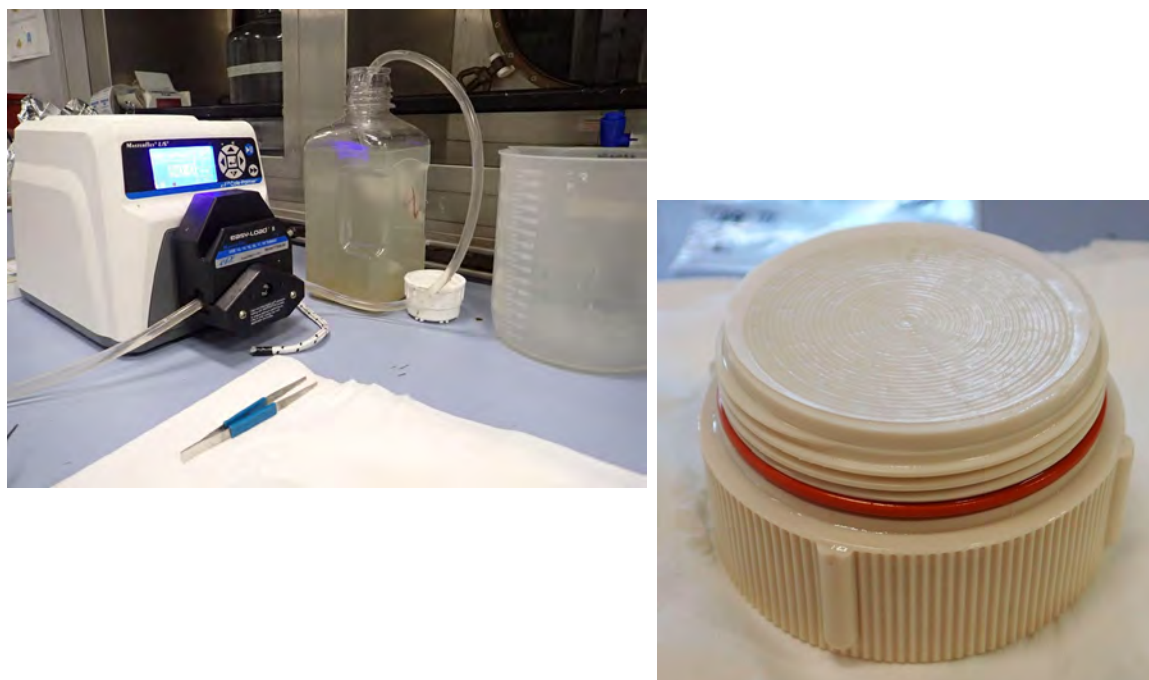
- *Water filtering for eDNA analysis*

During Leg 1, for each selected depth levels, several litres of seawater (maximum 10 litres) sampled via Niskin bottles at the CTD stations were filtered at the wet lab using a peristaltic pump. Sterivex filters with 0.22  $\mu\text{m}$  pore size membrane were used. Thus, filters retaining environmental DNA were dried employing silica beads and stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  for further eDNA molecular analysis.

10 liters deep seawater sampled via Niskin bottles at the CTD stations (leg II) were filtered in the wet lab using a peristaltic pump equipped with a specific filter holder. Nitrocellulose (NC) filters with 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$  pore size membrane and 47mm diameter were used. Thus, filters retaining environmental DNA were dried employing silica beads and stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  for further eDNA molecular analysis. One water negative control (PI23\_CTD\_NC) was performed by fulfilling



one Niskin bottle with MilliQ water and collecting it using the same workflow used for seawater sampling downstream.



**Figure 3.1.4.** A. Filtration set-up. B. NC filter on the holder after 10L flow ready to be packed and stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

- *pH, Total Alkali (TA) and Dissolved Inorganic Carbon (DIC) sampling*

Water samples for pH and TA were taken from Niskin bottles at selected depths throughout the CTD transect during leg 2. Each aliquot has been collected within a 300 ml glass bottle with 50% overflow. 1 ml of  $\text{HgCl}_2$  has been added in each bottle for fixation. Bottles have been then secured and stored in a box, shipped back to the laboratory and then analyzed in Trieste (ref. Carolina Cantoni).

DIC samples were taken from Niskin bottles at each depth for CTD stations 12 and 14 during leg 2. Each aliquot has been collected within a 50 ml glass bottle with 50% overflow. 0.25 ml of  $\text{HgCl}_2$  has been added in each bottle for fixation. Bottles have been then secured and stored in a box, shipped back to the laboratory and then analysed.

- *Analytical protocols for DOM, CDOM, FDOM*

Dissolved Organic Carbon concentration will be measured by the Shimadzu Total Organic Carbon analyzer (TOC-L) by high temperature catalytic oxidation by following Santinelli et al. (2015, 2021). Samples will be acidified with HCl 2N and sparged for 3 minutes with  $\text{CO}_2$ -free pure air, in order to remove inorganic carbon. Samples (150  $\mu\text{L}$ ) will be injected in the furnace ( $680^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) after rinsing with the sample three times. From 3 to 5 replicate injections will be performed until the analytical precision is lower than 1% ( $\pm 1\mu\text{M}$ ). A five-point calibration curve will be done by injecting standard solutions of potassium hydrogen phthalate in the expected concentration range of the samples. At the beginning and end of each analytical day the

system blank will be measured using Milli-Q water and the reliability of measurements will be controlled by comparison of data with a DOC reference (CRM) seawater (Hansell, 2005).

Absorbance spectra of chromophoric DOM (CDOM) will be measured throughout the UV and visible spectral domains (230–700 nm) using a spectrophotometer UV-visible (Shimadzu UV-2600i), with a 10 cm quartz cell following Retelletti Brogi et al. (2022). For each sample 3 spectra will be measured. The absorption spectrum of Milli-Q water will be used as blank and subtracted from each sample spectrum. After the subtraction, the absorption coefficient at 254 nm ( $a_{254}$ ) and the spectral slope between 275 and 295 nm ( $S_{275-295}$ ) will be calculated by using the ASFit software (Omanović et al., 2019).  $a_{254}$  can be used to have semi-quantitative information on CDOM, whereas, the  $S_{275-295}$  will be calculated in order to obtain indirect information on the average molecular weight and aromaticity of the CDOM pool. In addition, the absorption coefficient at all the wavelengths (between 230 and 600 nm), the indexes and the spectral slopes in different ranges can be calculated. These data can be also useful for satellite validation.

Excitation Emission Matrixes (EEMs) for the analysis of Fluorescent Dissolved Organic Matter (FDOM) will be obtained by using the Aqualog spectrofluorometer (HORIBA Jobin Yvon) with a 10 x 10-mm quartz cuvette following Bachi et al. (2023). This instrument uses a charge-coupled device to detect the signal, guaranteeing a high acquisition velocity and reduced photobleaching. The characteristics of the lamp improve the sensibility of data acquisition at low excitation wavelengths (250-350 nm) allowing a better identification of the protein-like fluorescence. Emission will be registered between 212 and 620 nm every 3.27 nm (8 pixels) with an integration time of 10 s. Excitation will range between 250 and 450 nm at 5 nm increment. EEMs will be corrected for instrumental bias. Rayleigh and Raman scatter peaks will be removed by using monotone cubic interpolation. The EEMs will be elaborated using the TreatEEM software (Omanovic Dario, TreatEEM-program for treatment of fluorescence EEMs, <http://sites.google.com/site/daromasoft/home/treateem>).

The EEMs will be normalized dividing the fluorescence intensity by the Raman band of Milli-Q water integrated between 371 and 428 nm ( $\lambda_{Ex} = 350$  nm). Fluorescence will be therefore reported in Raman Units (Lawaetz and Stedmon 2009).

PARallel FACtor (PARAFAC) analysis will be applied to EEMs measured by using the drEEM (decomposition routines for Excitation Emission Matrices) toolbox for MATLAB software (Murphy et al. 2013). The OpenFluor online database, a database of environmental fluorescence spectra, will be used as a validation tool to characterize the validated components (Murphy et al. 2014).

- *Phytoplankton pigments and particulate absorption*

For each measurement station, in-situ data for the determination of phytoplankton pigment concentration and algal and non-algal absorption coefficients ( $a_{phy}$  and  $a_{NAP}$ , respectively) were collected at several depths, based on fluorescence vertical profiles.

Sampling was performed by Niskin bottles mounted on a rosette sampler. Seawater was pre-filtered by a planktonic net with a mesh of 250  $\mu$ m to eliminate the zooplankton component. Different water volumes, dependent on the water optical properties, were vacuum filtered

through Whatmann GF/F glass microfibre filter (nominal porosity 0.7  $\mu\text{m}$ ). Lastly, samples were stored in liquid nitrogen.

Regarding instruments and analysis methods, pigment concentrations (Chla and several accessory pigments commonly used to estimate phytoplankton size classes and functional types) will be estimated by High Performance Liquid Chromatography following standard protocols (Van Heukelem and Thomas, 2001) after a few weeks from sampling. Particulate absorption measurements will be carried out by a dual beam Spectrophotometer equipped with an integrative sphere, following reference protocols for Satellite Ocean Colour Sensor Validation (IOCCG, 2018) at the ISMAR laboratories in Rome.



**Figure 3.1.5.** Filtration apparatus for phytoplankton pigment concentration in the wet lab of the R/V Gaia Blu.

## 4.2. Challenges

Identified issues related to wet lab space and equipment are related to the difficulty of maintaining the temperature of the wet lab constant for the salinity analysis that requires a constant temperature for at least 12 hours prior to sample analysis using the portals.

## 4.3. Recommendations

We strongly encourage the installation of at least one MilliQ water system, crucial for most if not all WetLab activities. All electrical plugs should be reconverted to a European (not American) standard (Schuko?).

For a full laboratory operability it is imperative that the laboratory must be left empty and clean after any use; this should be appropriately monitored by the ship crew.

It would be appreciated if the central bench would be equipped with drawers (10 to 15 cm high) allowing a better functionality of the table and still leaving enough space underneath the bench to place boxes and other bulky material.

All benches should be equipped with an easy-to-use system to ensure the instrumentation and the scientific equipment during navigation or rough sea conditions.

The installation of a second Wet Lab is strongly encouraged, to allow different activities to be carried out at the same time by a number of technicians and scientists, for example sediment treatment on one side and clean water analysis on the other. It is important that the second Wet Lab is equipped with a chemical fume hood, other than fresh and clean sea water outlets (from the ship bow). One possible location could be the hangar on the other side of the corridor right opposite the existent Wet Lab.

The doors should allow access to the laboratories without the need of using handles, as most of the time hands are used to carry samples and other equipment in and out of the Labs.

## **5. Dry Lab**

### **5.1. Insights**

The effective utilization of dry lab space and equipment concerned the Imaging Flow Cytobot, which can identify and count different species and groups of plankton using machine learning algorithms, some working stations and the pore water extraction, therefore currently this space should be re-thought in terms of use and destination.

### **5.2. Challenges**

The dry lab is currently an empty space that could be better organized with a division between electronic devices and other operations. When not in use for scientific activities, the dry lab desks can be used to provide suitable workstations to researchers onboard and therefore more chairs are needed.

### **5.3. Recommendations**

The purchase of some additional chairs is recommended.

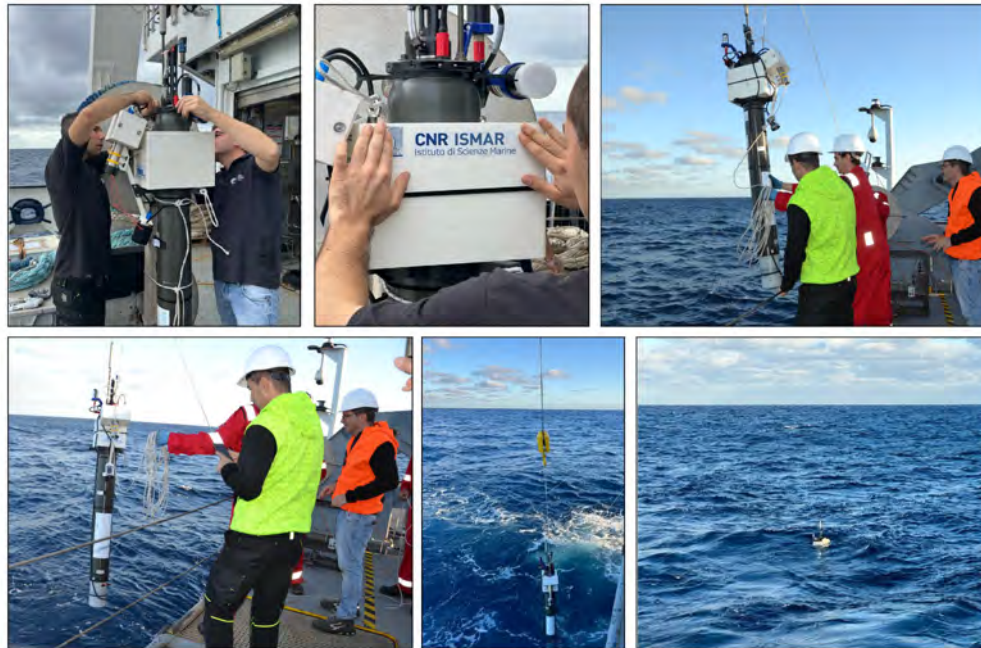
## **6. BioGeoChemical-Argo float deployment**

### **6.1. Insights**

During the PIONEER2023 cruise, the first BGC-Argo autonomous float (WMO 2903797) of CNR ISMAR has been successfully deployed from the winch astern of the R/V Gaia Blu (Figure 5.1.1). The float model was a JUMBO PROVOR CTS5 (NKE Instruments, France) equipped with sensors: CTD (Seabird SBE41-CP) for Temperature, Salinity and Pressure; Dissolved Oxygen (Aandera Optode 4330); Phytoplankton chlorophyll, optical backscattering at 700 nm and CDOM - coloured dissolved organic matter (Seabird/WetLABS ECO3); Downwelling irradiance at 4 bands (Seabird/Satlantic OCR-504); Zooplankton communities and particle size distribution within the range 50-2580  $\mu\text{m}$  (Hydroptic UVP-6). This float is a

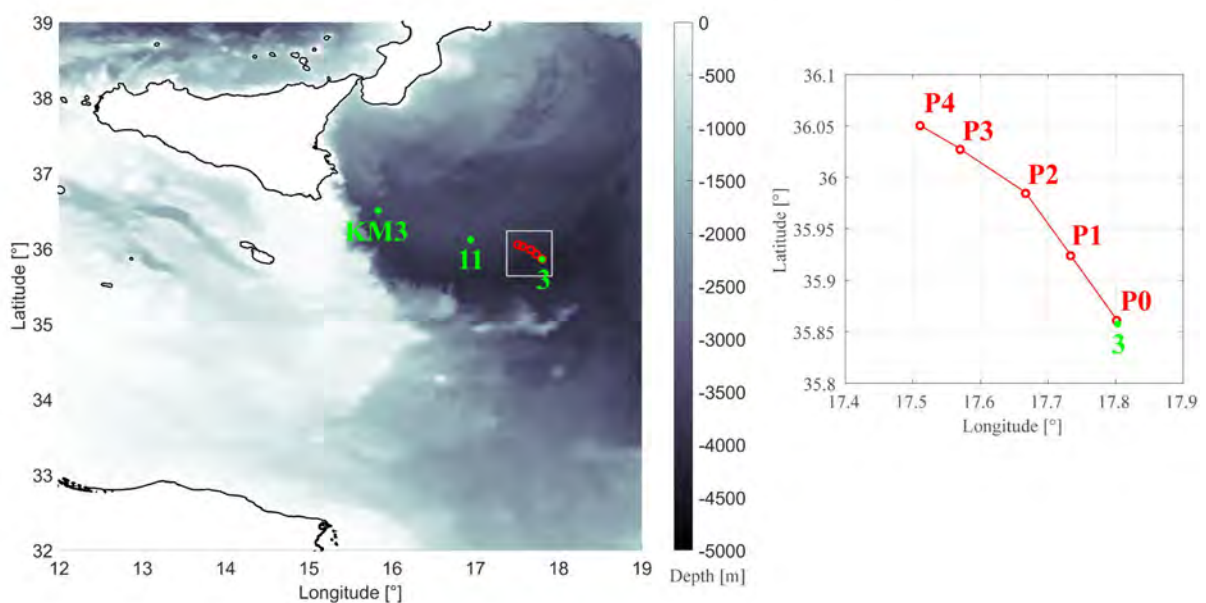


contribution to the ARGO-Italy program and the European Research Infrastructure EURO-ARGO ERIC.



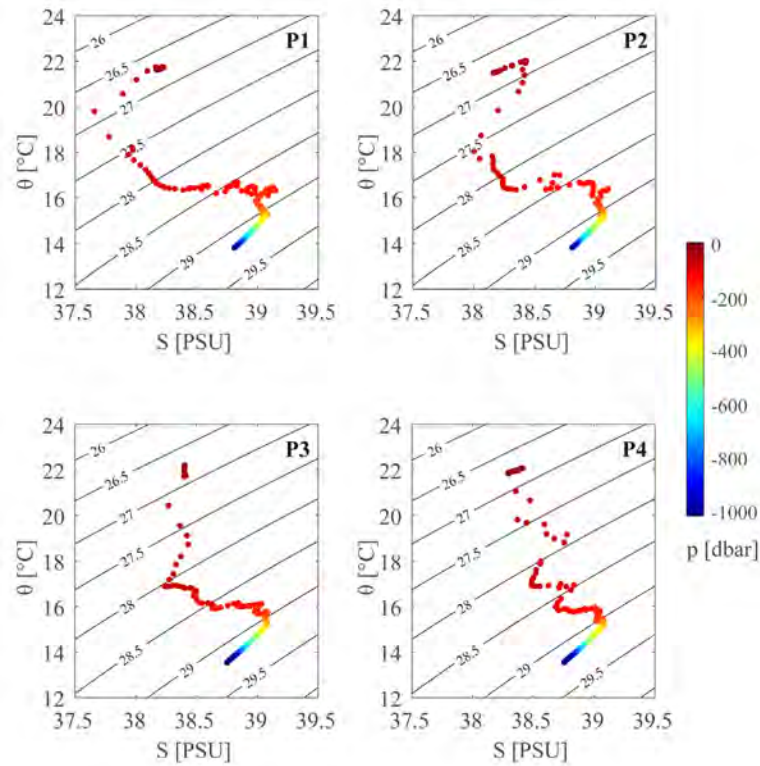
**Figure 5.1.1.** Deployment of the CNR ISMAR BGC-Argo float from the R/V Gaia Blu. Photo credits: Simone Ridolfi Bristol (CNR ISMAR).

The float was deployed in the Ionian Sea at Station 3 (35.86°N, 17.80°E) on November 20th, 14:40 UTC. The float mission was set to passively drift at a parking depth of 1000 dbar and to profile between 0-2000 dbar every 18h on the first two days from deployment, and then every 24h with surface time around local noon. Deployment location, float trajectory and the first 4 profiling sampling stations are shown in Figure 5.1.2.

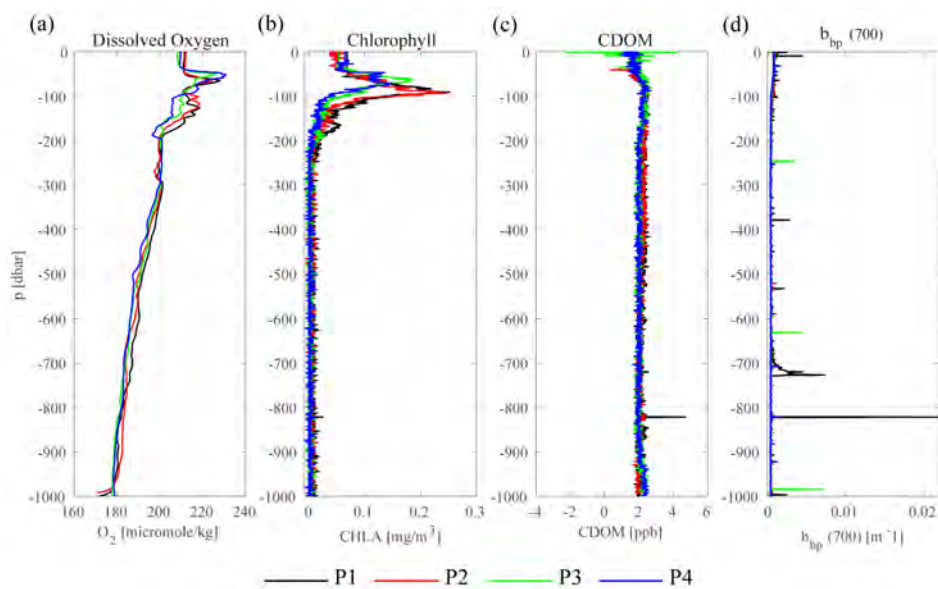


**Figure 5.1.2.** BGC-Argo deployment location and trajectory. P0 indicates the deployment site; P1-P4 indicates the four stations where the float acquired 0-2000 dbar profiles. Left panel: hydrological stations 3, 11, and KM3 are reported.

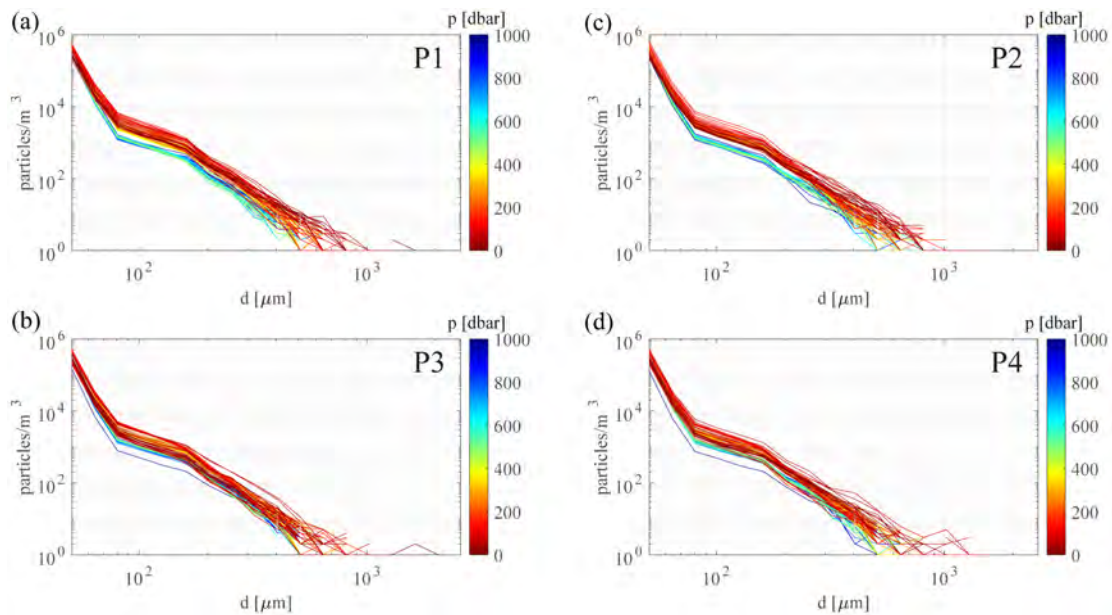
The float successfully transmitted, via iridium satellite communication, the data acquired. Examples of T-S plots, profiles of biogeochemical variables and Particle Size Distributions obtained at profiling stations P1-P4 are reported in Figure 5.1.3, 5.1.4, 5.1.5 respectively.



**Figure 5.1.3.** T-S plots acquired by the BGC-Argo float at P1-P4 profiling stations (21-24/11/2023).



**Figure 5.1.4.** 0-1000 dbar profiles of dissolved oxygen, phytoplankton chlorophyll, CDOM and optical backscattering acquired by the BGC-Argo float at P1-P4 profiling stations (21-24/11/2023).



**Figure 5.1.5.** 0-1000 dbar Particle Size Distributions acquired by the BGC-Argo float at P1-P4 profiling stations (21-24/11/2023).

The float trajectory and collected data can be monitored at <https://fleetmonitoring.euro-argo.eu/float/2903797>. Data are distributed in open access.

## 6.2. Challenges

None. The R/V Gaia Blu is fully suitable for the deployment of BGC-Argo floats in open seas.

## 6.3. Recommendations

The R/V Gaia Blu needs to be tested for BGC-Argo float recovery in the near future.

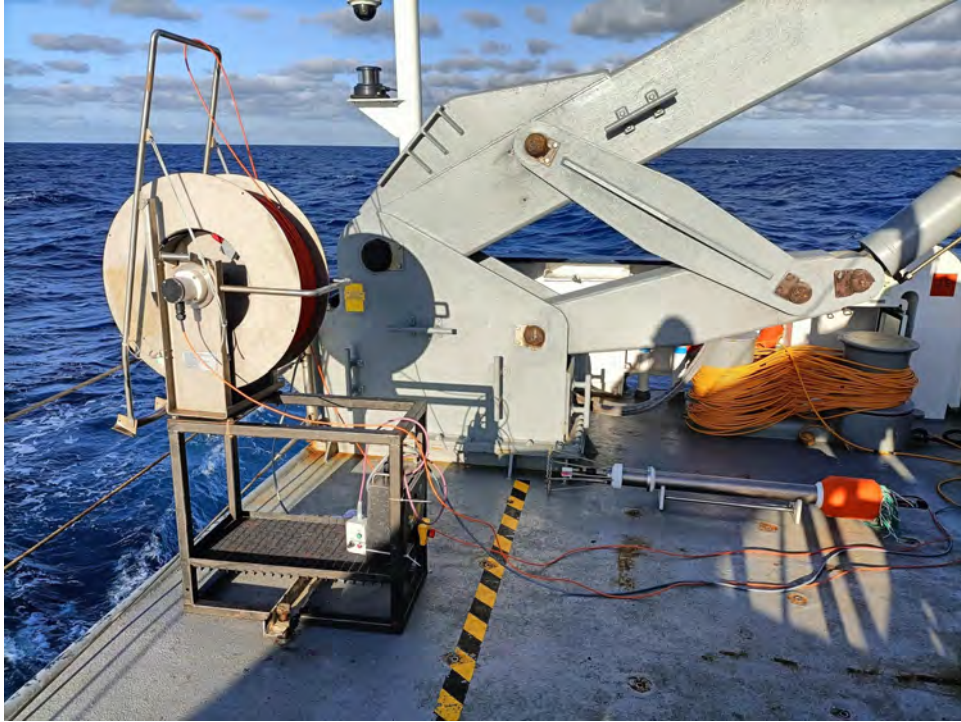
# 7. Microstructure Profiler Operations

## 7.1. Insights

A modified version of the MSS090L (serial number No. 069, operated by CNR-ISMAR) produced by Sea & Sun Technology GmbH was used to collect microstructure observations during the PIONEER 2023 cruise. A detailed description of the MSS90L general characteristics, features and operational modes can be found in Prandke et al. (2000). A microstructure profiler is essentially a CTD probe equipped with two shear sensors, a fast thermistor and 3 optical sensors (oxygen, chlorophyll and turbidity). The probe is designed to reach 3000 m but the oxygen sensor operational depth is up to 2000. The deployments during PIONEER 2023 were further limited by a winch cable length of 1300 m.

The probe was installed on the aft deck with a bracket built on board and secured to the deck using two bolts (Fig. 6.1.1) . The set was very stable and efficient.





**Figure 6.1.1.** Microstructure profiler installed on the aft deck of the R/V Gaia Blu.

## 7.2. Challenges

During deployment the ship should drift away at the slowest possible speed to move away from the free sinking cable. Out of 13 casts just in three cases the ship was able to move slower than 1nm. Even if this is mostly due to the weather conditions (wind and waves) a ship this size should be able to move less than 1nm in operational conditions.

Moreover the lighting of the aft deck is not sufficient, especially when the A-Frame is retracted over the deck at night; in this configuration the water behind the ship is completely dark. We had to use a torchlight to be able to see the free sinking cable.

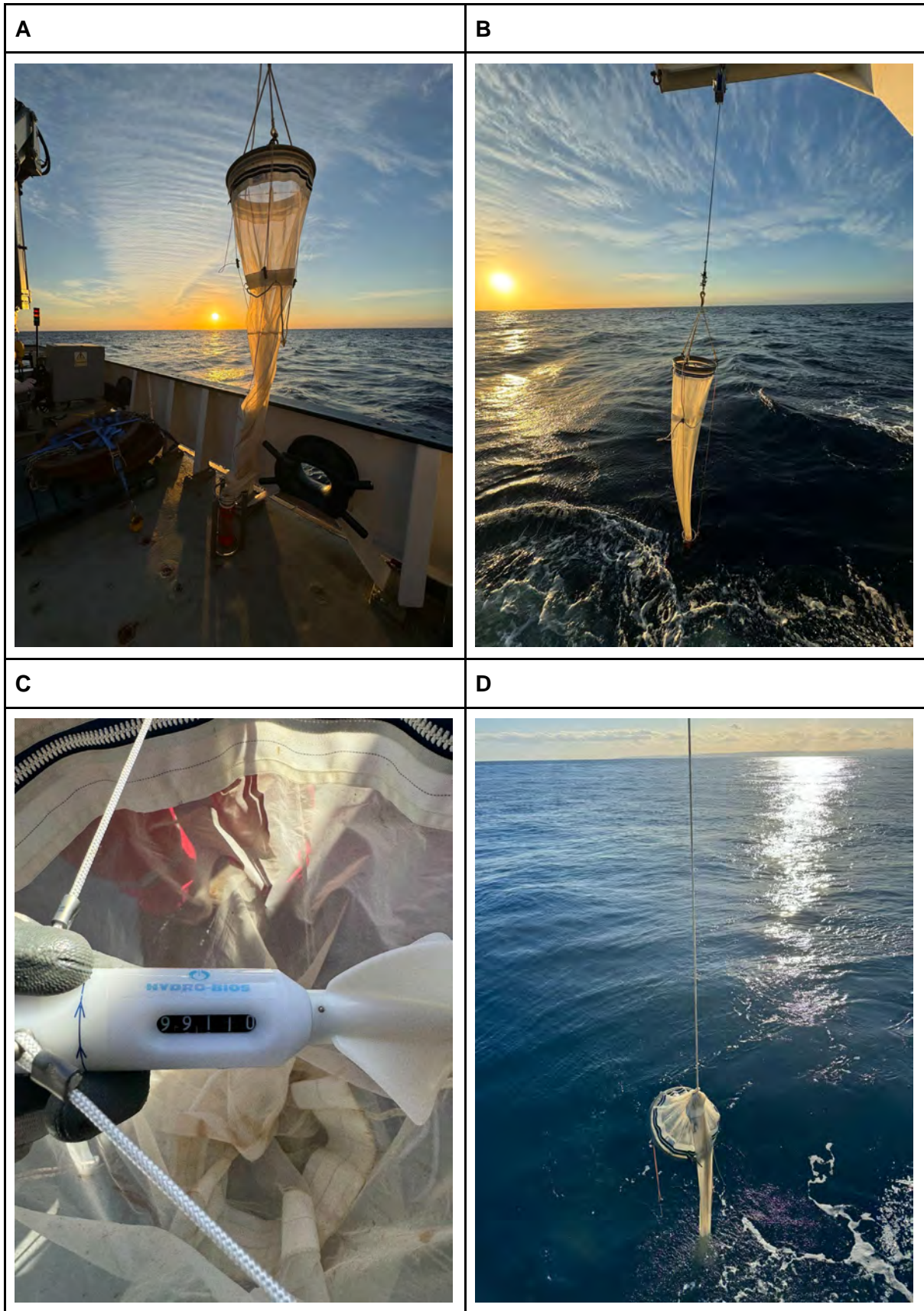
## 7.3. Recommendations

Review the lighting plan for the aft deck.

# 8. Plankton Net and eDNA Operations

## 8.1. Insights

During the PIONEER2023 cruise, a WP2 Closing Net, which is a vertical plankton net with a mesh size of 200  $\mu\text{m}$  and a messenger-operated closing mechanism, was successfully deployed from the winch "astern-left" of the R/V Gaia Blu (Fig. 7.1.1).



**Figure 7.1.1.** A-B. WP2 Closing Net sampling. C. Mechanical Flow Meter. D. Strangled Net in order to sample defined depth layers.

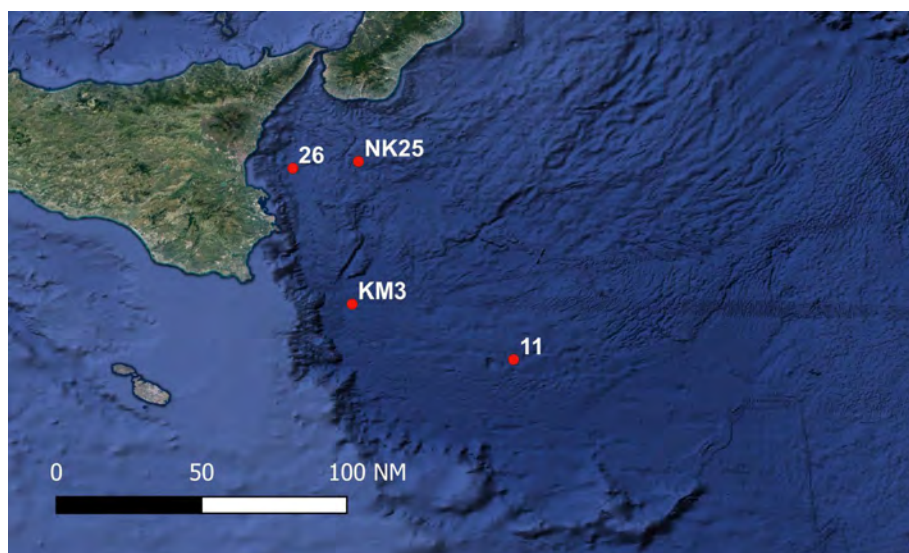


The purpose was to investigate the processes of physical-zooplankton-carbon dynamics interactions with links to the deep sea and connectivity. The net samples will be used for morphological microscopy identification and molecular identification via bulk-sample metabarcoding, which will be compared to traditional analysis of samples using a microscope.

The open net was taken to the greatest scheduled depth of 500 m. During the ascent, the net has been closed at intended depths by strangling the net bag below the net ring (Fig 9.1). This enabled the sampling of defined depth layers (see Table 9.1). The WP2 lock screen was used in conjunction with a Mechanical Flow Meter with a back-run stop to measure the filtered water volume (Fig. 7.1.1). At the end, the sample was divided into two halves, one for molecular analyses (metabarcoding), the other for classic taxonomic analyses (morphological) (Fig. 7.1.1, Tab. 7.1.1). WP2 Closing Net was used in 4 sampling stations during Leg 1 (Fig. 7.2.2).

Date	Station	Depth range (m)	Metabarcoding analyses	Morphological analyses
21/11/2023	11	0-100	*	*
21/11/2023	11	100-300	*	*
21/11/2023	11	300-500	*	*
22/11/2023	KM3	0-130	*	*
22/11/2023	KM3	130-200	*	*
22/11/2023	KM3	200-500	*	*
26/11/2023	26	0-100	*	*
26/11/2023	26	100-200	*	*
26/11/2023	26	200-500	*	*
27/11/2023	NK25	0-100	*	*
27/11/2023	NK25	100-300	*	*
27/11/2023	NK25	300-500	*	*

**Table 7.1.1.** Samples collected at each station using WP2 Closing Net during Leg 1.



**Figure 7.2.2.** Sampling station explored with WP2 Closing Net during Leg 1.

At the same sampling stations, water samples have been collected at discrete depths using the CTD-Rosette, as reported in paragraph 3.1. These water samples will be used for molecular identification via eDNA metabarcoding and will target groups such as bacteria, phytoplankton, microzooplankton, and large metazoans.

These studies, which combine various traditional and modern techniques, serve as prototypes for a global integrated approach and demonstrate that the oceanographic and biological research community, but also geological one, can work together. By combining nets with images obtained from the Underwater Vision Profiler (UVP6), data from turbulence profiles, and eDNA analysis, we can gain innovative insights into zooplankton community structure at finer scales over larger distances and investigate vertical small-scale physical processes related to zooplankton vertical migration.

## 8.2. Challenges

The deployment system of the instrument may be suitable, and the operations proceeded smoothly. However, it is noted that the winch and portal are poorly positioned as they are located near the stationary propeller. This causes the disruption of the water column in the first few meters (which may alter the water column structure) and the presence of air bubbles.

The meteo-marine conditions did not allow sampling with the net in station 3 (20/11/2023) and in station 26 (26/11/2023) the second CTD lowering was carried out at too great a time distance compared to the first.

## 8.3. Recommendations

It is suggested to have greater maneuverability on the starboard side by using the CTD winch to deploy other instruments, with the need for enlarging the designated area. The addition of a seawater and freshwater inlet in the CTD compartment will be necessary.

Winch: A meter pulley and precise speed adjustment are required for the winch. It should be operable from both the stern and the control room. A cable with a minimum length of 3000 m is needed.

Stern deployment: For deployments from the stern, a controlled cable of at least 3000 m is necessary.

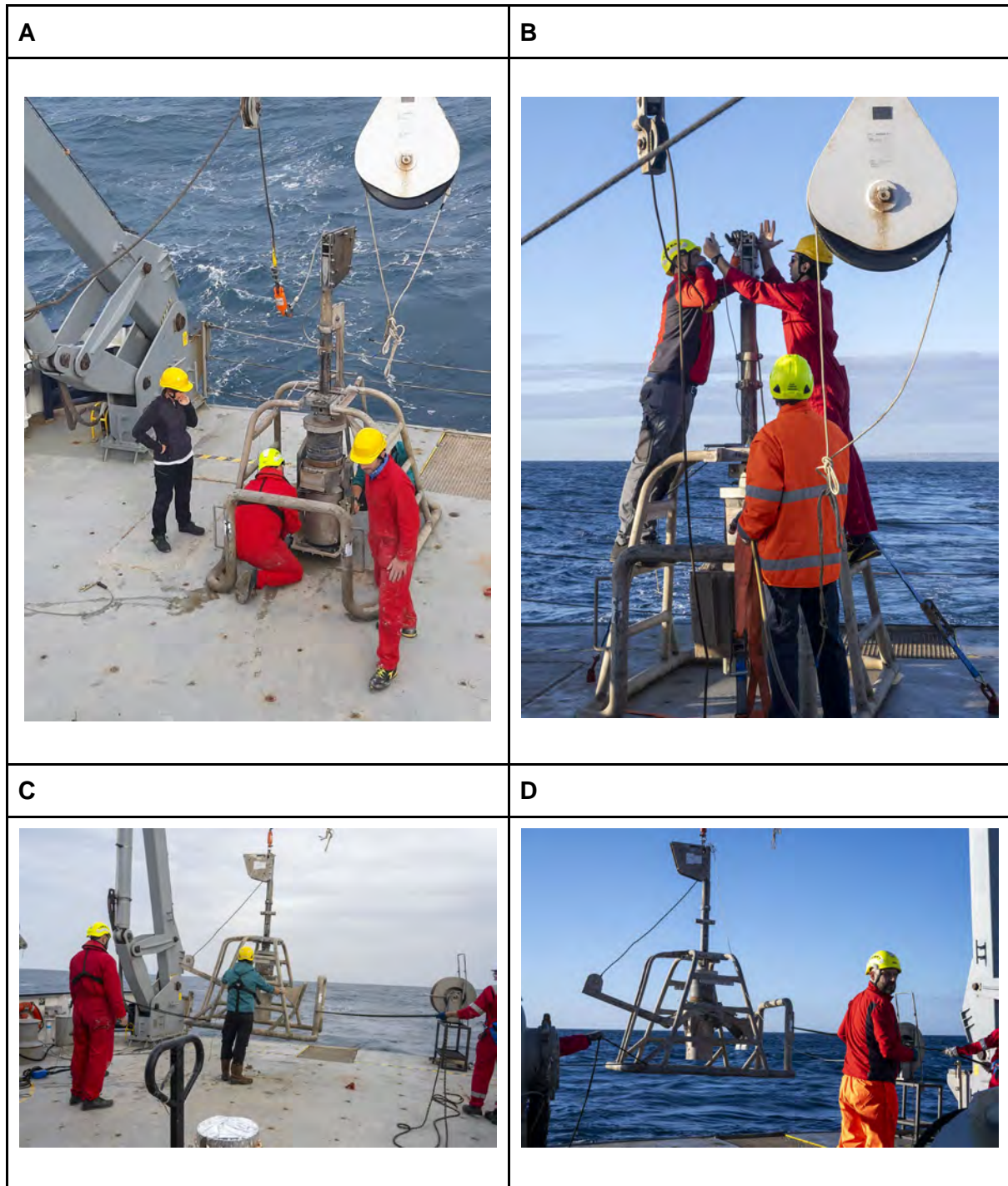
# 9. Sediment Sampling Operations

## 9.1. Insights

Sediment sampling was completed using a: i. oceanic box-corer lowered from aft using the multi-purpose winch, ii. a gravity/piston corer lowered from the side using the dedicated winch; iii. a SeaWater corer lowered from stern using the multipurpose winch.

The box corer is designed to collect undisturbed sediment samples from marine seafloor. The oceanic box corer used during this cruise had a cylindrical sampler with a diameter of 32 cm and cylinder height of 52 cm (sampling area of 804.2 cm<sup>2</sup> and sampling volume of 42 liters). The corer consists of a sample box mounted on gimbals, and a spade assembly. The box corer is lowered onto the seabed on a wire at a controlled rate until its frame rests on the bottom. The sample bucket is forced into the sediment by the weight of the corer. As the corer

is slowly pulled out of the sediment, a mechanism allows two spades to swing below the sample box sealing in the sediment. Simultaneously, spring-loaded flaps above the sample box are closed to prevent the sample from being disturbed during recovery.



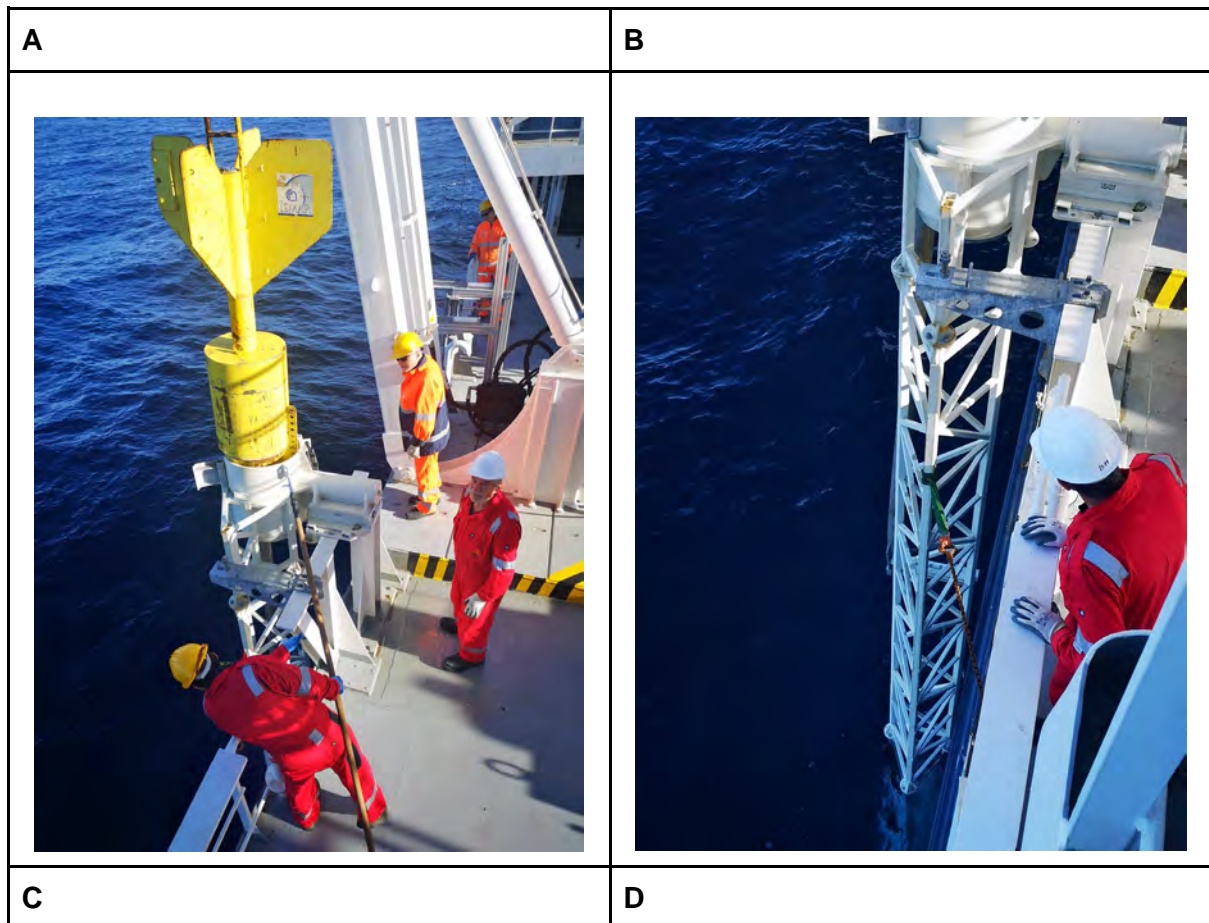
**Figure 8.1.1.** A. Equipment of the box corer on the aft deck of the RV Gaia Blu. B. Triggering of the release mechanism. C. Launch of the box corer. D. Lowering overboard of the box-corer.

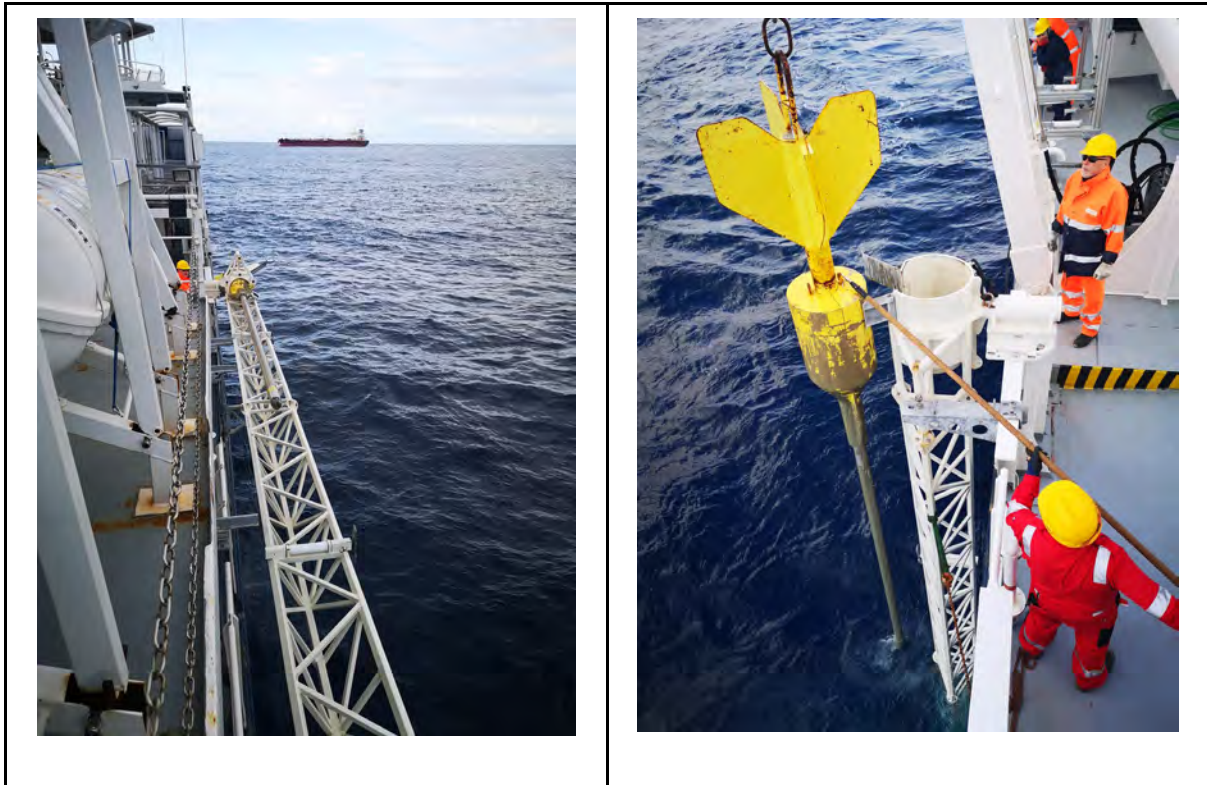
Gravity and triggered piston cores used the same system on board Gaia Blu (Figure 8.1.2), which is basically composed of: 1. a coring head providing the necessary momentum to the



device for penetration. 2. Steering yellow fins designed to maintain the vertical position of the device during free fall. 3. A stainless-steel 5 m long barrel, several sections (85 kg) can be used to compose a 5 to 15 m (potentially 25 m) barrel. 4. A PVC 100 mm diameter liner placed inside the barrel to collect the sediment core. The lowermost part of the barrel is reinforced by a core nose, which ends with a cutter shoe, designed to ease core penetration and includes a core catcher, designed to hold the sediment into the liner when the core is pulled out of the seabed. To reduce friction, a cutting shoe in ertalyte is also provided for advanced coring operations. In very soft muddy sediment, this tool gives high recovery and minimum disturbance of the sample.

The core barrel is mounted on a truss system (white framework), which extends over one meter from the starboard side of the vessel, the coring head is hosted in a cradle system. The launching operation is carried out by means of the combination of a winch and a crane, which allows the framework to be rotated 90° degrees before lowering in the water. This is a very complex system, designed and adapted in narrow spaces that required some important refitting of the original structure of the ship.

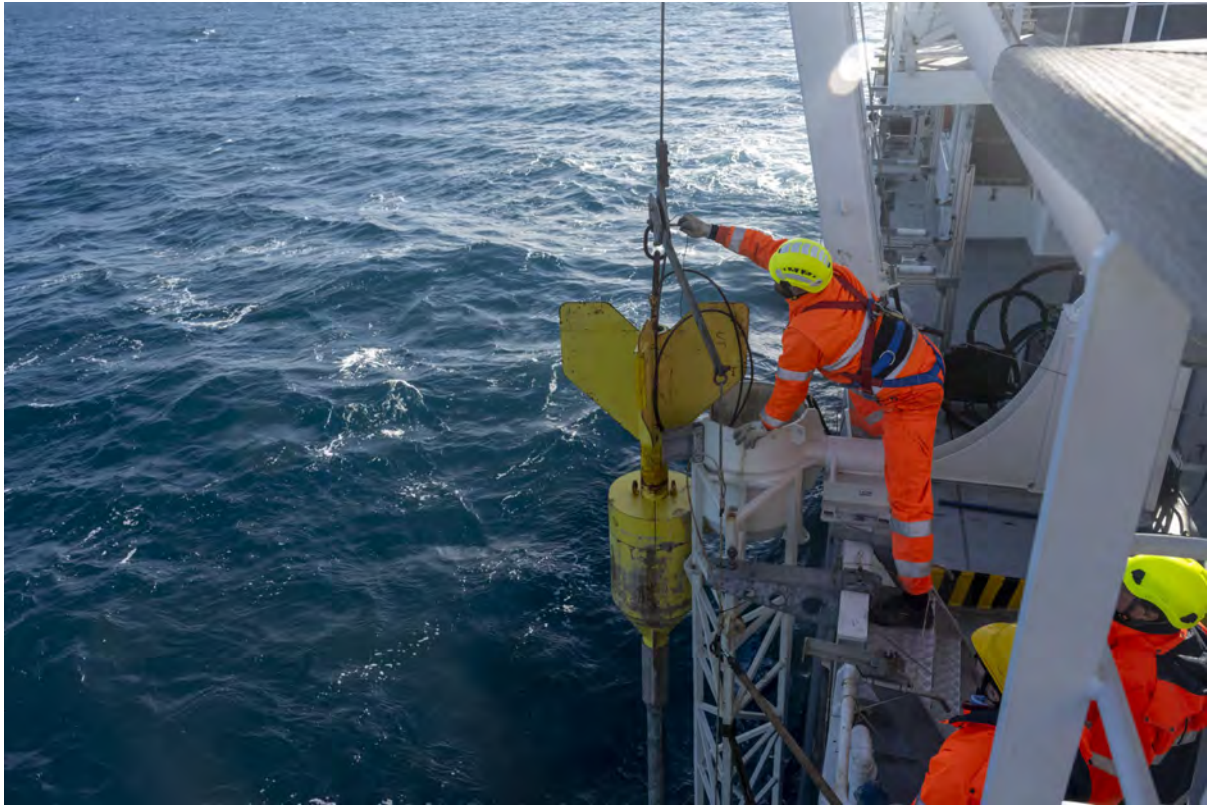




**Figure 8.1.2.** Details of the sediment coring system mounted on board the R/V Gaia Blu. A. close view of the coring head and the cradle. B. The framework displayed in its vertical position ready to be lowered in the water. C. The framework in its horizontal position during navigation and sampling of the core. D. Recovery of the core barrel.

The Triggered Piston Corer can be set on variable lengths, total weight and piston configuration, according to the predicted lithology of the target site. In addition to the specifications of the gravity corer, the piston has few options: 1. The piston which is meant to remain steady relative to the downgoing core barrel creates a suction that helps the penetration of sediment into the liner. To be more effective, the piston, which has adjustable plastic o-rings on its outside, contains 16 adjustable pressure valves that control the water flow through it and therefore limit the rate of suction avoiding the implosion of the liner. 2. The triggering mechanism is constituted by a 100-cm iron releaser, adjustable releaser weights (17 kg each, up to a total weight of 122 kg) and trigger iron cables of different lengths, adjustable on the base of the barrel length and the chosen free-fall height from the seabed.





**Figure 8.1.3.** Triggering of the release mechanism of the piston coring system. This procedure will be soon changed with a safer activation from the deck.

The SW-104 is a light corer, 100 kg maximum, designed with the purpose of recovering cores of clayey or slightly sandy sediments with maximum reduction of disturbance of the core, in particular on top and recovery ratio of the penetration close to 100%. The Core Tube is made up of a thin tube of stainless-steel  $\varnothing$  114.3 mm, 1.5 mm thick, long 2008 mm (maximum length), 1354 mm or 654 mm (minimum length). It supports a transparent liner (110 mm diameter, 3 mm thick) that contains the sediment core and bottom water sample by way of a lower barrier in the form of a duck closing device and an upper water-containment valve. The load-bearing lattice, one with the core tube, consists of the arming, closure and recovery mechanisms; in addition it supports the dead weight made up of masses from 17 kg to 100 kg. The gravity corer SW-104 is equipped with an aluminum service tripod: a variable-tilt carrier can hold the corer in a vertical position or at different angles to optimize on-board operations on the corer itself or on the recovered sample. The best technique is using gravity speed controlled/reduced by a winch.

A



B



**Figure 8.1.4.** A. Preparation of the SW-104 corer on the aft deck of the R/V Gaia Blu. B. Equipment of the release mechanism of the SW-104.

During Leg 1, 2 box-cores (1 failed) and 7 gravity cores (2 failed) have been lowered at depths ranging from ca. 2000 m to 3500 m bsl. During Leg 2, 17 box-cores (4 failed), 3 gravity cores, 4 piston cores and 1 SW core have been retrieved. Each sample has been subsampled according to different objectives and analysis to be carried out at onshore laboratories. Most of the sediment cores, collected on inferred extreme environments, have been sampled for biological purposes at their bottom and at the top of each section before being closed. Pore water has been extracted onboard on two cores (PI23\_GC08 and PI23\_GC09).

Sediment cores PI23\_GC03, PI23\_GC04 (Station 11) and PI23\_PC10 (Station 44), targeting paleoclimatic studies, have been collected at 3434 m bsf, 3492 m bsf and 370 m bsf in the Ionian basin and the Gulf of Taranto, respectively. They have been half splitted and measured for petrophysical and chemical properties (magnetic susceptibility, resistivity, natural gamma ray, P-wave velocity, colour, XRF) in the laboratories of ISMAR-Napoli. Gravity cores GC03 and 04 recovered ca. 1.35 m and 5.15 m of sediments and their lithology is mostly represented by hemipelagic muds, frequently interrupted by turbidites and tephra layers. A dark-gray thick deposit, likely interpreted as sapropel S1, also occurs in both records. The PI23\_PC10 record is 8.29 m long and it is mostly characterized by olive gray homogenous mud with rare visible sedimentary structures. These successions will be sampled at 1 cm- step and analyzed with an integrated stratigraphic approach including sedimentology, micropaleontology, tephrochronology, organic and isotope geochemistry.

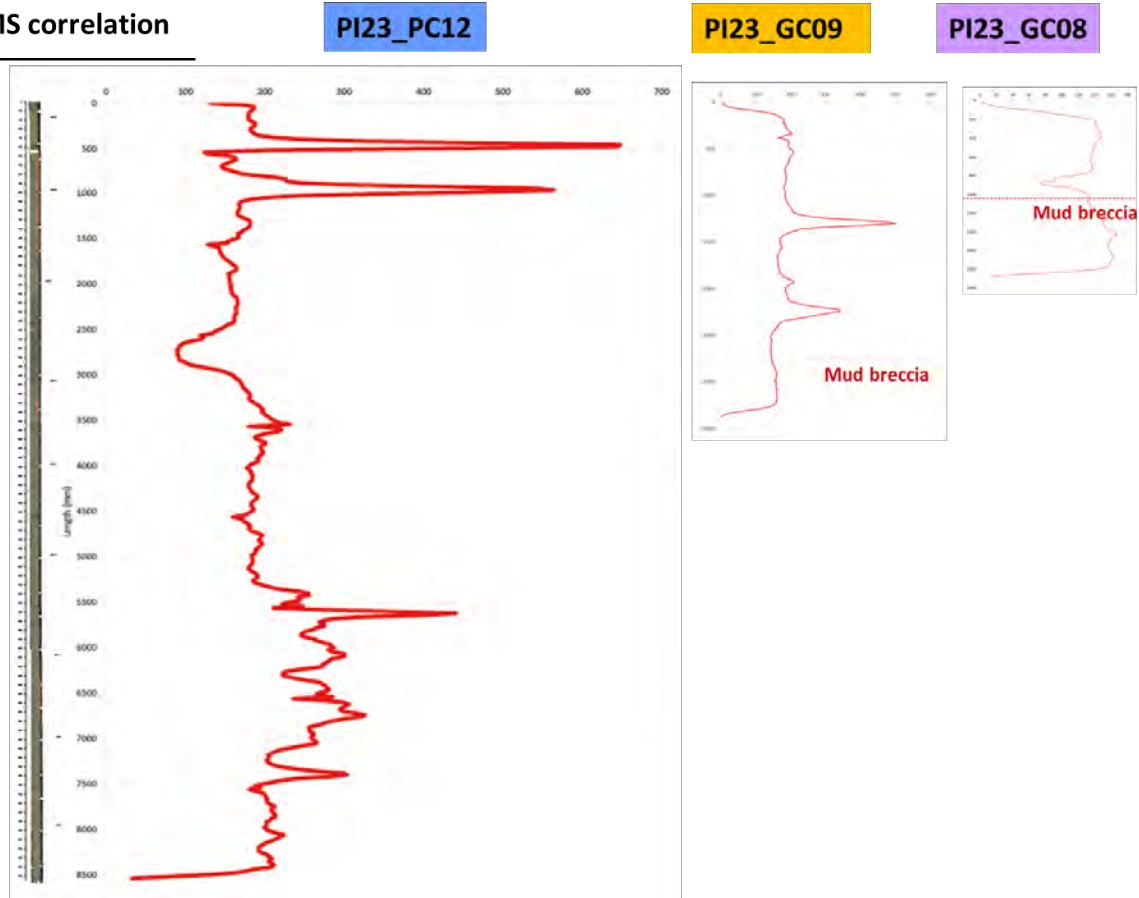




**Figure 8.1.5.** Photo of the PI23\_GC04 sediment core, collected in the deep Ionian Basin, is characterized by the alternation of turbidites, tephra layers and hemipelagic deposits.

All remaining cores have been scanned for X-Ray Fluorescence (Avaatech XRF core scanner major and trace element countings) and magnetic susceptibility, opened, processed and sub-sampled in the laboratories of ISMAR-Bologna according to their specific scientific objectives.

### MS correlation



**Figure 8.1.6.** Example of magnetic susceptibility measured on three sediment cores (PI23\_GC08-09-PC12) collected along and outside a seepage structure in the northern Ionian Sea at the boundary with Gulf of Taranto. Tephra layers are present in the upper sedimentary sequence.

- *Pore water analysis*

The sampling of porewater consists of extracting small quantities of interstitial water present in core samples. During the PIONEER cruise, several aliquots of pore water were extracted from the core sections, specifically from samples PI23\_GC08 and PI23\_GC09. Pore water sampling was conducted using rhizons and syringes, positioned approximately every 20 cm along the core sediment. These aliquots are used for the determination of some sulfates, sulfides, Cl, Br, DIC. Additionally, two aliquots (top and bottom of the PI23\_GC08 core sediments) were collected in the glass vials, and immediately crimped, for the analysis of methane in the head-space.



**Figure 8.1.6.** Pore water sampling performed in the dry lab on board R/V Gaia Blu.

The box-corers have been sampled for several purposes such as stratigraphy, chronology, biology, microplastic, bisphenol, organic and inorganic contaminants and foraminifera (Tab. zz). Particularly, Taranto Valley stations were sampled for replicate samples.

Leg	Coring sequence	Gear Type	Station	Site	Depth (m)	Penetration (m)	Recovery (m)	Fall (m/min)	Pull (t)	Subsampling/notes
1	PI23_GC01	Gravity, 5 m	22	Diapir	1980	4	3.25	60	4	Biology on top and bottom each section
1	PI23_GC02	Gravity, 5 m	25	Diapir	2070	2	0	60	4	Incorrect placement of core nose
1	PI23_GC03	Gravity, 10 m	11	Paleo	3508	1.7	1.7	60	NN	Biology on top and bottom each section
1	PI23_GC04	Gravity, 10 m	11	Paleo	3523	10	5	60	5.7	Biology on core nose/catcher
1	PI23_GC05	Gravity, 10 m	34	Diapir	2200	10	3.7	60	NN	Biology on top and bottom each section
1	PI23_GC06	Gravity, 5 m	26	Diapir	2050	1	1	120	NN	Barrel damaged due to hard bottom, bad target
1	PI23_GC07	Gravity, 5 m	29	Diapir	2448	> 5	5	60	4.2	Biology on top and bottom each section
2	PI23_GC08	Gravity, 5 m	50	Seepage	607	4.5	1.9	30	2.7	Biology on top and bottom each section



2	PI23_GC09	Gravity, 5 m	69	Seepage	612	5.4	3.3	60	3.2	Biology on top and bottom each section
2	PI23_PC10	Triggered piston, 10 m	44	Paleo	370	10.5	8.3	20	NN	Biology on core nose/catcher, top section
2	PI23_SW11	SW104, 1 m	44	Paleo	369	1	1	20	NN	Biology on core top section
2	PI23_PC12	Triggered piston, 10 m	69 bis	Seepage	590	11	8.5	60	3.8	Biology on core nose/catcher, top section
2	PI23_GC13	Gravity, 5 m	biocostruzioni	Bioconstruction	160	3	2.8	60	3.9	Biology on core nose/catcher, outer barrel
2	PI23_PC14	Triggered piston, 10 m	45	Contourite	200	11	8.5	60	4.07	Biology on core nose and loose top
2	PI23_PC15	Triggered piston, 10 m	48	Contourite	712	11	8.5	60	3.78	Biology on core nose and loose top

**Table 8.1.1.** List of gravity and piston core samples during the entire duration of the PIONEER cruise.

Leg	BC sequence	Station	Site	Depth (m)	Height BC (m)	Subsamples (stratigraphy, m)	Subsamples (chronology, m)	Subsamples (biology)	Susamples (microplastics)	Subsamples (bisphenol - IPA)	Subsamples (inorganic elements)	Subsamples (organic contaminants)	Subsamples (foraminifera surface 0-0.5 cm)
1	PI23_B C01	KM3	Water	3330		1 core	1 core	0-3 cm 6 falcon, 3 meio cores	0-3 cm remaining surface	from microplastics sample			
1	PI23_B C02	26	Diapir	1990	0								
2	PI23_B C03	50	Mud pool central	609	0.40	1 core (0.40)	1 core (0.40)	0-3 cm 6 falcon, 3 meio cores	0-3 cm remaining surface	0-0.5 cm (1 falcon BpA)			
2	PI23_B C04	69	Mud pool border	613	0.40	1 core (0.40)	1 core (0.40)	0-3 cm 6 falcon, 3 meio cores	0-3 cm remaining surface	0-0.5 cm (1 falcon BpA)			
2	PI23_B C05	44	Reference point outside Taranto Valley	368	0.40	1 core (0.40)		0-3 cm 6 falcon, 3 meio cores	0-3 cm remaining surface,	0-0.5 cm (1 falcon BpA)	0-3 cm	0-3 cm	
2	PI23_B C06	44	Reference point outside	368	0.40		1 core (0.40)		1 stainless steel core (0.40 m)	0-0,5 cm (2 falcon)	1 core (0.40 m)	1 core (0.30 m)	15 ml falcon

			Taranto Valley										
2	PI23_B C07	44new	pockmark Amendolo	281	> 0.55 failed								50 ml falcon
2	PI23_B C08	44new	pockmark Amendolo	281	> 0.55 failed								
2	PI23_B C09	44new	pockmark Amendolo	281	0.40 - 0.45	1 core (0.342)	1 core (0.38)	0-3 cm 6 falcon, 3 meio cores	0-3 cm	0-0.5 cm (2 falcon)			
2	PI23_B C10	75	Taranto Valley	1008	< 0 failed possibly for incorrect activation								
2	PI23_B C11	75	Taranto Valley	1008	0.37			0-3 cm 6 falcon, 3 meio cores	0-3 cm	0-0.5 cm (2 falcon)	0-2 cm	0-2 cm	
2	PI23_B C12	75	Taranto Valley	1008	0.47	1 core (0.395)	1 core (0.47)				1 core (0.435)	1 core (0.445)	50 ml falcon
2	PI23_B C13	76	Taranto Valley	1208	0.30				0-3 cm	0-0.5 cm (2 falcon)	0-2 cm	0-2 cm	
2	PI23_B C14	76	Taranto Valley	1208	< 0 failed possibly for incorrect activation								
2	PI23_B C15	76	Taranto Valley	1207	0.355	1 core (0.32)		0-3 cm 6 falcon, 3 meio cores				1 core (0.35 m) + 0-2 cm (lpa)	15 ml falcon + 15 ml falcon
2	PI23_B C16	77	Taranto Valley	1708	0.36	1 core (0.356)		0-3 cm 6 falcon, 3 meio cores				1 core (0.34.5 m)	50 ml falcon
2	PI23_B C17	77	Taranto Valley	1708	0.377				0 - 3cm	0-0.5 cm (2 falcon)	0 - 2cm	0-2 cm	
2	PI23_B C18	80	Taranto Valley	2592	0.43				0 - 3cm	0-0.5 cm (2 falcon)	0 - 2cm	0-2 cm	
2	PI23_B C19	80	Taranto Valley	2592	0.355	1 core (0.353)		0-3 cm 6 falcon, 3 meio cores				1 core (0.357)	50 ml falcon

**Table 8.1.2.** List of box-corer samples and their use.

- *Box-corer subsampling strategy*



**Figure 8.1.7.** A. Box corer ready for operations. B. Collection of sediment from outside the cylinder of the box corer for experiments to be conducted on the bulk component. C. Precautionary protection of the sediment from atmospheric input (e.g. microplastics) before sub-sampling D. Box-coring team.

- *Water filtering and sediment collection for eDNA analysis*

Two liters of seawater were first collected from the bottom water on the top of box corer and filtered in the wet lab using a peristaltic pump equipped with a specific filter holder. To retain the environmental DNA, 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$  pore size nitrocellulose (NC) membrane filters of 47 mm diameter were employed then dried in silica beads and stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  for eDNA analysis.



**Figure 8.1.8.** A. Seawater collection from the box corer and B. falcon tubes filled with sediment.

Moreover, six 50 ml tubes were filled up with 0-3 cm layer sediments and stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  for further environmental DNA molecular analysis to couple with water genetic information.

- *Core sampling for Chronology and Stratigraphy*

Two plastic liners with diameter of 9 cm have been used to collect the sediment thickness with the care of minimizing the sediment compaction and deformations of the sub-surface stratification. Successively, liners were closed with plastic stoppers and stored in the fridge at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ . A total of 9 and 4 stations were collected for stratigraphy and chronology purposes, respectively (see Table 8.1.2).

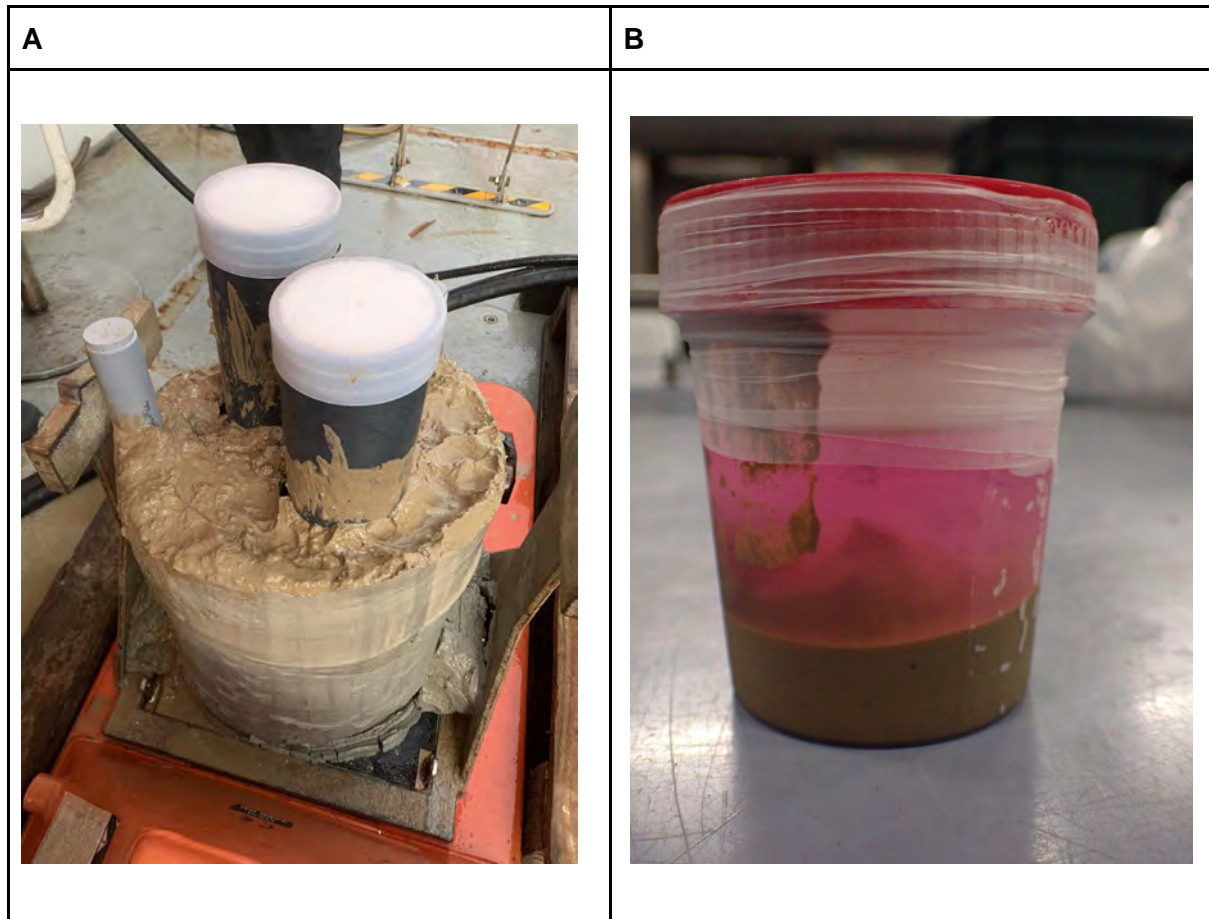


**Figure 8.1.9.** Liner for stratigraphy and 3 small cores for meiofauna sampling.

- *Core sampling for meiofauna analysis*



Three rigid plastic pipes with a diameter of 3.6 cm have been randomly inserted to collect sediment cores replicates. The extrusion followed: sediment was gently pushed out from the tubes to save in jars the upper layer (0-3 cm) and covered with 40 ml of 70% ethanol tainted with Bengal Rose.



**Figure 8.1.10.** A. sediments with liner. B. Meiofauna sample.

- *Microplastics sampling*

Aliquots of superficial sediment (0-3 cm) were sampled from the box corer for microplastic extraction, analysis and quantification. Once on board the box corer sample was immediately covered with aluminium foil to prevent external contamination. Aerial controls to measure external contamination levels were performed by exposing a clean filter to the open air during sampling procedures on deck. Varying aliquots of superficial sediment ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$  of sampling surface) were collected using a ruler and a metal spoon. The samples were immediately transferred in aluminium containers and stored frozen at  $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ . In total, 9 surface sediment samples were collected during the PIONEER cruise and transported to the microplastic laboratory of ISMAR Lerici for subsequent processing and microplastic analysis (particle extraction through density separation, organic matter digestion and  $\mu\text{FTIR}$  analysis for polymer identification). One sediment blank (PI23\_BC05) was collected from the deepest part of the box-corer (in pre-industrial era sediments) using the same procedure used for sampling surface sediments. Station 44 (PI23\_BC06) was sampled using a 0,4 m stainless steel liner (inner diameter 8,5 cm). The core was sliced in 48 samples. The first 10 cm of the core were



sliced every 0,5 cm, then one slice per cm was collected in a separate aluminum container until the end of the core. Lastly, 5x10L buckets were filled with sediments collected from samples PI23\_BC03, PI23\_BC04, PI23\_BC05, PI23\_BC07, PI23\_BC08. These samples were kept oxygenated with an aquarium air pump and stored in the fridge. Sediments will be used in the laboratory to conduct experiments for the projects PRIN 2022 MICROBEEF (MICROplastic effects on marine Benthic Ecosystem Functioning) and DeepDeg (Development of a reliable system to assess biodegradation of different materials in the European deep sea).

- *Contaminants sampling*

Aliquots of superficial sediment (0-0.5 cm) were sampled from the box-corer for bisphenol and PAHs analysis. The samples were collected with a metal spoon in a glass tube and immediately stored frozen at -20°C. In total, 9 bisphenol and 6 PAH samples were collected during the cruise and transported to the laboratory of IRBIM Ancona for processing (extraction and UHPLC-FLD-DAD analysis).

Aliquots of surficial sediment (0-2 cm) were sampled in selected locations (4 stations) for inorganic and organic contaminants (see Table 8.1.2). Surficial sediments were collected with a plastic spoon and storage in PTE jars previously decontaminated and weighted. Successively samples were stored frozen at -20°C.

Selected locations (see Table 8.1.2) were sampled with plastic liner. In total 2 stations for inorganic contaminants and 5 stations for organic contaminants. Cores were closed with decontaminated plastic stoppers and stored in the fridge at 4°C for successive analysis.



**Figure 8.1.11.** Sampling of sediments for contaminants.

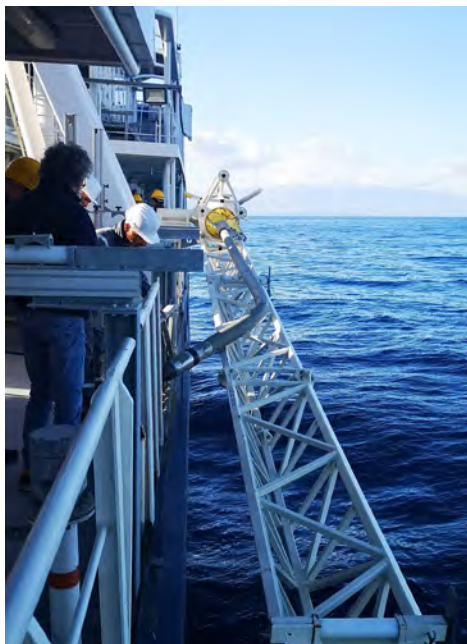
- *Foraminifera sampling*

Aliquots of superficial sediment (0-0.5 cm) were sampled by using a spoon from the box-corer in order to extract its foraminiferal content, including both living and dead assemblage. The aliquot is collected into a 50 ml or 15 ml falcon with addition of 10 to 20 ml of 70% ethanol stained with Bengal Rose. The samples will be washed and sieved at 64 microns, and microfauna picked up under an optical microscope.

## 9.2. Challenges

The main challenge faced for sediment coring operations during the first Leg of the cruise concerned the limited experience of the operation team on deck in managing the coring system, as it requires a remarkable technical expertise and body strength and agility considering that the coring system is mounted on a cradle-pylon system which is hanging some half a meter overboard. For this reason, piston cores were not carried out during the first part of the cruise, reducing the chance of collecting long sedimentary records. Moreover, due to its shape, the core barrel can only enter the cradle in one direction: it is not possible to rotate 180° according to its axis of symmetry. This caused major problems during an event of pipe bending, which forced a series of time-consuming maneuvers to recover the barrel and the framework in its horizontal position. This particular issue has been already managed and the coring head has been modified soon after the end of the cruise.

No particular issues were encountered during box corer deployment and retrieval operations, apart from a technical failure of the IBERCISA multipurpose winch at stern that prevented the completion of the all foreseen box coring stations. Indeed, on 05/12/2023 at 10.30 local time, during box corer recovery operations from a depth of 2500 m, unusual and loud noise from the winch motor was heard. For safety, it was decided to complete the recovery of the box corer at a minimum speed of 25 m/min. Checks were immediately carried out which, however, did not lead to any particular anomalies being found by the chief engineer. On 06/12/2023, in the morning, a meeting between the on-board technician, the Captain, IBERCISA and the project manager highlighted the following points: inability for IBERCISA to understand the problem and to give any indications on possible breakages of the mechanical parts and IBERCISA concluded that, in the absence of a clear picture, the winch should have been put into disuse until new and conclusive checks are carried out.



**Figure 8.1.11.** Difficult recovery of a bended core barrel due to the impossibility of rotating the coring head inside the cradle with the risk of damages to the ships' hull and important postponement of sea operations.

### 9.3. Recommendations

Limited storage space is available on-board for samples and this should be addressed by a separate action such as providing a refrigerated container on deck. Training courses for technicians/technologists/researchers available to acquire expertise on the coring system are required.

## 10. Floating macro litter survey

### 10.1. Insights

A visual survey of floating macro litter (FML) was conducted during the cruise. Observations were made during regular navigation of the ship between sampling stations at a speed of about 9-10 knots. The observations were made by a dedicated observer who scanned the sea surface from the bow of the vessel and registered UTC time, GPS coordinates, size, type, color and perpendicular distance of all floating macro-debris (>2 cm) items sighted on one side of the ship, chosen according to wind direction and sun position. Sightings were all performed during daylight hours, by naked eye and under good weather conditions only. 7x50 binoculars were used to better identify more distant objects. Recorded items were allocated to one of two major type categories: Anthropogenic Marine Debris (AMD) and Natural Marine Debris (NMD). The survey effort was split into 30-min transects in order to standardize fatigue for the observer, enhance the number of replicates and better account for the patchy distribution of debris at sea. Litter concentrations will be computed using standard strip-transect techniques. During the cruise, a total of 30 visual transects were performed (total survey length: 223.27 km, total survey time: 14.03 hours). During the visual survey, a GoPro camera was also installed on a bulwark located on the upper deck (monkey island). The camera recorded georeferenced time lapses of the sea surface in parallel with the observer. The acquired footage will be analyzed using a newly developed object-detection algorithm, which will be trained, ground-truthed and validated using the survey results.

Transect	Date	Start			Stop			Duration (min)	Distance (km)
		Time	Lat	Lon	Time	Lat	Lon		
1	19/11/23	08:20	37,452570	15,174407	08:50	37,446734	15,282321	30	9,60
2	20/11/23	08:45	35,791059	17,756333	09:15	35,852529	17,799031	30	7,83
3	22/11/23	15:52	36,566219	15,819702	16:13	36,622897	15,792366	21	6,78
4	24/11/23	08:52	37,272882	15,539105	09:22	37,312207	15,518558	30	4,76
5	25/11/23	09:17	37,637902	15,289722	09:47	37,687838	15,312124	30	6,00
6	25/11/23	10:39	37,763190	15,321530	11:09	37,704367	15,292129	30	7,32
7	25/11/23	12:14	37,598988	15,278255	12:26	37,606684	15,251636	12	2,55
8	25/11/23	12:31	37,613748	15,256070	13:01	37,666202	15,275178	30	6,20
9	25/11/23	14:13	37,777468	15,329570	14:42	37,824797	15,348953	28	6,07
10	25/11/23	16:12	37,633589	15,259194	16:41	37,565554	15,231275	28	8,01
11	27/11/23	08:53	37,372555	15,937409	09:23	37,443882	15,898562	30	8,65
12	27/11/23	14:13	37,538799	15,888182	14:43	37,622471	15,944344	30	10,53
13	27/11/23	15:04	37,681302	15,983508	15:34	37,765635	16,037285	30	10,47
14	27/11/23	15:57	37,822281	16,078712	16:27	37,888704	16,147671	30	9,56

15	29/11/23	08:45	39,127279	17,189378	09:15	39,094939	17,291058	30	9,50
16	04/12/23	09:27	40,282733	17,042464	09:57	40,220674	17,080700	30	7,61
17	04/11/23	13:06	40,183667	17,110852	13:36	40,108807	17,176446	30	10,01
18	04/12/23	14:06	40,032842	17,241190	14:36	39,955815	17,303622	30	10,07
19	05/12/23	07:36	39,234779	17,976604	08:06	39,155848	18,027334	30	9,85
20	05/12/23	11:33	39,157395	18,004122	12:03	39,215759	17,928012	30	9,25
21	05/12/23	12:49	39,326720	17,851887	13:06	39,368192	17,825125	17	5,18
22	05/12/23	13:53	39,449126	17,819843	13:59	39,464610	17,818843	6	1,71
23	05/12/23	14:26	39,431887	17,740843	14:56	39,410887	17,630200	30	9,86
24	05/12/23	15:56	39,382110	17,407637	16:26	39,377977	17,326100	30	7,01
25	06/12/23	08:57	39,004368	17,233588	09:27	39,039511	17,307824	30	7,52
26	06/12/23	11:40	39,088403	17,333088	12:10	39,138942	17,290298	30	6,72
27	06/12/23	14:31	39,153891	17,298290	15:01	39,110132	17,366263	30	7,62
28	06/12/23	16:03	39,106477	17,393121	16:33	39,156652	17,468181	30	8,55
29	07/12/23	13:23	39,957639	17,860788	14:03	39,938462	17,911207	40	4,80
30	07/12/23	15:15	39,931358	17,910608	15:45	39,958550	17,886244	30	3,68

**Table 9.1.1.** Summary of the FML visual survey observation transects performed during the PIONEER cruise.

No challenges or recommendations are available for this activity.

## 11. Optical measurements

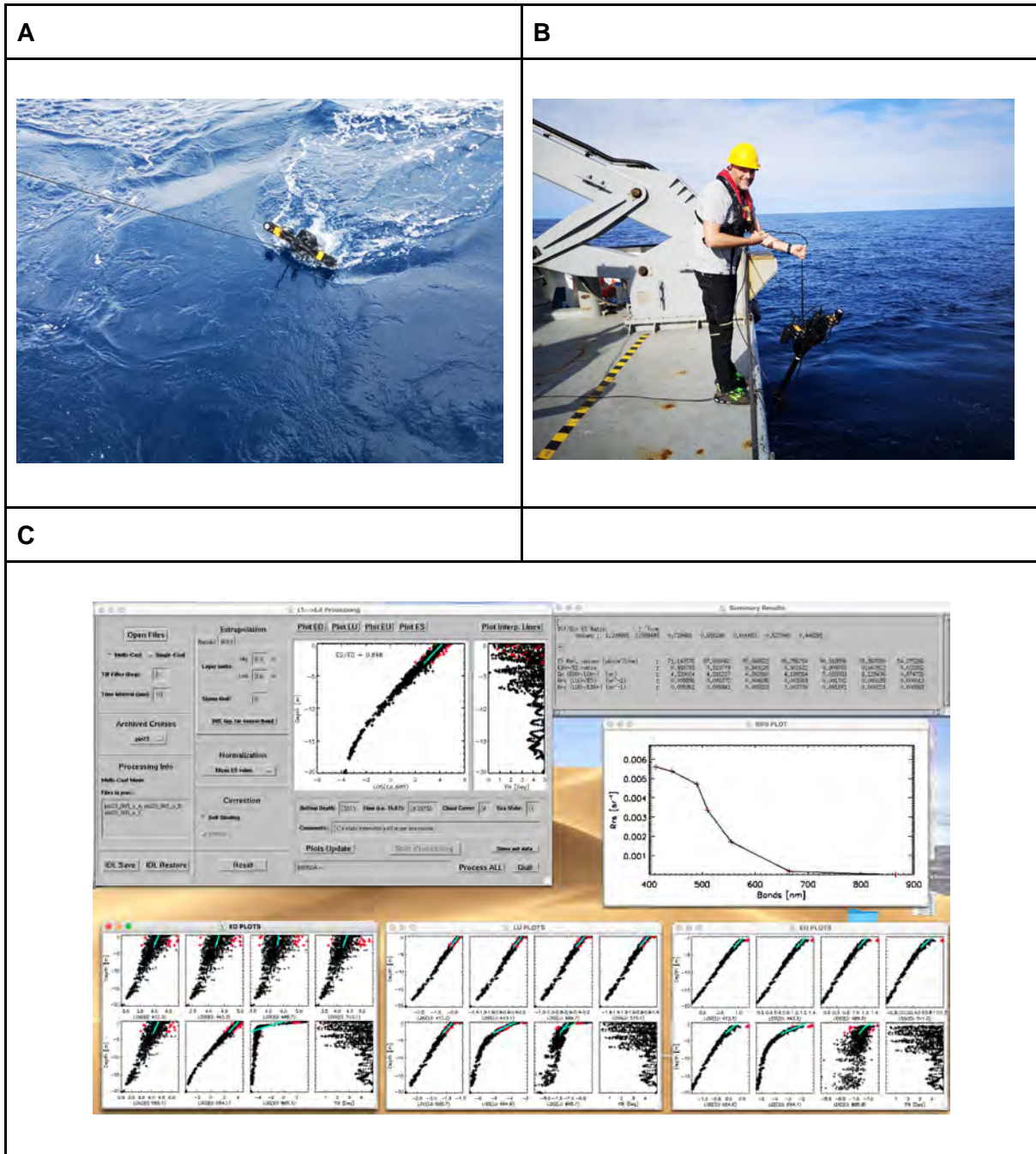
The GOS group at ISMAR Rome conducted a full set of optical measurements on board the Gaia Blu ship, with the main goals of (1) testing the ship's suitability for such sampling and identifying possible weak points, (2) expanding the group's optical database, that is being utilized for a variety of activities, from satellite validation until more scientific ones. These measurements are summarized in the paragraphs below.

### 11.1. Insights

- *In-water radiometry*

In-water radiometry stands for the passive measurement of sun radiation for different depths in the water. These measurements are made of light coming from several directions, and at different bands (wavelengths). To achieve these goals while minimizing the uncertainties, the procedure followed is the free-falling profiling. This consists of a profiler with a slightly lesser buoyancy with respect to water, so that it slowly sinks in the water column. A rocket-like shape helps to keep the profiler in a vertical position. To minimize the ship optical disturbance, the profiler is kept far away from stern, while keeping the ship's course away from the sun. The profiler is recovered by hand using the same data cable. Several consecutive profiles are used to derive the final measurement. These measurements include useful variables for satellite validation and algorithm development, such as the remote-sensing reflectance and the diffuse attenuation coefficient.





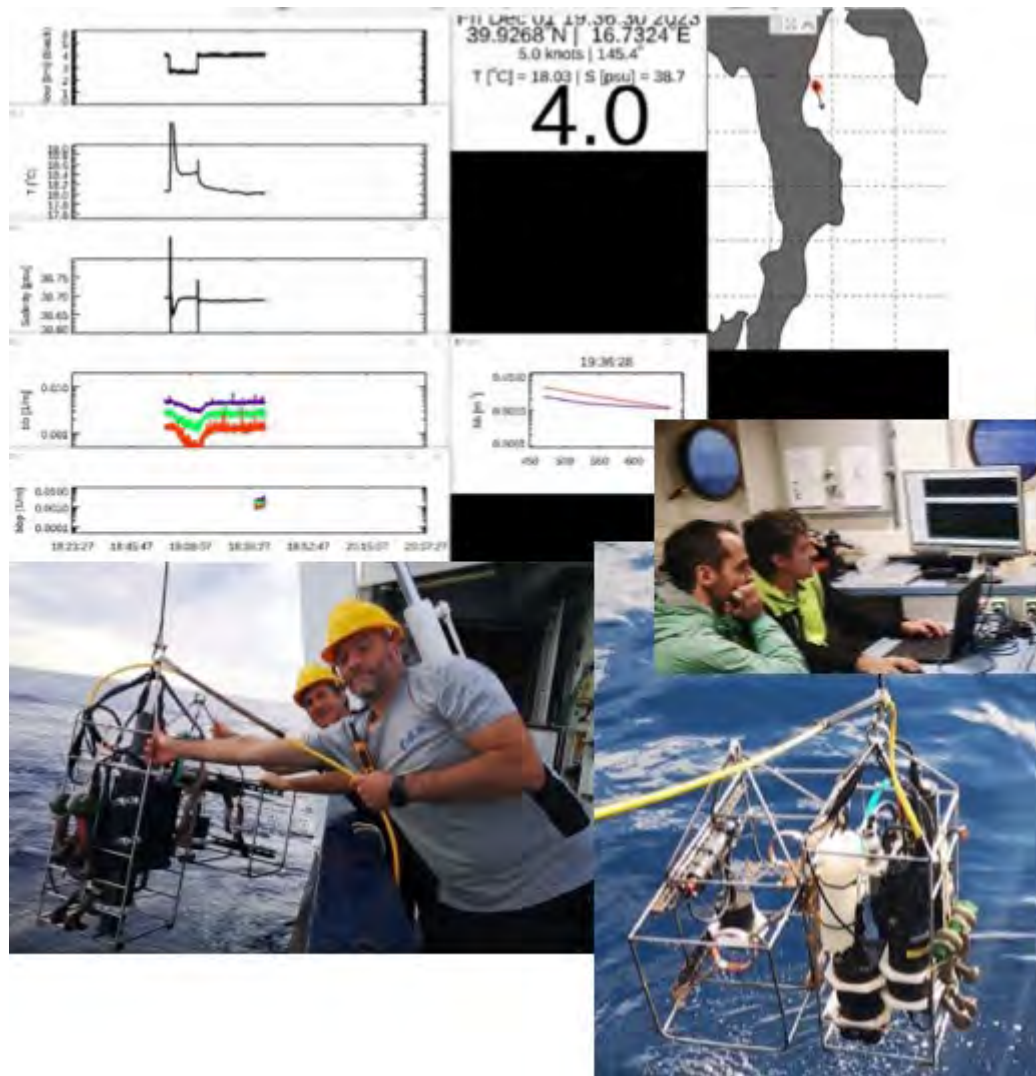
**Figure 10.1.1.** A. SATLANTIC radiometer that measures the radiance and irradiance of sunlight in seawater. deployed at sea. B. Recovery of the radiometer. C. Data collected by the radiometer for a first quality check.

- *Inherent optical properties (IOPs)*

The importance of measuring seawater IOPs stands in its relationship with radiometry observations. Radiometry can more or less be interpreted as the total signal as perceived by the human eye or by a satellite remote sensor and the IOP measurements help disentangling the various contributors to that signal: phytoplankton biomass and its size distribution along with the coloured dissolved organic matter in the open ocean with the addition of suspended terrigenous materials in the coastal domain. Onboard Gaia Blu, GOS group performed IOP



measurements using one single instrumentation package implemented in two different setup configurations: profile mode and underway. In both configurations data acquisition and processing remain the same in which the measurements are made i) over the seawater as is and ii) after its filtration through a 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  high surface filter to allow the dissolved properties to be measured. By subtraction the particulate fraction of the signal is computed. During the underway measurements, the transition between total and filtered measurements is made automatically through an electrovalve operated via computer. In profile mode, two consecutive casts are performed, with and without the water passing through the 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  filter.



**Figure 10.1.2.** Kaleidoscope of images related to the deployment of the IOP instrument and processing of data.

## 11.2. Challenges

The deployment system of the instrument may be suitable, and the operations proceeded smoothly. However, it is noted that the winch and portal are poorly positioned as they are located near the stationary propeller. This causes the disruption of the water column in the first few meters (which may alter the water column structure) and the presence of air bubbles.

### 11.3. Recommendations

It is suggested to have greater maneuverability on the starboard side by using the CTD winch to deploy other instruments, with the need for enlarging the designated area. The addition of a seawater and freshwater inlet in the CTD compartment will be necessary.

Winch: A meter pulley and precise speed adjustment are required for the winch. It should be operable from both the stern and the control room. A cable with a minimum length of 3000 m and a load capacity of at least 100 kg is needed.

Stern deployment: For deployments from the stern, a controlled cable of at least 3000 m and a load capacity of at least 100 kg is necessary.

## 12. Science Control Room

### 12.1. Insights

The Science Control room allows to display, monitor and operate all the navigation system and control the geophysical equipment hull-mounted including: multibeam systems, CHIRP systems, ADCP systems, scientific echo sounders, USBL system. The Science Control Room also hosts the remote control for CTD/Rosette and sediment sampling winches (coring system at starboard and box coring system through the multipurpose winch) and it is therefore the neuralgic centre of the vessel.



**Figure 11.1.1.** Remote control of the CTD/Rosette winch from inside the Science Control Room.

### 12.2. Challenges

There has been a small number of technical failures of the screens, UPS and consoles, mainly due to the obsolescence of some monitors which have been already replaced and some electrical connectivity issues that are under consideration by the vessel technical crew.

### 12.3. Recommendations

It is suggested to always remind the bridge to switch to science mode navigation once DP operations or full speed operations are concluded. in order to reduce vibrations (400 RMPs instead of 600 RMPs or full engine) and enhance geophysical data quality, especially during multibeam and CHIRP acquisition. Radio communications should be the preferable way to keep the science control room informed about activities taking place on deck and on the bridge, to expedite related actions.

## 13. Geophysical data acquisition

Geophysical surveys consisted mainly of multibeam bathymetry and backscatter data acquisition using the intermediate (0-1500 m) and deep water (> 1500 m) EM712 and EM304 systems hull-mounted on the vessel; high-resolution seismic reflection data of the sub-bottom were acquired using the hull-mounted 3.5-12 kHz 3260 Knudsen CHIRP echosounder. Acquisitions of ADCP data using the 45 kHz Workhorse have been conducted to test the signal interference with EM304 data, as the synchronization software (Kongsberg K-sync) is currently unavailable for ADCP Teledyne's systems. The K-sync was instead used to deconflict multibeam and sub-bottom profiler acquisitions during transits.

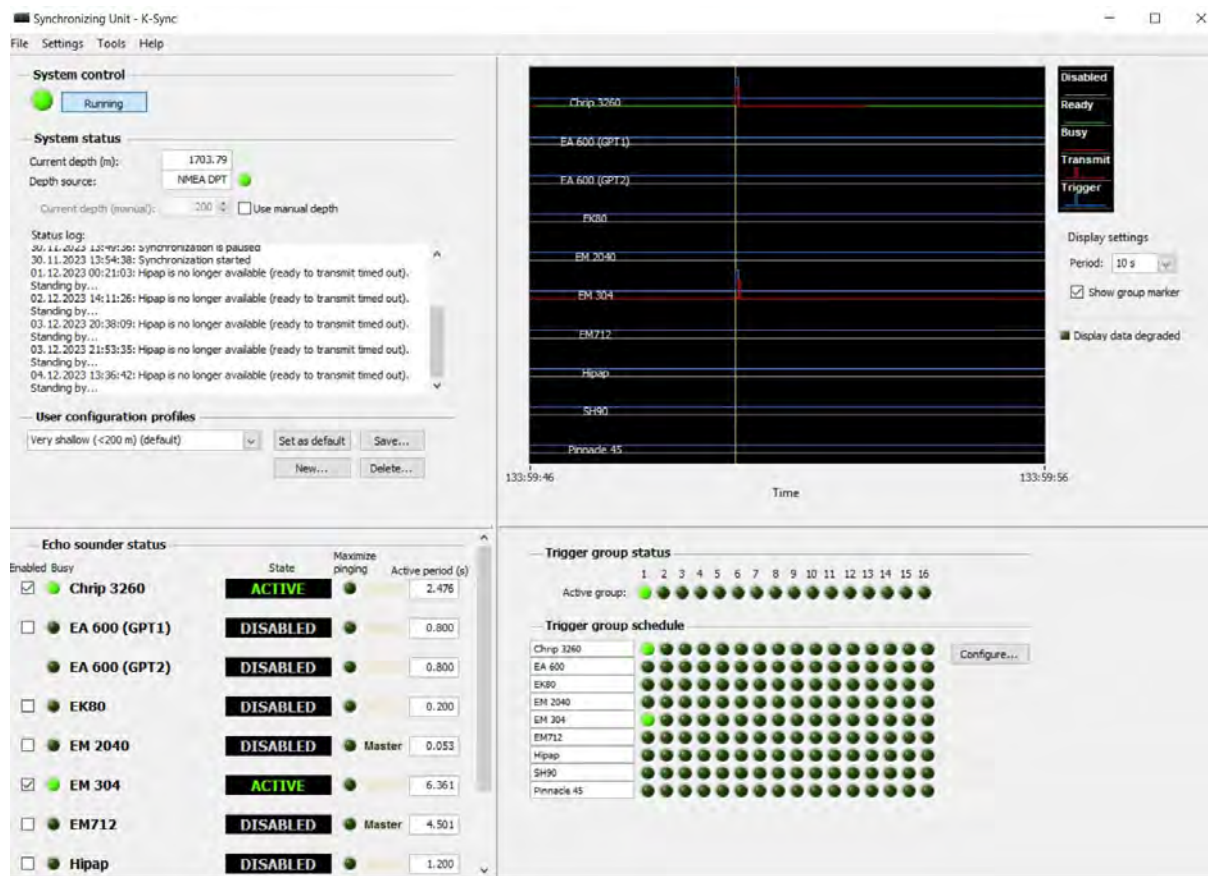


Figure 12.1.1. K-sync display, the system was mainly used to configure the timing of pinging of the

Knudsen echosounder and EM304 deep-water echosounder. The EM304 is the master unit as the longest transmitting-receiving system, the CHIRP is subordinated to the listening window of the EM304.

- *Positioning, Heading and Attitude*

The Seapath 380 system provides continuous information of: Global Satellite Positioning by 2 GNSS antenna, attitude information by 1 Motion Reference Unit MRU5. Heading information is computed from the 2 antennae position. The accuracy of positioning is achieved by differential satellite positioning DGNSS subscription (Fugro Marinestar GNSS G4, survey average accuracy 0.12 m). For instrumental offsets see file OFFSET/ GBL.SE.G.200.01-Offset Definition.pdf. The Seapath 380 system is used for ship positioning, supplied by a Fugro HP differential Global Positioning System (DGPS), accurate up to 0.2 m. The Kongsberg motion sensor MRU 5 and a Dual Antenna GPS integrated in the Seapath will correct pitch, roll, heave and yaw movements (reaching 0.02° roll and pitch accuracy, and 0.075° heading accuracy).

- *Vessel draft*

The vessel draft is derived using stability calculations provided by Intershalt Maritime System Stability Software -SEACOS MACS3, belonging to the bridge management system. The center of gravity of the boat (CoG) is calculated as of September 19, 2023, based on load distribution and navigation settings (longitudinal center of gravity, LcG 36.12; vertical center of gravity VcG 5.45).

- *Multibeam sensors*

Multibeam data (MBES) were collected using three different multibeam echosounder systems: the Kongsberg EM2040-04 MKII 0.4°x0.7° suited for water depths between 50 and 1250 m, Kongsberg EM712 1°x0.5° for water depths between 1250 and 10500 m and Kongsberg EM304 MKII 1°x1° for water depth greater than 10500 m. The MBESs are hull-mounted on the R/V Gaia Blu's gondola with a T-configuration of linear transducer arrays. The Seapath 380 system was used for ship positioning, supplied by a Fugro HP differential Global Positioning System (DGPS), with Marinestar GNSS signal accuracy better than 5 cm. The Kongsberg motion sensor MRU (Motion Reference Unit) 5 and a Dual Antenna GPS integrated in the Seapath, were used to correct for the pitch, roll, heave and yaw movements (reaching 0.02° roll and pitch accuracy, and 0.075° heading accuracy).

A Valeport mini SVS sensor is attached close to the transducers to continuously measure the sound velocity for the beamforming. The multi beam coverage is about four times the water depth and a 20% overlap between lines is normally achieved. Data are logged, displayed and checked in real-time by the Kongsberg data acquisition and control software SIS 5 (Seafloor Information System). The multibeam systems were operated with average swath opening angles of about 60°/70° depending on signal/noise ratio. Sound velocity profiles were collected with a Valeport Midas SVP 45305.

Multibeam data collected during PIONEER are now part of the EMODnet Bathymetry data infrastructure under the CDI-record id 3680061 of the Pan-European Infrastructure for Ocean & Marine Data Management SeaDataNet and will be part of the 2024 release of the 1/16 \* 1/16 arc minutes (ca. 115 m grid) EMODnet DTM and concur to the high resolution DTMs with



metadata described as Sextant entries. The EMODnet DTM is updated every 2 years and made available to everyone in the EMODnet Mapviewer, by OGC web services, and by downloading in multiple formats for use in GIS systems and as base layer for numerical hydraulic models. See <https://emodnet.ec.europa.eu/geoviewer/>

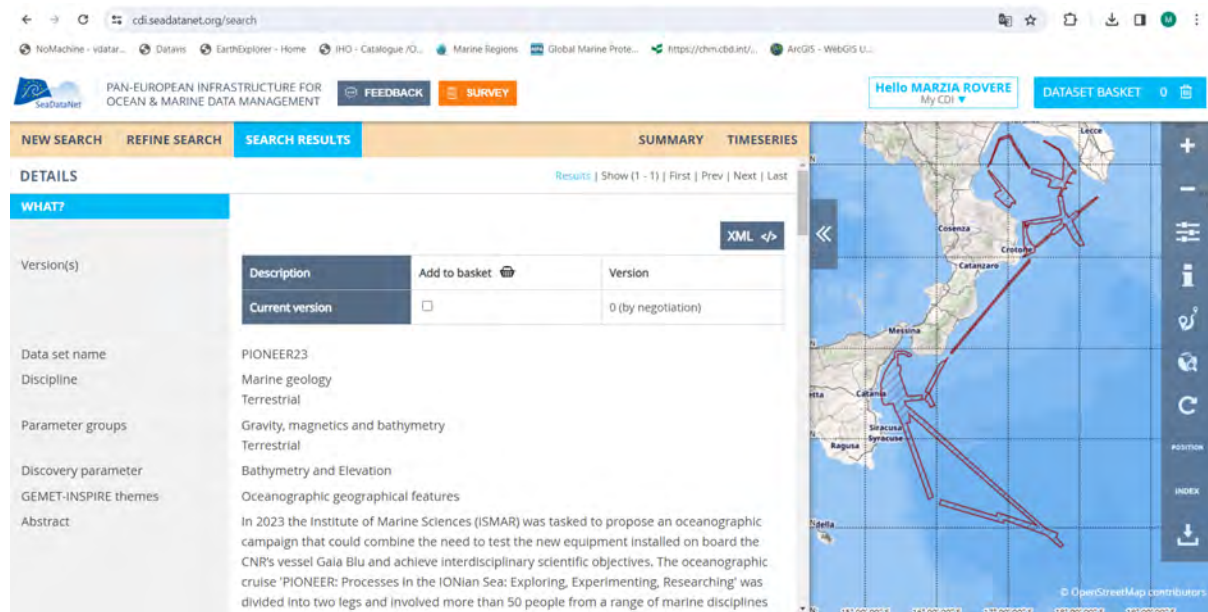
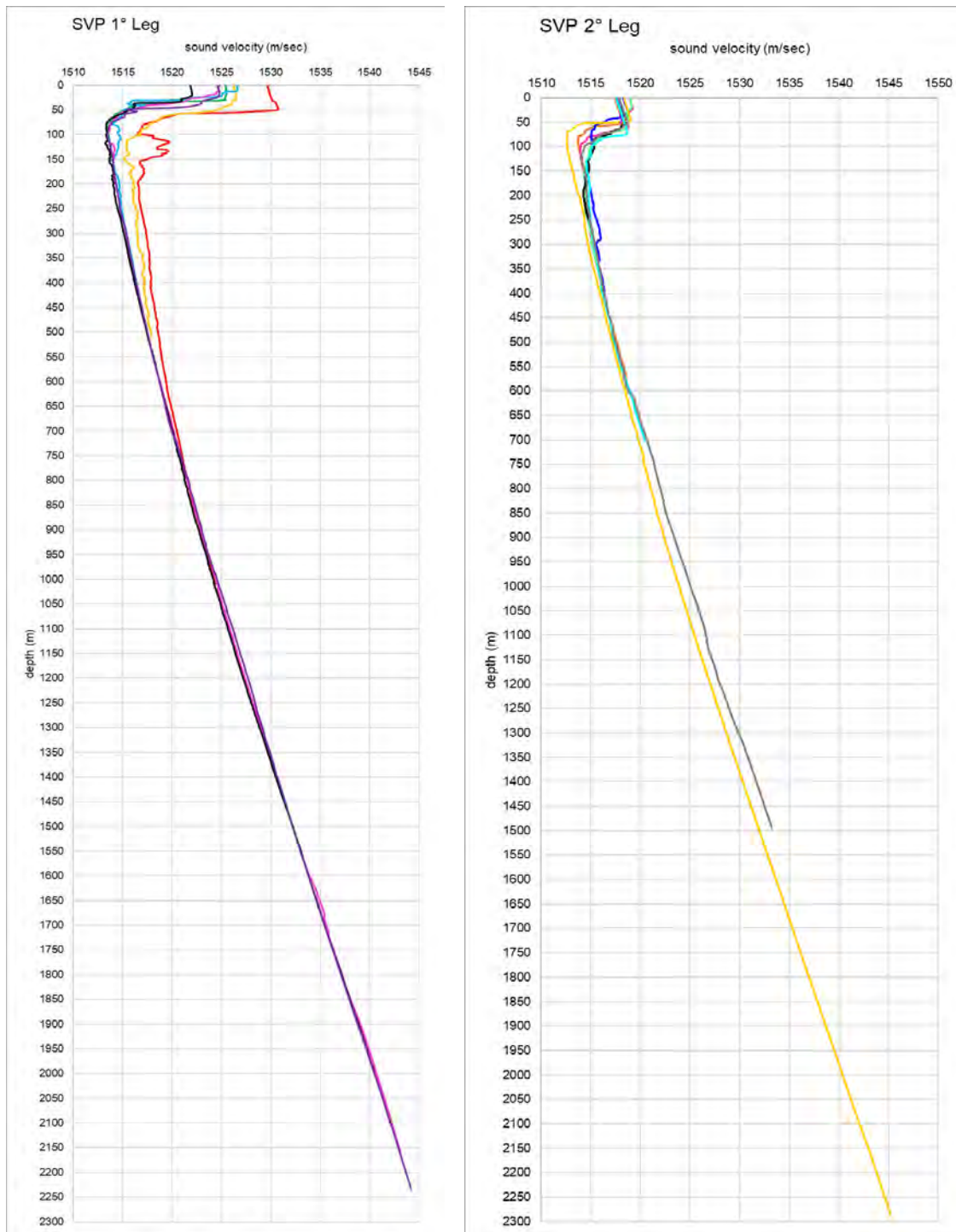


Figure 12.1.2. SeaDataNet visualization of metadata (CDI) of the PIONEER23 cruise.

1° leg	19-28.11.2023			
SVP	LON DDMM.xxx	LAT DDMM.xxx	LON DD.xxx	LAT DD.xxx
19112023_1240 - MIDAS SVP S/N 45305	15°25.5476009' E	37°26.3834793' N	15,4257933	37,4397247
20112023_1901 - MIDAS SVP S/N 45305	17°44.9200631'E	35°53.1772471' N	17,7486677	35,8862875
21112023_0830 - MIDAS SVP S/N 45305	16°56.6898362'E	36°06.9810179' N	16,9448306	36,1163503
22112023_0930 - MIDAS SVP S/N 45305	15°49.9123838'E	36°29.9393675' N	15,83187306	36,4989894 6
24112023_1522 - MIDAS SVP S/N 45305	15°35.5757062'E	37°13.9182489	15,59292844	37,2319708 2
26112023_1611 - MIDAS SVP S/N 45305	15°25.5688848'E	37°26.4380988' N	15,42614808	37,4406349 8
27112023_1008 - MIDAS SVP S/N 45305	15°52.6118968'E	37°29.1349113' N	15,87686495	37,4855818 6

2° leg	28.11- 09.12.2023			
	LON DDMM.xxx	LAT DDMM.xxx	LON DD.xxx	LAT DD.xxx
29112023_0925 - MIDAS SVP S/N 45305	17°21,7859' E	39°04,107 7'N	17,3630983	39,0684617
30112023_0553 - MIDAS SVP S/N 45305	17°17,9872	39°02,990 4	17,2997867	39,0498400
01122023_2123 - MIDAS SVP S/N 45305	16°50,5805 2	39°49,033 58	16,84300867	39,81722633
02122023_1027 - MIDAS SVP S/N 45305	16°56,4171 6	39°44,396 217	16,940286	39,73993695
03122023_0823 - MIDAS SVP S/N 45305	16°57,6826 93	39°42,361 969	16,96137821	39,70603282
05122023_0446 - MIDAS SVP S/N 45305	17°51,6121 9	39°24,019 85	17,86020317	39,40033083
06122023_0729 - MIDAS SVP S/N 45305	17°12,4455 7	38°59,569 86	17,20742617	38,992831
08122023_1113 - MIDAS SVP S/N 45305	17°46,3652 9	39°46,213 57	39,77022617	17,77275483
08122023_2009 - MIDAS SVP S/N 45305	17°35,8457 4	39°49,226 85	17,597429	39,8204475

**Table 12.1.1.** Coordinates of the SVP profiles collected together with CTD/Rosette deployment.



**Figure 12.1.3.** Sound velocity profiles collected during leg 1 and 2 of the PIONEER cruise to correct the sound propagation for multibeam data.

- *Navigation system*

The overall navigation and bridge communications system is supported by QPS-Qinsy 9.5.6. The Seapath 380 positioning system installed provides a common reference point (CRP) for all the systems on board, including the Kongsberg Multibeam Echosounders and the Knudsen Sub-Bottom profiler (SBP). The Kongsberg Multibeam software directly applies all the necessary software and positioning inertial corrections as well as offset computations to data

in both pinging and recording modes. The Qinsy navigation system stores all the offsets of the installed systems, and its positioning computations relative to each node are sent to the respective systems. The draft can be applied in post-processing to the Knudsen CHIRP data.

A few tests were conducted on the EM712 and EM2040 multibeam sensor calibration settings (yaw, pitch, roll and heave) which are stored in the proprietary Kongsberg SIS5 system in Attitude 1. A second configuration, named Attitude 2, does not contain calibration settings however is the active configuration, which is read by the processing software suite while importing the multibeam data. This configuration directly influences the vessel configuration created by the processing software leading to uncalibrated data. Different configurations were tested during the PIONEER cruise, such as copying calibration data in Attitude 2, setting manually Motion 1 and Motion 2 in the processing software; the best results were achieved using calibration data in Attitude 2, however, further investigation are necessary as this configuration has not been validated by Kongsberg during the sea trials and the commissioning phase.

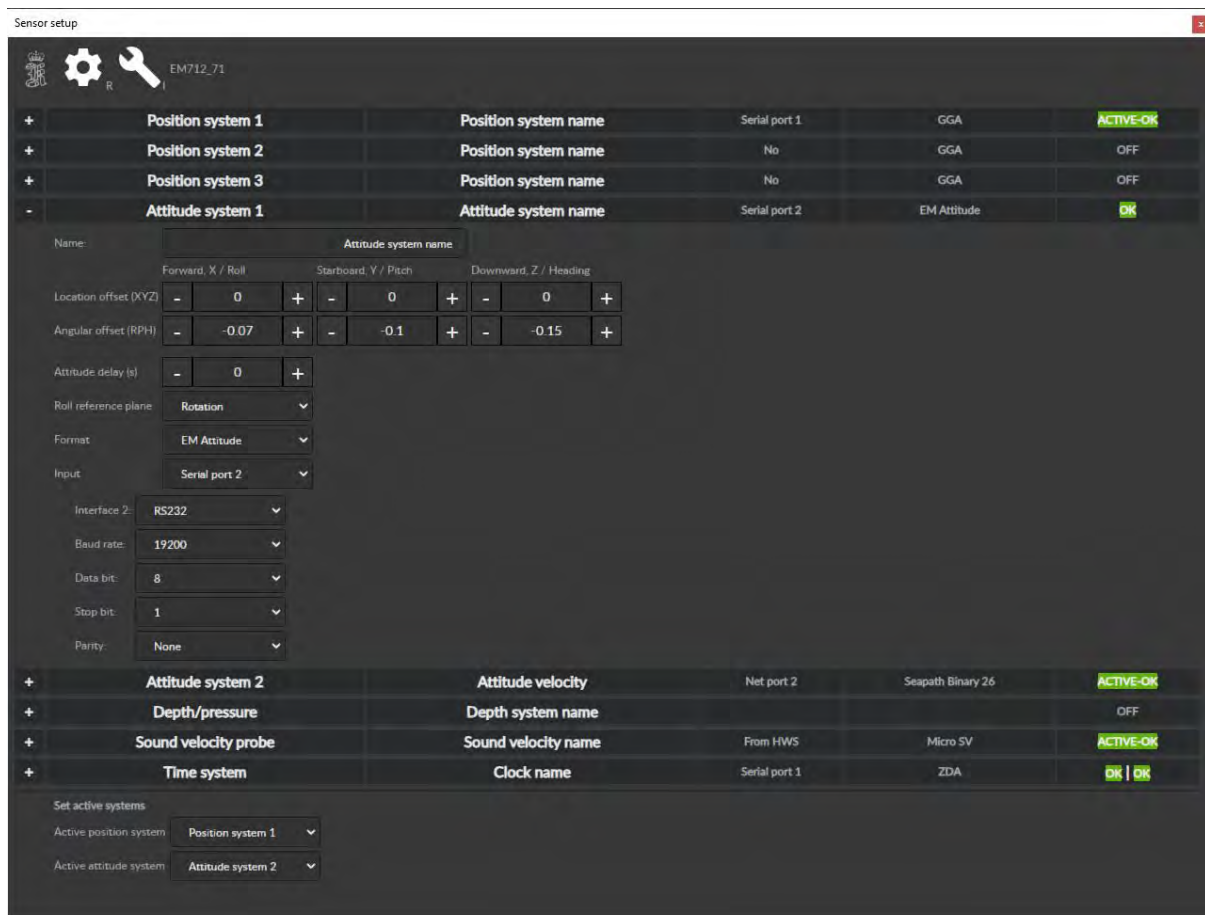
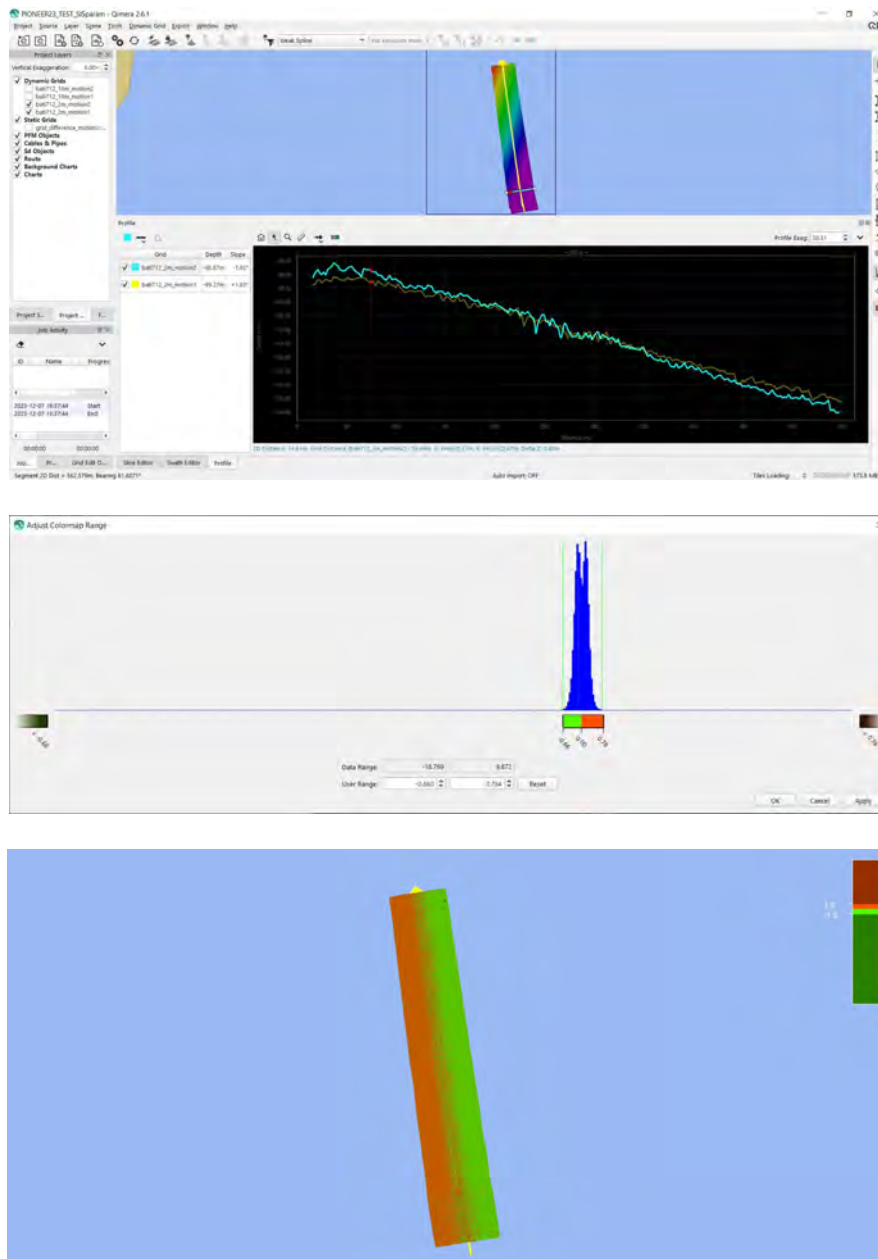


Figure 12.1.4. Display of the multibeam sensor setup divided into Attitude system 1 and 2.





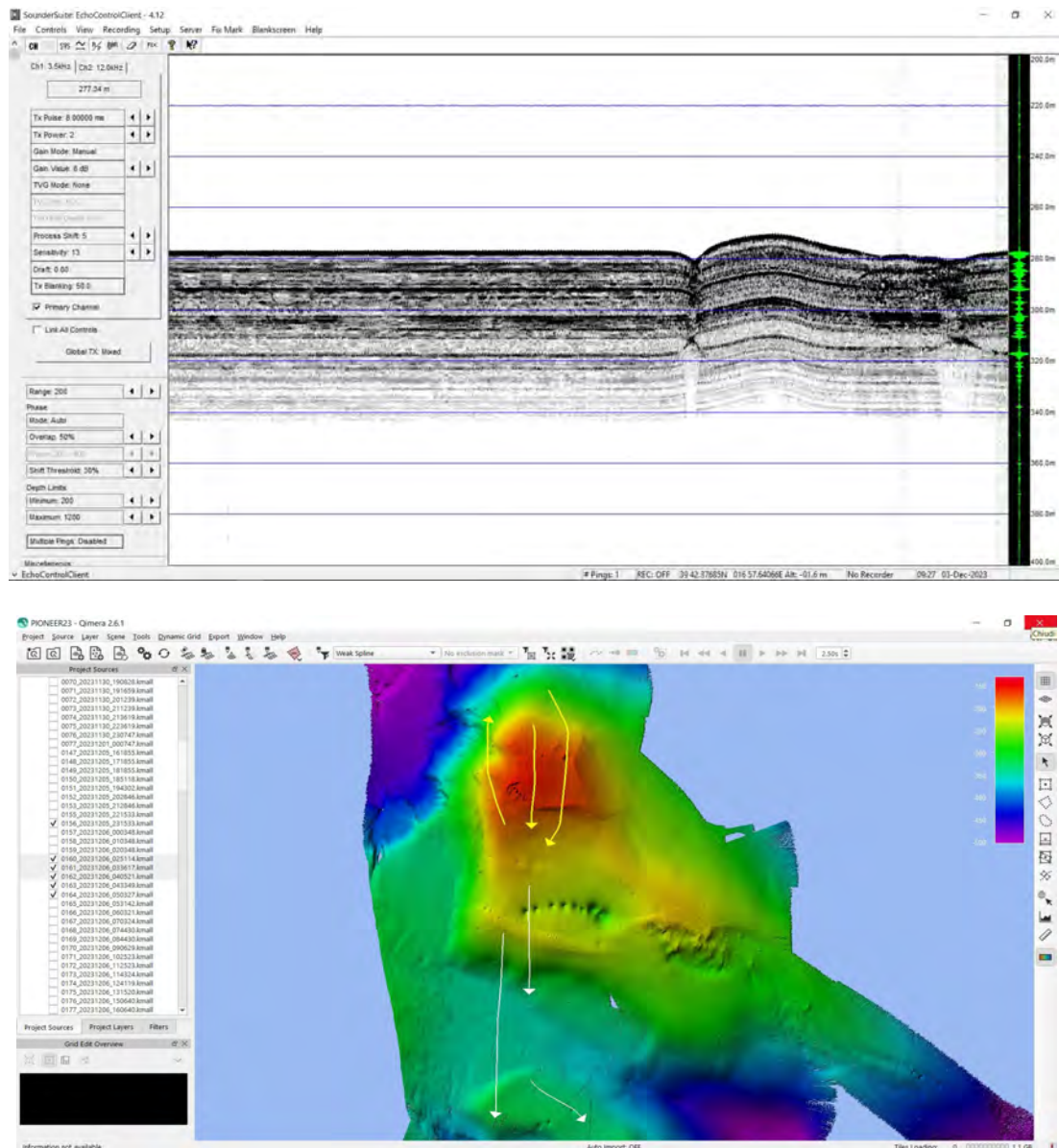
**Figure 12.1.5.** Results of the various tests made on the multibeam calibration settings.

- *CHIRP sensors*

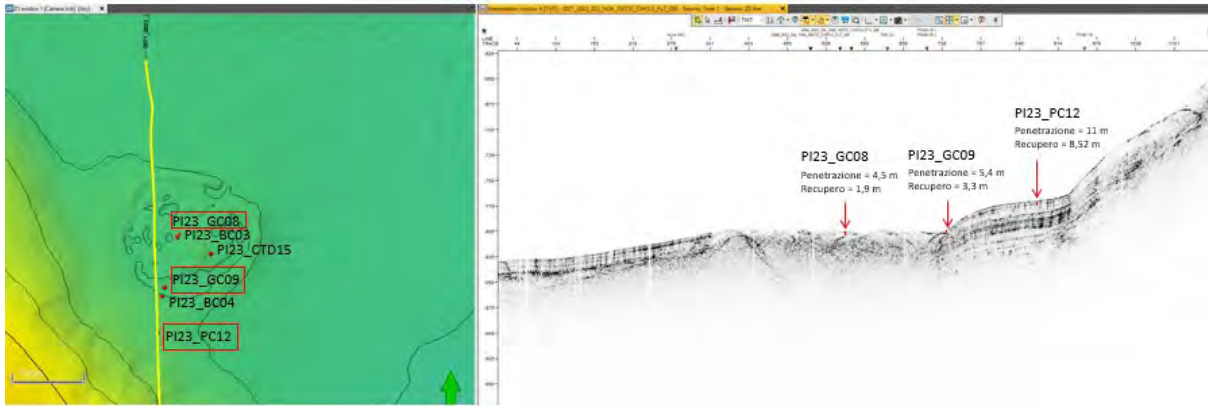
While the acquisition of bathymetric data allowed the analysis of geomorphology and seafloor gradients, sub-bottom CHIRP (SBP) profiles return high-resolution stratigraphic information of the first 10 to 40 meters of sediment. Based on the seismic facies and a derived assessment of the grain size, piston or gravity coring was performed in that particular station.

The processing of the SBP data is divided into the following work phases: 1) Conversion of the files from the native digital format .KEB to SEG-Y and/or import of the native wires into commercial processing software (e.g. Geomarine Survey Systems Geo-suite AllWorks, Moga Software SeaView SBP) or academic ones for free use with the creation of a dedicated routine (Seispro). 2) Preliminary evaluation of the quality of the raw data, even uncorrelated data when necessary, for the creation of a customized processing sequence and the Hilbert transform,

where improved; 3) Application of the processing sequence, which basically includes the envelope of the amplitudes, filters and gains to improve the interpretation of the data, including e.g. time-windowing, time varying gain (TVG) with automatic and/or manual identification and picking of the reflector corresponding to the seabed; 4) Cross-checking the seabed depth using bathymetric DEMs and applying, where necessary, an offset using the speed of sound recorded at the head of the MBES during acquisition simultaneously with the SBP profile; 5) Muting of the water column; 6) Export of processed files in SEG-Y or XTF interchange format; 7) Import into 2D seismic interpretation suites (e.g. Schlumberger Petrel E&P, Geomarine Survey Systems Geo-suite AllWorks, Global S&P Kingdom Seismic and geological interpretation software).



**Figure 12.1.6.** Display of CHIRP data showing the most common parameters used during acquisition (above). Multibeam bathymetric data post-processed using the software QPS-Qimera on pockmarks crossed by the CHIRP profile (below).



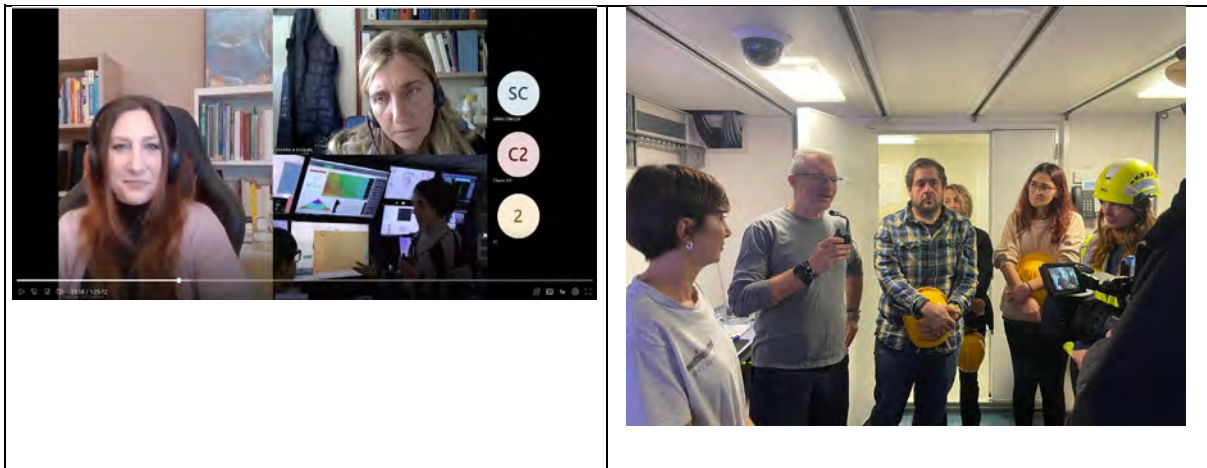
**Figure 12.1.7.** CHIRP profile as displayed in the AllWorks GeoSuite software, where functions such as Amplitude Envelope and Gain were applied to better highlight the seismic signal. The profile is ca. N-S oriented across a flat area at around 600 m water depth along three sediment cores (PI23\_GC08, 09, 12).

## 14. Outreach activities

During the PIONEER campaign, photo video documentation was created with the aim of acquiring archive material and a 360° virtual tour of the ship, a video connection was also realized with two middle schools.

- *Video streaming*

During the second leg of the campaign, an interactive connection was created between the ship, two middle schools, the Tor Vergata research area and the CNR-ISMAR headquarters in Bologna. The interactive video conference and the use of a mobile video camera allowed the students to closely follow all the research activities occurring inside the scientific control room and at the Baltic Room. The connection lasted about an hour with the possibility of having a question and answer session with the pupils.







**Figure 13.1.1.** Video footage of the Teams connection with ashore middle schools.

- *360° virtual tour*

Navigable 360° photographic shots were taken with the aim of creating a website that allows navigation of the internal and external environments. Within this virtual tour you will be able to view technical data sheets relating to the ship. 360-degree documentation of the research activity was created.



**Figure 13.1.2.** Examples of 360° visualization of different locations onboard the R/V Gaia Blu.

- *Foto and video documentation*

Photos and videos of the cruise were taken with the aim of creating an image repertoire to be made available to the Cnr scientific community and for carrying out communication activities via institutional websites and the press.



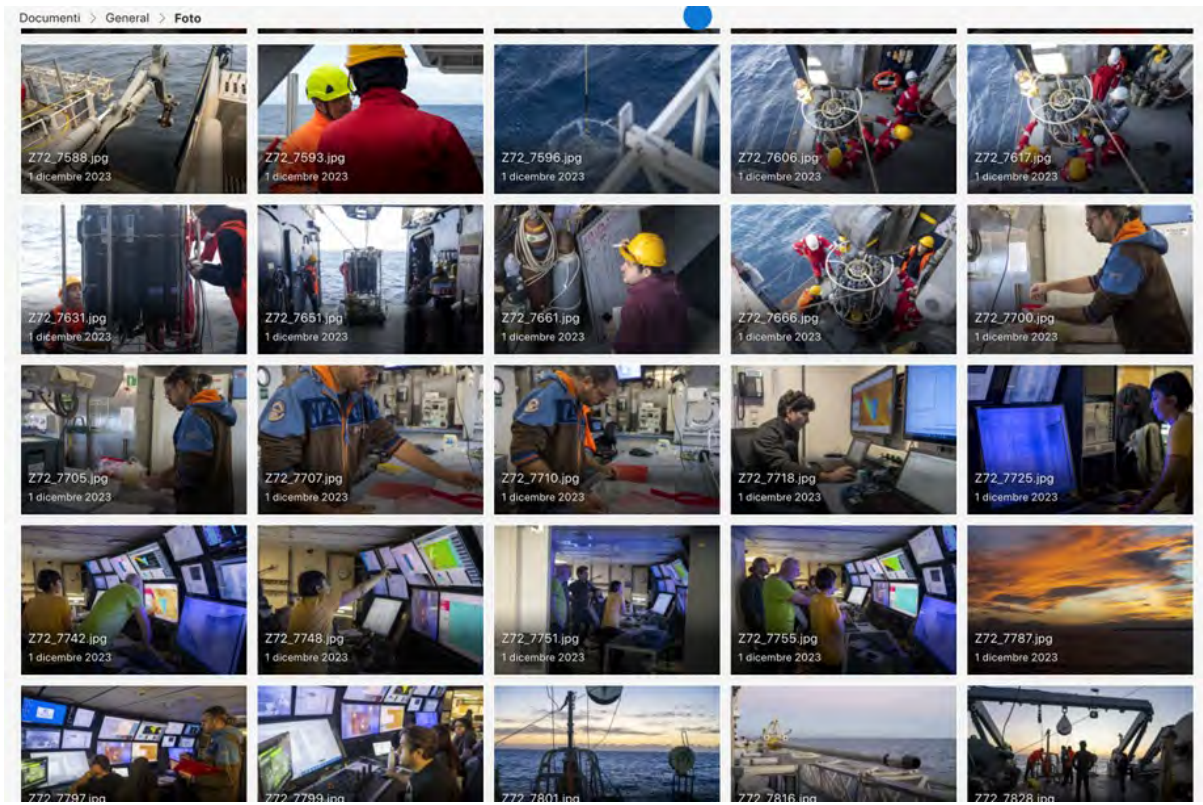


Figure 13.1.1. Overview of photos taken onboard during Leg 2 of the PIONEER cruise.

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# **Appendix 1**

## **Logbook of Activities**



VENTO IN LEGGERO ALIMENTO				
11	P123_RET03S	3419 m bal	retino in acqua	21.1123.08.04
11	P123_RET03B	stop discosa 500 m	STOP calata a 500 m, risalita a 300 m e chiusura. Recupero	21.1123.07.04
11	P123_RET03E	3419 m bal	retino in superficie	21.1123.07.04
11	P123_CTD06S	3420 m bal	CTD a SVP	21.1123.07.04
11	P123_CTD06B	stop discosa 500 m	STOP calata a 510 m, inizio recupero	21.1123.08.04
11	P123_CTD06E	3420 m bal	CTD a bordo	21.1123.08.04
11	P123_RA003S	36.119728	Sonda per radionetria in acqua	21.1123.09.04
11	P123_RA003B	36.119728	Sonda per radionetria in acqua	21.1123.09.04
11	P123_CTD07S	36.119925	CTD a OP - Calata CTD senza aprire le bottiglie. CTD in acqua.	21.1123.09.04
11	P123_CTD07B	36.119925	CTD a bordo	21.1123.09.04
11	P123_CTD07E	36.114918	CTD a bordo	21.1123.09.04
11	P123_CTD08S	36.114918	CTD a bordo	21.1123.09.04
11	P123_CTD08B	36.114918	CTD a bordo	21.1123.09.04
11	P123_CTD08E	36.114918	CTD a bordo	21.1123.09.04
11	P123_SC03	3435 m bal	Inizio operazioni per carteggio profondo. Armato carotiere con 2 tubidi a 5 m	21.1123.11.04
11	P123_SC03B	3435m bal	carotiere sull. fondo	21.1123.12.04
11	P123_SC03E	3435m bal	carotiere in acqua	21.1123.12.04
11	P123_SC04	3492 m bal	carotiere a bordo. Penetrazione 170 m, recupero 170 m. Si decide di provare un carotiere in acqua	21.1123.13.04
11	P123_SC04B	3492 m bal	carotiere sul fondo, massimo filo 5,7 l	21.1123.13.04
11	P123_SC04E	3492 m bal	carotiere a bordo. Penetrazione 10 m, recupero 5 m.	21.1123.14.04
11	P123_TURB07S	3375 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.16.04
11	P123_TURB07B	3375 m bal	sonda a bordo. Stand by per risolvere problemi tecnici sonda	21.1123.16.04
11	P123_TURB07E	3375 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua.	21.1123.16.04
11	P123_TURB08S	3375 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.16.04
11	P123_TURB08B	3375 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.16.04
11	P123_TURB08E	3375 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.16.04
11	P123_TURB09S	3375 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.16.04
11	P123_TURB09B	3375 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.16.04
11	P123_TURB09E	3375 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.16.04
11	P123_TURB10S	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.17.04
11	P123_TURB10B	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.17.04
11	P123_TURB10E	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.17.04
11	P123_TURB11S	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.17.04
11	P123_TURB11B	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.17.04
11	P123_TURB11E	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.17.04
11	P123_TURB12S	3312 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.17.04
11	P123_TURB12B	3312 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.17.04
11	P123_TURB12E	3312 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.17.04
11	P123_TURB13S	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.17.04
11	P123_TURB13B	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.17.04
11	P123_TURB13E	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.17.04
11	P123_TURB14S	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.17.04
11	P123_TURB14B	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.17.04
11	P123_TURB14E	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.17.04
11	P123_CTD10S	3312 m bal	CTD a SVP	21.1123.07.04
11	P123_CTD10B	stop discosa 300 m	STOP calata a 300 m, risalita a 200 m e risalita a 130 m. Retiro chiusa e recuperata	21.1123.07.04
11	P123_CTD10E	3312 m bal	CTD in acqua	21.1123.07.04
11	P123_RA004S	36.496528	Sonda per radionetria in acqua	21.1123.09.04
11	P123_RA004B	36.496528	Sonda per radionetria in acqua	21.1123.09.04
11	P123_RA004E	36.496528	Sonda per radionetria in acqua	21.1123.09.04
11	P123_CTD10B	3312 m bal	CTD in acqua	21.1123.09.04
11	P123_CTD10E	3312 m bal	CTD a bordo	21.1123.09.04
11	P123_TURB12S	3312 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.10.04
11	P123_TURB12E	3312 m bal	sonda a bordo	21.1123.10.04
11	P123_TURB13S	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.11.04
11	P123_TURB13B	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.11.04
11	P123_TURB13E	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.11.04
11	P123_TURB14S	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.11.04
11	P123_TURB14B	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.11.04
11	P123_TURB14E	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.11.04
11	P123_CTD10B	3312 m bal	CTD in acqua	21.1123.07.04
11	P123_CTD10E	3312 m bal	CTD a bordo	21.1123.07.04
11	P123_RA005S	36.503292	Sonda per radionetria in acqua	21.1123.09.04
11	P123_RA005B	36.503292	Sonda per radionetria in acqua	21.1123.09.04
11	P123_RA005E	36.503292	Sonda per radionetria in acqua	21.1123.09.04
11	P123_RET06S	36.503292	retino in acqua	21.1123.07.04
11	P123_RET06B	36.503292	retino in superficie dopo calata a 150 m e risalita.	21.1123.07.04
11	P123_RET06E	36.503292	retino in superficie dopo calata a 200 m e risalita a 130 m. Retiro chiusa e recuperata	21.1123.07.04
11	P123_RET06S	36.503292	retino in acqua	21.1123.07.04
11	P123_RET06B	36.503292	retino in superficie dopo calata a 500 e risalita. filo a 200 m (retino chiuso a 200 m, successivamente rimossa in acqua)	21.1123.08.04
11	P123_RET06E	36.503292	retino in superficie dopo calata a 500 e risalita. filo a 200 m (retino chiuso a 200 m, successivamente rimossa in acqua)	21.1123.08.04
11	P123_OP011S	36.502628	ICOP in acqua. Replica della sonda precedente abortita per controllo	21.1123.08.04
11	P123_OP011B	36.502628	Calata con disco Sechi per misure di visibilità e torbidità	21.1123.08.04
11	P123_OP011E	36.502628	Calata con disco Sechi per misure di visibilità e torbidità	21.1123.08.04
11	P123_OP012S	36.502628	ICOP a bordo	21.1123.08.04
11	P123_OP012B	36.502628	Sonda per radionetria in acqua	21.1123.08.04
11	P123_OP012E	36.502628	Sonda per radionetria in acqua	21.1123.08.04
11	P123_RA006S	36.494227	Sonda per radionetria in acqua	21.1123.09.04
11	P123_RA006B	36.494227	Sonda per radionetria in acqua	21.1123.09.04
11	P123_RA006E	36.494227	Sonda per radionetria in acqua	21.1123.09.04
11	P123_CTD10S	3312 m bal	CTD in acqua	21.1123.09.04
11	P123_CTD10B	3312 m bal	CTD a bordo	21.1123.09.04
11	P123_CTD10E	3312 m bal	CTD a bordo	21.1123.09.04
11	P123_TURB12S	3312 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.10.04
11	P123_TURB12E	3312 m bal	sonda a bordo	21.1123.10.04
11	P123_TURB13S	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.11.04
11	P123_TURB13B	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.11.04
11	P123_TURB13E	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.11.04
11	P123_TURB14S	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.11.04
11	P123_TURB14B	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.11.04
11	P123_TURB14E	3305 m bal	sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	21.1123.11.04

11/22/2023	11:56					MB EM304 SOL_0021	241123_11M	Insediamento verso la stazione KM3 per effettuare box corner	
11/22/2023	12:04					MB EM304 EOL_0021	241123_12M	arrivo sul punto KM3	
11/22/2023	12:17						241123_12M	box corner in acqua. Il box Corner viene calato da poppa con A-frame	
11/22/2023	13:15	<b>P123 BC01S</b>	3330 m bal				241123_13M	CONDIZIONI METEO in peggioramento con pioggia da lieve a moderata	
11/22/2023	13:16	<b>P123 BC01E</b>	3330 m bal				241123_13M	box corner sul fondo. Velocità di discesa max tra 0.9 e 3.7 tonnellate.	
11/22/2023	14:16						241123_14M	box corner a bordo.	
11/22/2023	21:16						241123_21M	verso Tarantina per il raggiungimento della posizione meteo.	
11/23/2023	4:59						241123_04M	continuata acquisizione MB Aranea. Il raddrizzamento verso Tarantina	
11/23/2023	8:52						241123_08M	acquisizione MB a indirizzo di Tarantina. Velocità circa 3 nodi. NB linea MB 0027	
11/23/2023	9:41						241123_09M	rumorosa per moto ondruso	
11/23/2023	9:58						241123_09M	acceso il contrometro WIDAS 45 kHz per fare test di acquisizione in	
11/23/2023	10:05						241123_10M	Linee di test (CHRRP e MB) per vedere acquisizioni simultanea di 3 aramenti.	
11/24/2023	4:21						241123_04M	CHRRP, ADCP e MB. CHRRP line 0015-0016-0017 sono brevissimi test da non	
11/24/2023	4:24						241123_04M	considerare.	
11/24/2023	4:25						241123_04M	Si decide di interrompere l'acquisizione con il CHRRP.	
11/24/2023	4:51						241123_04M	Continua acquisizione MB e WIDAS in contemporanea anche se consopavali che il	
11/24/2023	5:07						241123_05M	dato MB è peggiorato	
11/24/2023	6:15						241123_06M	Per tutto il giorno si continua ad acquisire MB EVGMS e WIDAS. Il step discesa è	
11/24/2023	6:16						241123_06M	acquisizione MB EM304 e WIDAS 45 kHz e prosegue tutta la notte con una	
11/24/2023	6:22						241123_06M	velocità di navigazione di circa 2-2.5 nodi. Il step discesa da raggiungere è il punto di	
11/24/2023	9:10						241123_09M	caloraggio 34	
11/24/2023	9:52						241123_09M	la temperatura dell'acqua è passata da 18 a 21°C. Per fare precedenza	
11/24/2023	10:36						241123_10M	all'acquisizione MB in prossimità del punto di caloraggio.	
11/24/2023	11:13						241123_11M	versati heading 167°; velocità 2.5 nodi	
11/24/2023	11:22						241123_11M	aumento velocità 4 nodi. Visto che le condizioni meteo non permettono di iniziare le	
11/24/2023	11:29						241123_11M	operazioni di caloraggio si decide di effettuare un piccolo survey definita con	
11/24/2023	11:31	<b>P123 RAD00S</b>					241123_11M	lungo la direzione 167°. Inizio accostata per nuova linea MB. Si va a coperture.	
11/24/2023	11:47	<b>P123 RAD00E</b>					241123_11M	si passati sopra il punto di caloraggio 34 e si è proseguito con acquisizione MB	
11/24/2023	11:49						241123_11M	linea di test da continuare con la linea MB EM304 0038. Configurazione durante	
11/24/2023	12:22						241123_12M	l'acquisizione ATTITUDE SYSTEM 1 -> ACTIVE	
11/24/2023	13:05						241123_13M	step acquisizione MB ed inizio acquisizione CHRRP	
11/24/2023	13:06						241123_13M	una heading variabile da 337 a 305°; velocità 3.9 nodi. Si accuiscono a copertura	
11/24/2023	13:53						241123_13M	ATTITUDE SYSTEM 2 -> ACTIVE in questo modo la velocità di variazione degli	
11/24/2023	14:23						241123_14M	angoli di pitch, roll e heave viene resa come informazione primaria nei dati	
11/24/2023	15:22						241123_15M	acquistati dal SIS che risultano più precisi. Si vuole vedere cosa succede se durante	
11/24/2023	15:45						241123_15M	una testata viene abbassata per vedere se si ottengono dati in un range di	
11/24/2023	16:57						241123_16M	informazione primaria è relativa agli angoli di pitch, roll e heave sono quelli finora	
11/24/2023	16:57						241123_16M	determinati durante la calibrazione dello strumento.	
11/24/2023	16:57						241123_16M	Linee di test da continuare con la linea MB EM304 0038. Configurazione durante	
11/24/2023	16:57						241123_16M	l'acquisizione ATTITUDE SYSTEM 1 -> ACTIVE	
11/24/2023	16:59						241123_16M	step acquisizione MB ed inizio acquisizione CHRRP	
11/24/2023	17:10						241123_17M	preparazione per misure di raddrizzamento	
11/24/2023	17:12						241123_17M	sonda per raddrizzamento in acqua	
11/24/2023	17:15						241123_17M	sonda per raddrizzamento a bordo	
11/24/2023	17:17						241123_17M	insediamento verso punto di caloraggio stazione 34	
11/24/2023	17:18						241123_17M	linea acquisizione CHRRP. Caradene in acqua	
11/24/2023	17:25						241123_17M	caradene sul fondo. Penetrazione 10 m; recupero 3.70 m.	
11/24/2023	17:25						241123_17M	inizia recupero	
11/24/2023	17:26						241123_17M	caradene a bordo. Preparazione ad operazione con sonde CTD	
11/24/2023	17:27						241123_17M	CTD senza prelievo di acqua e con sonde SVP per linea MB	
11/24/2023	17:27						241123_17M	CTD. Alzando a 9.930 m; tempo record di 30.18" per la discesa.	
11/24/2023	17:28						241123_17M	CTD a bordo; preparativi per sonde IOP. Scaricati dati sonde di velocità ed inerti	
11/24/2023	17:29						241123_17M	due SSS	
11/24/2023	17:29						241123_17M	sonde IOP in acqua.	
11/24/2023	17:30						241123_17M	sonda IOP in acqua per seconda calata	
11/24/2023	17:31						241123_17M	sonda IOP a bordo; si ignora acquisizione CHRRP	
11/24/2023	17:32						241123_17M	linea con direzione Z10 per passare sopra punto di caloraggio P123_G036	
11/24/2023	17:33						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	17:35						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	17:37						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	17:40						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	17:42						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	17:43						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	17:44						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	17:46						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	17:47						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	17:48						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	17:50						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	17:52						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	17:54						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	17:55						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	17:56						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	17:57						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	17:58						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	17:59						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:00						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:01						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:02						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:03						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:04						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:05						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:06						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:07						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:08						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:09						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:10						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:11						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:12						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:13						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:14						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:15						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:16						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:17						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:18						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:19						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:20						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:21						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:22						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:23						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:24						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:25						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:26						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:27						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:28						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:29						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:30						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:31						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:32						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:33						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:34						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:35						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:36						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:37						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:38						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:39						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:40						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:41						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:42						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:43						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:44						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:45						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:46						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:47						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:48						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:49						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:50						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:51						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:52						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:53						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:54						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:55						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:56						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:57						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:58						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	18:59						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	19:00						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	19:01						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	19:02						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	19:03						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	19:04						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	19:05						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	19:06						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	19:07						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	19:08						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	19:09						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	19:10						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	19:11						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	19:12						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	19:13						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	19:14						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	19:15						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	19:16						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	19:17						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	19:18						241123_17M		
11/24/2023	19:19						241123_17M		



11/26/2023	9-42	26	MB EM712 EOL 0005 SOL 0006	25 1123_09.0k			
11/26/2023	11:04	26	MB EM712 EOL 0007	25 1123_11.0k			
11/26/2023	11:06	26	MB EM712 EOL 0008	25 1123_11.0k			
11/26/2023	11:14	26	MB EM712 EOL 0009	25 1123_11.0k			
11/26/2023	11:37	26	MB EM712 EOL 0010	25 1123_11.0k	Start Oyns recording		
11/26/2023	11:37	26	Line MB EM712 0010 verso NE in copertura	25 1123_13.0k			
11/26/2023	13:41	26	Line MB EM712 0013 ricostituiti per andare verso S	25 1123_13.0k			
11/26/2023	13:45	26	MB EM712 EOL 0013	25 1123_13.0k	inizio linea verso S con un po' di sovrapposizione con la batteria acquisita con MB EM304		
11/26/2023	13:48	26	MB EM712 SOL 0014	25 1123_13.0k	inizio acquisizione MB per presenza di non lungo la data. inizio acquisita a sinistra in corrispondenza dell'acquisizione MB per andare verso S. Linea MB EM712 continua su Oyns come gpd		
11/26/2023	14:05	26	MB EM712 EOL 0014	25 1123_14.0k			
11/26/2023	15:08	26	MB EM712 SOL 0015	25 1123_15.0k	Start Oyns recording		
11/26/2023	15:30	26	Start 20231125_153004-34-0001.gpd	25 1123_15.0k			
11/26/2023	15:42	26	MB EM712 EOL 0015	25 1123_15.0k			
11/26/2023	15:45	26	Start 20231125_150626-26-0001.gpd	25 1123_15.0k			
11/26/2023	15:49	26	Line MB EM712 SOL 0016. Stop 20231125_150644_34-0001.gpd	25 1123_15.0k			
11/26/2023	17:05	26	MB EM712 EOL 0017	25 1123_17.0k	Start Oyns recording		
11/26/2023	17:07	26	Start 2023_170735-17-0001.gpd	25 1123_17.0k			
11/26/2023	17:28	26	MB EM712 SOL 0019	25 1123_17.0k	ambio scala per 174"		
11/26/2023	17:41	26	MB EM712 EOL 0019 SOL 0020	25 1123_17.0k			
11/26/2023	18:41	26	MB EM712 EOL 0020 SOL 0020	25 1123_19.0k	accostata verso N. Start Oyns recording		
11/26/2023	18:41	26	MB EM712 EOL 0020 SOL 0021	25 1123_19.0k	Start Oyns recording		
11/26/2023	18:42	26	CHIRP SOL 0021	25 1123_19.0k	modifica dei parametri di acquisizione CHIRP		
11/26/2023	18:53	26	CHIRP SOL 0023	25 1123_21.0k	termina acquisizione CHIRP. riprende acquisizione MB		
11/26/2023	21:19	26	CHIRP EOL 0023_2023_309_1937 SOL 0024_2023_309_2122	25 1123_21.0k			
11/26/2023	21:46	26	CHIRP EOL 0024_2023_309_2122 MB712 SOL 0022	25 1123_22.0k	Start Oyns recording		
11/26/2023	22:24	26	Start 20231125_222436-26-0001.gpd	25 1123_22.0k	STOP acquisizione MB tramite SIS perché disattesa già acquisita. continua il recording con i dati.		
11/26/2023	22:28	26	MB EM712 EOL 0022	25 1123_22.0k	Start Oyns recording. Copertura batimetrica totale dell'area.		
11/26/2023	23:01	26	Stop 20231125_222436-26-0001.gpd	25 1123_23.0k	riprende acquisizione MB		
11/26/2023	0:27	26	MB EM712 SOL 0023	26 1123_00.0k	Start Oyns recording		
11/26/2023	0:28	26	Start 20231126_002847-26-0001.gpd	26 1123_00.0k	area a copertura batimetrica completa		
11/26/2023	1:22	26	MB EM712 EOL 0023	26 1123_01.0k	Stop Oyns recording		
11/26/2023	3:09	26	Stop 20231126_002847-26-0001.gpd	26 1123_03.0k	TERMINA ACQUISIZIONE CON MB EM712 E RIPRENDE CON EM304. Installamento verso stazione 26		
11/26/2023	3:14	26	MB EM304 SOL 0049	26 1123_03.0k			
11/26/2023	3:16	26	Start 20231126_035112-26-0001.gpd	26 1123_03.0k	Start Oyns recording		
11/26/2023	3:51	26	Stop 20231126_035112-26-0001.gpd	26 1123_04.0k	Stop Oyns recording per difficoltà nella gestione di Navigation Display. Il file PE23.grd ha raggiunto dimensioni > 120 GB. Acquisizione MB con i SIS continua		
11/26/2023	4:00	26	Stop 20231126_035112-26-0001.gpd	26 1123_04.0k	CONDIZIONI METEO. vento da NNW con velocità di 16-17 nodi. mare da NNW con 1.5 m di onda		
11/26/2023	4:28	26		26 1123_05.0k			
11/26/2023	5:10	26	MB EM304 EOL 0049	26 1123_05.0k	appunta batteria 26. si attende che le condizioni migliorino per effettuare caricaggio all'esplosore alcune linee con CHRP		
11/26/2023	5:33	26	CHRP SOL 0038_2023_330_0336	26 1123_06.0k	linea CHRP nella zona di caricaggio		
11/26/2023	5:46	26	CHRP EOL 0038_2023_330_0336 SOL 0039_2023_330_0547	26 1123_06.0k	Start Oyns recording		
11/26/2023	6:26	26	Start 20231126_064742-26-0001.gpd	26 1123_06.0k	Start Oyns recording		
11/26/2023	6:57	26	Start 20231126_064742-26-0001.gpd	26 1123_06.0k	Start Oyns recording		
11/26/2023	6:57	26	Start 20231126_065039-26-0001.gpd	26 1123_06.0k	Stop Oyns recording. Start Oyns recording per andare di una maggiore velocità. l'acquisizione non è stata fatta in modalità "science mode"		
11/26/2023	7:01	26	MB EM304 SOL 0050	26 1123_06.0k	Start Oyns recording		
11/26/2023	8:11	26	Stop 20231126_065039-26-0001.gpd	26 1123_06.0k	Start Oyns recording		
11/26/2023	8:13	26	Start 20231126_065139-26-0001.gpd	26 1123_06.0k	Start Oyns recording		
11/26/2023	8:26	26	MB EM304 EOL 0050	26 1123_06.0k	Attivo K-Sym per acquisizione MB EM304 e EM712 in contemporanea		
11/26/2023	9:34	26	Start 20231126_065139-26-0001.gpd	26 1123_06.0k	Start Oyns recording. Start file EM304 e EM712 acquisition with K-Sym active.		
11/26/2023	9:34	26	0051 MB EM712 SOL 0024	26 1123_06.0k			
11/26/2023	8:33	26	Start 20231126_065139-26-0001.gpd	26 1123_08.0k	Start Oyns recording		
11/26/2023	8:42	26	CHIRP SOL 0041_2023_330_0844	26 1123_08.0k	acquisizione MB EM304, EM712 e CHRP sincronizzati con K-Sym		
11/26/2023	8:52	26	Stop 20231126_065139-26-0001.gpd	26 1123_08.0k	Start Oyns recording		
11/26/2023	8:52	26	Start 20231126_065273-26-0001.gpd	26 1123_08.0k	Start Oyns recording		
11/26/2023	9:42	26	Stop 20231126_065273-26-0001.gpd	26 1123_08.0k	Stop Oyns recording		
11/26/2023	9:42	26	MB EM304 SOL 0052 MB EM712 SOL 0026	26 1123_09.0k	Riprende acquisizione di entrambi i MB in modalità sincronizzata		
11/26/2023	9:52	26	CHRP SOL 0042_2023_330_0959	26 1123_09.0k	Termina acquisizione MB EM712. Continua acquisizione MB EM304 e CHRP con K-Sym attivo		
11/26/2023	10:03	26	MB EM712 EOL 0026: Start 20231126_100305-26-0001.gpd	26 1123_10.0k	Start Oyns recording. Stop MB EM712		
11/26/2023	10:07	26	MB EM304 EOL 0052: CHRP EOL 0042_2023_330_0959	26 1123_10.0k	Start Oyns recording. Stop MB EM304 acquisition. Stop Chip acquisition		
11/26/2023	10:13	26	Stop 20231126_100305-26-0001.gpd	26 1123_10.0k			
11/26/2023	10:43	26	MB EM304 SOL 0053: Start 20231126_101318-26-0001.gpd	26 1123_10.0k	Start Oyns recording		
11/26/2023	10:45	26	MB EM304 EOL 0053: Stop 20231126_101318-26-0001.gpd	26 1123_10.0k	Start Oyns recording		
11/26/2023	10:51	26	MB EM304 SOL 0054	26 1123_10.0k	si acquista la colonna di acqua		
11/26/2023	11:10	26	MB EM304 SOL 0054	26 1123_10.0k	si acquista la colonna di acqua		
11/26/2023	11:27	26	MB EM304 EOL 0054	26 1123_11.0k	si acquista la colonna di acqua. si acquista la colonna di acqua		
11/26/2023	11:35	26	Stop 20231126_104526-26-0001.gpd	26 1123_11.0k	si acquista la colonna di acqua. si acquista la colonna di acqua. si acquista la colonna di acqua. si acquista la colonna di acqua.		
11/26/2023	11:37	26	CHIRP SOL 0043_2023_330_1137	26 1123_11.0k	Profilo chirp sulla stazione di caricaggio 26. C è si prepara per il caricaggio		
11/26/2023	11:50	26	MB EM304 SOL 0055	26 1123_11.0k	Carotiere in acqua		
11/26/2023	12:00	26	MB EM304 SOL 0055	26 1123_12.0k	si acquista la colonna di acqua		
11/26/2023	12:29	26	2600 m baf	26 1123_12.0k	Carotiere sul fondo. Velocità di discesa 100-120 mm.		
11/26/2023	12:31	26	P123_G007	26 1123_12.0k	Carotiere di caricaggio si estinguono le misure di radometria. Sonda per radometria in acqua.		
11/26/2023	12:45	26	P123_RAD006	26 1123_12.0k	Carotiere di caricaggio si estinguono le misure di radometria. Sonda per radometria in acqua.		
11/26/2023	13:03	26	P123_SE02	26 1123_13.0k	Misure con disco Sechi per visibilità-torbidità. Velocità 33 m		
11/26/2023	13:11	26	P123_RE1075	26 1123_13.0k	Carotiere a bordo. Penetrazione 1 m. recupero 1 m. il carotiere e il rialzo pagliolo		
11/26/2023	13:16	26		26 1123_13.0k	Carotiere a bordo. Penetrazione 1 m. recupero 1 m. il carotiere e il rialzo pagliolo		
11/26/2023	13:37	26	MB EM304 EOL 0056	26 1123_13.0k	Carotiere a bordo. Penetrazione 1 m. recupero 1 m. il carotiere e il rialzo pagliolo		

11/26/2023	13:41	15°25.503208	37°26.308648	15.4251387	37.4398747	26	<b>PI23_RE107E</b>					retiro in superficie dopo calata a 100 m e risalita.	26/1123_13.mt
11/26/2023	13:48	15°25.513702	37°26.308637	15.4251287	37.4398496	26	<b>PI23_RE108S</b>					retiro in acqua	26/1123_13.mt
11/26/2023	13:56	15°25.510196	37°26.309664	15.4251700	37.4394927	26	<b>PI23_RE109E</b>					retiro in superficie dopo calata a 200 m e risalita a 100 m. Retiro chiuso e recuperati	26/1123_13.mt
11/26/2023	14:06	15°25.514606	37°26.309783	15.4252634	37.4394707	26	<b>PI23_RE109S</b>					retiro in acqua	26/1123_14.mt
11/26/2023	14:39	15°25.513803	37°26.430091	15.4252316	37.4394701	26	<b>PI23_RE109E</b>					retiro in superficie dopo calata a 500 m e risalita a 200 m. Retiro chiuso e recuperati	26/1123_14.mt
11/26/2023	14:51	15°25.507504	37°26.450195	15.4252917	37.4405033	26	<b>PI23_BC029S</b>					Installamento verso punto dove fare il Box Corer	26/1123_14.mt
11/26/2023	15:17	15°25.501138	37°26.426339	15.4252823	37.4403480	26	<b>PI23_BC029E</b>					Box Corer in fondo. Velocità di discesa 100 -> 40 mm/min	26/1123_15.mt
11/26/2023	15:48	15°25.541076	37°26.430090	15.4258646	37.4456502	26	<b>PI23_BC029E</b>					Box Corer in fondo. Velocità di discesa 100 -> 40 mm/min	26/1123_15.mt
11/26/2023	16:11	15°25.506884	37°26.430098	15.4251481	37.4406380	26	<b>PI23_CTD129S</b>					Durante la salita i cavo si è impigliato attorno alla leva di sgancio aprendo il Box Corer. Il campione non è stato recuperato	26/1123_15.mt
11/26/2023	16:45	15°25.508972	37°26.442787	15.4251485	37.4407131	26	<b>PI23_CTD129E</b>					CTD con profilo acqua. Fatta anche sonda SVP per Multibeam	26/1123_16.mt
11/26/2023	17:15	15°25.505389	37°26.450138	15.4258120	37.4401595	26	<b>PI23_CTD129E</b>					CTD a bordo	26/1123_16.mt
11/26/2023	17:46	15°25.504630	37°26.451038	15.4258365	37.4406750	26	<b>PI23_OP045S</b>					CTD a bordo	26/1123_17.mt
11/26/2023	17:43	15°25.504262	37°26.450768	15.4258580	37.4404878	26	<b>PI23_OP045S</b>					sonda OP in acqua	26/1123_17.mt
11/26/2023	17:53	15°25.503900	37°26.449704	15.4258598	37.4408295	26	<b>PI23_OP045E</b>					sonda OP a bordo	26/1123_17.mt
11/26/2023	18:07	15°25.503856	37°26.448207	15.4261014	37.4438034	26	<b>PI23_CTD133S</b>					CTD con profilo acqua. Ripetizione calata per profilo solo a 80 m	26/1123_18.mt
11/26/2023	18:10	15°25.506866	37°26.449827	15.4261143	37.4408821	26	<b>PI23_CTD133E</b>					CTD a bordo	26/1123_18.mt
11/26/2023	18:27	15°25.505647	37°26.465818	15.4260917	37.4403386	26	<b>PI23_TURB148S</b>					sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	26/1123_18.mt
11/26/2023	18:52	15°26.022076	37°26.111931	15.4370703	37.4431985	26	<b>PI23_TURB148E</b>					Installamento verso stazione 28. Si acquisiscono contemporaneamente MB e CHRRP (dugger esterna moda). Velocità 1 m/s.	26/1123_19.mt
11/26/2023	19:08	15°26.407824	37°26.072892	15.4401254	37.4479182	26	<b>PI23_TURB148E</b>					sonda a bordo	26/1123_19.mt
11/26/2023	19:25	15°26.688114	37°26.480568	15.4263886	37.4434326	26	<b>PI23_TURB148S</b>					sonda per misure di turbolenza in acqua	26/1123_19.mt
11/26/2023	19:49	15°26.223864	37°26.441658	15.4263977	37.4407576	26	<b>PI23_TURB148E</b>					STDP calata ed inizio recupero.	26/1123_19.mt
11/26/2023	20:05	15°26.853395	37°26.483354	15.4188899	37.4415559	26	<b>PI23_TURB156E</b>					STDP calata ed inizio recupero.	26/1123_20.mt
11/26/2023	20:18	15°25.524268	37°26.463184	15.4254045	37.4410531	26	<b>PI23_TURB165S</b>					sonda a bordo	26/1123_20.mt
11/26/2023	20:40	15°26.074482	37°26.202024	15.4345747	37.4397014	26	<b>PI23_TURB168E</b>					sonda a bordo	26/1123_20.mt
11/26/2023	20:42	15°26.446845	37°26.064768	15.4407774	37.4344113	26	<b>PI23_TURB168E</b>					Installamento verso stazione 27. Si acquisiscono MB e chip a scopo di scoufing.	26/1123_20.mt
11/26/2023	21:04					27	<b>to station 27</b>				Acquisizione MB EM304 e CHRRP con K-Synk attivo. Velocità 8 nodi	26/1123_21.mt	
11/26/2023	21:16					27	<b>to station 28</b>					Installamento verso stazione 28. Si acquisiscono contemporaneamente MB e CHRRP (dugger esterna moda). Velocità 1 m/s.	26/1123_21.mt
11/26/2023	21:15					27	<b>to station 29</b>					Trasfero sulla stazione di carotaggio 27. Il chip mostra che il punto non è adatto alle operazioni di carotaggio.	27/1123_01.mt
11/26/2023	21:38					29	<b>to station 29</b>					Trasferimento verso stazione 29. Inizia acquisizione transetti chip a scopo di scoufing.	27/1123_02.mt
11/26/2023	2:36					29							27/1123_02.mt
11/26/2023	2:56					20							27/1123_02.mt
11/26/2023	3:05					20							27/1123_03.mt
11/26/2023	3:19					29							27/1123_03.mt
11/26/2023	3:27					29							27/1123_03.mt
11/26/2023	4:02					29							27/1123_04.mt
11/26/2023	4:17					29							27/1123_04.mt
11/26/2023	4:38					29							27/1123_04.mt
11/26/2023	5:01					29							27/1123_05.mt
11/26/2023	5:07					29							27/1123_05.mt
11/26/2023	5:17					29							27/1123_05.mt
11/26/2023	5:19					20							27/1123_05.mt
11/26/2023	5:28					29							27/1123_05.mt
11/26/2023	5:29					29							27/1123_05.mt
11/26/2023	5:51					29							27/1123_05.mt
11/26/2023	5:51					29							27/1123_05.mt
11/26/2023	6:08					29							27/1123_05.mt
11/26/2023	6:17					29							27/1123_05.mt
11/26/2023	6:57	16°51.01380E	37°21.02850N	15.9502332	37.3504882	29	<b>PI23_G637</b>					termino rilievo chip. Identificato punto di carotaggio.	27/1123_06.mt
11/26/2023	7:32					20	<b>to station NK25</b>					Carotaggio sul fondo. Tro max 4.2 l. velocità di discesa 60 mm/min	27/1123_06.mt
11/26/2023	7:44					20	<b>to station NK25</b>					Carotaggio a bordo. Pervicizione max di 5 m. recupero 9 m	27/1123_07.mt
11/26/2023	8:40	15°26.81686	37°26.1348	15.8783664	37.4858581	29	<b>PI23_CTD144S</b>					Installamento verso stazione NK25	27/1123_07.mt
11/26/2023	8:54	15°26.815284	37°29.125653	15.8792611	37.4859516	29	<b>PI23_CTD144E</b>					arrivo stazione NK25	27/1123_08.mt
11/26/2023	9:33	15°26.815949	37°29.136688	15.8798916	37.4859426	29	<b>PI23_CTD144E</b>					CTD con profilo di acqua. sonda SVP per MB	27/1123_08.mt
11/26/2023	9:59	15°26.816287	37°29.136688	15.8798916	37.4859426	29	<b>PI23_CTD144E</b>					Stop calata e inizio recupero	27/1123_09.mt
11/26/2023	10:21	15°26.816287	37°29.136688	15.8798916	37.4859426	29	<b>PI23_CTD144E</b>					retiro in acqua	27/1123_10.mt
11/26/2023	10:21	15°26.816287	37°29.136688	15.8798916	37.4859426	29	<b>PI23_CTD144E</b>					retiro in superficie dopo calata a 100 m. Retiro chiuso e recuperato	27/1123_10.mt
11/26/2023	10:21	15°26.816287	37°29.136688	15.8798916	37.4859426	29	<b>PI23_RE110E</b>					retiro in superficie dopo calata a 300 m e risalita a 100 m. Retiro chiuso e recuperati	27/1123_10.mt
11/26/2023	10:21	15°26.816287	37°29.136688	15.8798916	37.4859426	29	<b>PI23_RE111E</b>						27/1123_10.mt
11/26/2023	10:48	16°52.8E	37°29.13N	15.8786867	37.4855000	29	<b>PI23_RE111E</b>					retiro in acqua	27/1123_10.mt
11/26/2023	10:53	15°26.829442	37°29.127487	15.8771574	37.4854581	29	<b>PI23_RE112E</b>						27/1123_10.mt
11/26/2023	11:24	15°26.829442	37°29.127487	15.8771574	37.4854581	29	<b>PI23_RE112E</b>					retiro in superficie dopo calata a 500 m e risalita a 300 m. Retiro chiuso e recuperati	27/1123_11.mt
11/26/2023	11:39	15°26.829442	37°29.132713	15.8772470	37.4854542	29	<b>PI23_BAD07S</b>					Sonda per misure di redondenza in acqua	27/1123_11.mt
11/26/2023	12:01	15°26.829442	37°29.138448	15.8765851	37.4864025	29	<b>PI23_BAD07E</b>					Sonda per misure di redondenza a bordo	27/1123_12.mt
11/26/2023	12:18	15°26.829442	37°29.138448	15.8765851	37.4864025	29	<b>PI23_OP065S</b>					Sonda OP in acqua	27/1123_12.mt
11/26/2023	12:24	15°26.829442	37°29.138448	15.8765851	37.4864025	29	<b>PI23_OP065E</b>					Sonda OP a bordo. Cavo di trasmissione finito ma in attesa del motore. recuperato ma trascinato.	27/1123_12.mt
11/26/2023	12:57					29	<b>to station Crotono</b>					Installamento verso Crotono	27/1123_12.mt
11/26/2023	13:02					29	<b>to station Crotono</b>					Installamento verso Crotono	27/1123_13.mt













12/6/2023	6:45	1713,21327	3853,98442	17,220212	38,9989070	CTD02	P123, C1D27, S	62	CTD-SVP	CHRRP EOL 0062, 2023_340_0841							Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 5	h. 00 - 12	Vento di SW, Forza 4		
12/6/2023	6:52	1713,21080	3853,98381	17,220180	38,9988988	CTD02	P123, C1D27, B	62	CTD-SVP	app. 20231206_1064	Storno profilo di velocità del suono (svp)							Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 5	h. 00 - 12	Vento di SW, Forza 4	
12/6/2023	7:01	1713,20940	3853,98712	17,220167	38,9989250	CTD02	P123, C1D27, E		MB nW/C-Chinsky	MB EM712 SOL 167								Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 4	h. 00 - 12	Vento di SW, Forza 5	
12/6/2023	7:13	1716,20223	3853,98986	17,207462	38,9989310	CTD01	P123, C1D28, S	40	CTD-SVP	app. 20231206_0729	AMP di Cigno Rizzato Storno profilo di velocità del suono (svp)							Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 5	h. 00 - 12	Vento di SW, Forza 4	
12/6/2023	7:41	1717,44231	3853,98378	17,2073818	38,9982387	CTD01	P123, C1D28, B		MB nW/C	QINSEY EOL	CHRRP: Tx Power 2, Gain: 0dB							Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 4	h. 00 - 12	Vento di SW, Forza 4	
12/6/2023	8:57	1721,38349	3903,68433	17,3565582	39,0674055	60bis	P123, PC12	530	Piston Core	MB EM712 SOL 174, CHRRP SOL 0065, 2023_340_0909	Acquisizione statica							Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 5	h. 00 - 12	Vento di SW, Forza 4	
12/6/2023	9:28	1723,01081	3906,01041	17,3801768	39,1001725	CTD04	P123, C1D30, S	591	CTD-SVP	MB EM712 SOL 174, CHRRP SOL 0067, 2023_340_1319	cardatore sul fondo, velocità di discesa 20 mm/min, tiro max. 2,07 t, penetrazione 11 m, recupero 8,92 m							Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 5	h. 00 - 12	Vento di SW, Forza 4	
12/6/2023	10:20	1725,80942	3910,11101	17,3901570	39,1001835	CTD04	P123, C1D30, B	588	CTD-SVP	app. 20231206_1433	injeta sul fondo con BEBOSA, si decide che le condizioni di operatività del veicolo di superficie non sono sicure							Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 5	h. 00 - 12	Vento di SW, Forza 4	
12/6/2023	10:25	1725,80657	3906,01445	17,3901036	39,1002408	CTD04	P123, C1D30, E	588	MB nW/C-Chinsky	MB EM712 SOL 174, CHRRP SOL 0068, 2023_340_1029	Inizio del trattamento P123, GC13, B30							Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 5	h. 00 - 12	Vento di SW, Forza 4	
12/6/2023	11:58	1715,54670	3910,80273	17,2581450	39,1601455	Biocostru	P123, C1D29, S	160	CTD-SVP	QINSEY EOL	galia CTD fino a 134							Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 5	h. 00 - 12	Vento di SW, Forza 4	
12/6/2023	12:04	1715,54670	3910,80260	17,2581450	39,1600933	Biocostru	P123, C1D29, B	160	Gravty Core	app. 20231206_1202								Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 5	h. 00 - 12	Vento di SW, Forza 4	
12/6/2023	12:10	1715,54910	3910,78970	17,2581517	39,1789980	Biocostru	P123, C1D29, E	160	MB nW/C	MB EM712 SOL 174, CHRRP SOL 0067, 2023_340_1319	cardatore sul fondo, velocità di discesa 60 mm/min, tiro max. 3,8 t, penetrazione 3,0 m, recupero 2,8 m							Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 5	h. 12 - 24	Vento di SW, Forza 3	
12/6/2023	12:46	1715,55940	3910,78183	17,2583233	39,1798972	Biocostru	P123, GC13	160	MB nW/C	MB EM712 SOL 174, CHRRP SOL 0067, 2023_340_1319	cardatore sul fondo, velocità di discesa 60 mm/min, tiro max. 3,8 t, penetrazione 3,0 m, recupero 2,8 m							Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 5	h. 12 - 24	Vento di SW, Forza 3	
12/6/2023	13:05	1725,38688	3912,00626	17,5398832	39,2001043	CTD06	P123, C1D31, E	1123	MB nW/C-Chinsky	MB EM712 SOL 174, CHRRP SOL 0069, 2023_340_1723	injeta sup. 20231206_1202 in EM712							Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 5	h. 12 - 24	Vento di SW, Forza 3	
12/6/2023	14:12	1725,80942	3906,01041	17,3901768	39,1001725	CTD04	P123, C1D30, S	591	CTD-SVP	MB EM712 SOL 071	Acquisizione sia con EM712 che con EM004							Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 2	h. 12 - 24	Vento di SW, Forza 3	
12/6/2023	14:33	1725,80942	3910,11101	17,3901570	39,1001835	CTD04	P123, C1D30, B	588	CTD-SVP	MB EM712 SOL 179	Mezzo coperto							Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 2	h. 12 - 24	Vento di SW, Forza 3	
12/6/2023	14:50	1725,80657	3906,01445	17,3901036	39,1002408	CTD04	P123, C1D30, E	588	CTD	MB EM004 EOL 074, CHRRP EOL 0069, 2023_340_1723	Mezzo coperto							Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 3	h. 12 - 24	Vento di SW, Forza 2	
12/6/2023	16:09	1726,20223	3912,00626	17,5398832	39,2001043	CTD06	P123, C1D31, S	1123	MB nW/C-Chinsky	MB EM004 EOL 074, CHRRP SOL 0060, 2023_340_1947	calaie CTD fino a 1676 metri							Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 2	h. 12 - 24	Vento di SW, Forza 2	
12/6/2023	16:51	1742,01882	3918,01394	17,7003153	39,3002323	CTD08	P123, C1D32, S			MB EM004 EOL 074, CHRRP SOL 0060, 2023_340_1947								Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 2	h. 12 - 24	Vento di SW, Forza 2	
12/6/2023	19:19	1742,02321	3918,01449	17,7003968	39,3002415	CTD08	P123, C1D32, B	1862											Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 2	h. 12 - 24	Vento di SW, Forza 2
12/6/2023	19:45	1742,02321	3918,01605	17,7004072	39,3002675	CTD08	P123, C1D32, E		MB nW/C-Chinsky	MB EM004 EOL 074, CHRRP SOL 0060, 2023_340_1947								Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 2	h. 12 - 24	Vento di SW, Forza 2	
12/6/2023	20:45	1746,70009	3921,01288	17,7786632	39,3502097	CTD09	P123, C1D33, S			MB EM004 EOL 074, CHRRP SOL 0060, 2023_340_1947								Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 2	h. 12 - 24	Vento di SW, Forza 2	
12/6/2023	21:26	1746,70009	3921,01488	17,7786597	39,3502480	CTD09	P123, C1D33, B	1893		MB EM004 EOL 074, CHRRP SOL 0060, 2023_340_1947								Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 2	h. 12 - 24	Vento di SW, Forza 2	
12/6/2023	21:52	1746,77952	3921,02289	17,7795587	39,3502148	CTD09	P123, C1D33, E												Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 2	h. 12 - 24	Vento di SW, Forza 2
12/6/2023	22:12	1746,77952	3921,02289	17,7795587	39,3502148	CTD09	P123, C1D33, E												Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 2	h. 12 - 24	Vento di SW, Forza 2
12/6/2023	22:35	1746,77952	3921,02289	17,7795587	39,3502148	CTD09	P123, C1D33, E												Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 2	h. 12 - 24	Vento di SW, Forza 2
12/6/2023	22:57	1746,77952	3921,02289	17,7795587	39,3502148	CTD09	P123, C1D33, E												Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 2	h. 12 - 24	Vento di SW, Forza 2
12/6/2023	23:08	1746,77952	3921,02289	17,7795587	39,3502148	CTD09	P123, C1D33, E												Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 2	h. 12 - 24	Vento di SW, Forza 2
12/6/2023	23:35	1746,77952	3921,02289	17,7795587	39,3502148	CTD09	P123, C1D33, E												Mezzo coperto	Mare di SW, Forza 2	h. 12 - 24	Vento di SW, Forza 2
12/7/2023	0:05	1727,02023	3912,00626	17,5398832	39,2001043	CTD06	P123, C1D31, S	1123		MB EM004 EOL 077 MB EM712 SOL 180								Parzialmente nuvoloso	Mare di NW, Forza 3	h. 00 - 12	Vento di NW, Forza 4	
12/7/2023	0:27	1727,02023	3912,00626	17,5398832	39,2001043	CTD06	P123, C1D31, E	1123		CHRRP SOL 0062, 2023_341_0027	Insediamento verso piattaforma di Galipoli							Parzialmente nuvoloso	Mare di NW, Forza 3	h. 00 - 12	Vento di NW, Forza 4	
12/7/2023	0:40	1727,02023	3912,00626	17,5398832	39,2001043	CTD06	P123, C1D31, E	1123		SOLQINSEY EM712								Parzialmente nuvoloso	Mare di NW, Forza 3	h. 00 - 12	Vento di NW, Forza 4	
12/7/2023	4:56	1727,02023	3912,00626	17,5398832	39,2001043	CTD06	P123, C1D31, E	1123		CHRRP EOL 0062, 2023_341_0027 MB EM712 EOL 184							Parzialmente nuvoloso	Mare di NW, Forza 3	h. 00 - 12	Vento di NW, Forza 4		
12/7/2023	5:34	1746,70009	3921,01288	17,7786632	39,3502097	CTD09	P123, C1D33, S			MB EM712 SOL 188, CHRRP SOL 0063, 2023_341_0353								Parzialmente nuvoloso	Mare di NW, Forza 3	h. 00 - 12	Vento di NW, Forza 4	
12/7/2023	5:35	1746,70009	3921,01288	17,7786632	39,3502097	CTD09	P123, C1D33, S			CHRRP EOL 0063, 2023_341_0353	acquisizione MB senza disallineata perché l'olio scende moe, dovendo raggiungere							Parzialmente nuvoloso	Mare di NW, Forza 3	h. 00 - 12	Vento di NW, Forza 4	
12/7/2023	5:39	1746,70009	3921,01288	17,7786632	39,3502097	CTD09	P123, C1D33, S			CHRRP SOL 0062, 2023_341_0353								Parzialmente nuvoloso	Mare di NW, Forza 3	h. 00 - 12	Vento di NW, Forza 4	
12/7/2023	7:12	1726,20223	3912,00626	17,5398832	39,2001043	CTD06	P123, C1D31, S	1123		CHRRP SOL 0062, 2023_341_0353	sanaggio abito per condire meteo							Parzialmente nuvoloso	Mare di NW, Forza 3	h. 00 - 12	Vento di NW, Forza 4	
12/7/2023	7:13	1726,20223	3912,00626	17,5398832	39,2001043	CTD06	P123, C1D31, E	1123	MB nW/C-Chinsky	CHRRP SOL 0062, 2023_341_0715	trattamento stazione 45							Parzialmente nuvoloso	Mare di NW, Forza 3	h. 00 - 12	Vento di NW, Forza 4	
12/7/2023	8:30	1726,20223	3912,00626	17,5398832	39,2001043	CTD06	P123, C1D31, E	1123	MB nW/C-Chinsky	MB EM712 SOL 187								Parzialmente nuvoloso	Mare di NW, Forza 3	h. 00 - 12	Vento di NW, Forza 4	
12/7/2023	8:53	1726,20223	3912,00626	17,5398832	39,2001043	CTD06	P123, C1D31, E	1123	MB nW/C-Chinsky	CHRRP EOL 0065, 2023_341_0715								Parzialmente nuvoloso	Mare di NW, Forza 3	h. 00 - 12	Vento di NW, Forza 4	
12/7/2023	9:14	1752,63496	3957,22098	17,8772493	39,9536690	45	P123, PC14	200		CHRRP SOL 0066, 2023_341_0586	velocità caduta 20 mm/min tra 0,081, penetrazione 11 m, recupero 8,49 m							Parzialmente nuvoloso	Mare di NW, Forza 3	h. 00 - 12	Vento di NW, Forza 4	
12/7/2023	9:25	1727,02023	3912,00626	17,5398832	39,2001043	CTD06	P123, C1D31, E	1123	MB nW/C-Chinsky	CHRRP EOL 0066, 2023_341_0586								Parzialmente nuvoloso	Mare di NW, Forza 3	h. 00 - 12	Vento di NW, Forza 4	
12/7/2023	10:19	1727,02023	3912,00626	17,5398832	39,2001043	CTD06	P123, C1D31, E	1123	MB nW/C-Chinsky	MB EM712 SOL 188, CHRRP SOL 0067, 2023_341_1019								Parzialmente nuvoloso	Mare di NW, Forza 3	h. 00 - 12	Vento di NW, Forza 4	
12/7/2023	10:53	1727,02023	3912,00626	17,5398832	39,2001043	CTD06	P123, C1D31, E	1123	MB nW/C-Chinsky	EOL CHRRP, MR, QINSEY								Parzialmente nuvoloso	Mare di NW, Forza 3	h. 00 - 12	Vento di NW, Forza 4	
12/7/2023	11:00	1727,02023	3912,00626	17,5398832	39,2001043	CTD06	P123, C1D31, E	1123	MB nW/C-Chinsky	MB EM712 SOL 180								Parzialmente nuvoloso	Mare di NW, Forza 3	h. 00 - 12	Vento di NW, Forza 4	
12/7/2023	11:23	1727,02023	3912,00626	17,5398832	39,2001043	CTD06	P123, C1D31, E	1123	MB nW/C-Chinsky	MB EM712 SOL 190, CHRRP SOL 0068, 2023_341_1144								Parzialmente nuvoloso	Mare di NW, Forza 3	h. 00 - 12	Vento di NW, Forza 4	
12/7/2023	11:41	1727,02023	3912,00626	17,5398832	39,2001043	CTD06	P123, C1D31, E	1123	MB nW/C-Chinsky	MB EM712 SOL 192, CHRRP SOL 0068, 2023_341_1144								Parzialmente nuvoloso	Mare di NW, Forza 3	h. 00 - 12	Vento di NW, Forza 4	

