

Trip Report For The Chiniak Mooring Cruise

Oscar Dyson, March 2013

The cruise plan called for the recovery of the PMEL Chiniak Bay subsurface mooring, the redeployment of that mooring and the deployment of the surface mooring for the CO2 group. Dan Naber from University of Alaska Fairbanks accompanied Wm. Floering on this cruise.

Equipment was shipped to Kodiak in advance via Horizon Lines in a 40 foot closed container. Dan Naber and an assistant from UAF pre-assembled the CO2 surface mooring buoy on the dock prior to the Oscar Dyson arriving in Kodiak the morning of March 28th. Once the boat was tied up and the gangway secure the mooring equipment was loaded aboard the vessel and preparations were made for getting underway. The equipment on deck could have been secured NLT 2 or 3 PM but around lunch time the Commanding Officer informed me that the weather forecast for the Kodiak area and Chiniak Bay was such that he did not feel mooring operations could be conducted safely. The decision was made to remain at the pier the night of March 28th and we got underway for Chiniak Bay around 0830 the morning of March 29th. This delay resulted in a lost sea day that was made up by reducing the number of days available in the next PMEL cruise that would sail out of Seward around April 4th.

Chiniak Bay is about an hour steam from the Kodiak pier and the first operation upon arrival was the deployment of the CO2 surface mooring. Mooring 13-CBM-1A was deployed at 1908 GMT on 29 March at position 57.6967 degrees N and 152.3138 degrees W in 145 meters of water. The acoustic release for this mooring is #30530. A CTD cast was completed following the deployment of this mooring (CTD001).

We traveled a short distance across the bay to the PMEL subsurface mooring site 12-CB-1A. This mooring was successfully recovered at 2027 GMT on March 29th. While we were setting up to re-deploy this mooring we completed a single CTD cast (CTD002) that included dissolved oxygen samples taken at 183 meters, the depth of the RCM-9 sensor. At 2139 GMT on March 29th subsurface mooring 13-CB-1A was successfully deployed at 57.721 degrees N and 152.291 degrees W in 195 meters of water. Acoustic release #34596 was re-deployed at this site.

Following the Chiniak Bay mooring operations the Dyson traveled to Seward Alaska, arriving in Seward around 10am the morning of March 30th for the standard vessel inport period. Equipment shipped to the Seward Marine Center was loaded aboard the vessel in preparation for the next PMEL cruise. Due to snow accumulation the loading of the 20 foot radiation van was re-scheduled for Monday, April 1st.

A CD was provided with the ship's SCS data and the data for the two CTD casts. Dan Naber ran the oxygen samples for the CTD casts and provided that data. The mooring equipment from this cruise and the previous S.E. Alaska mooring cruise will remain on board the Dyson until the completion of the Bering Sea mooring cruise in May. All accumulated mooring gear will be shipped back to Seattle from Dutch Harbor at the conclusion of the April/May Dyson Bering Sea mooring cruise.

Report prepared by Wm. Floering

