Cruise Report - SK 145A (19th To 21st May 99)

Area of operation: Bay of Bengal (Off Chennai)

Objectives:

1. To test the relocated Deep Sea Winch and newly procured 18 mm wire rope.

2. To test newly fabricated geological sampling equipment viz. Vanveen Grab, Spade Corer (Box Grab), Chain Bag Dredge and Gravity Corer at sea.

3. To attempt Piston Corer operation for a collection of 12 meter long core.

Name of the participants:

1. Dr. M. Sudhakar  Chief Scientist
2. Dr. R. Alagarsamy  N.I.O
3. V.V.S.S. Sarma
4. John Fernandes
5. Witty D’Souza
6. G.V.S. Sarma  Andhra University
7. Ansari Azra  Goa University
8. Bhosle Hema
9. Fernandes Sheryl
10. Furtado Ramila
11. Shashank Vishwanath
12. Naik Goankar Vinita
13. Sharon Sequeira
14. Solanki Shakila
15. Xavita Vaz
16. P.S. Sunil  Cochin University
17. C.P. Priju
18. Girish Gopinath
19. Ch.M. Rao
20. Mr. V.S. Rajaraman  Norinco Pvt. Ltd.
21. Razak M Ismail
22. Biju V. Nair
23. Jagdish Negali

Thus, all samplers performed satisfactorily.
Ship’s compliment

1. Capt. T.S. Sodhi  Master
2. Arnab Ghosal  Chief Engineer
3. P. G. Prakash  Chief Officer
4. D. Bhattacharjee  2nd Officer
5. Dhrub Singh  NWKO
7. S. Srinath  Radio Officer
8. H.V. Subrahmanya  Medical Officer
9. R.G. S. D’Silva  Pursur Officer
10. R. Chaudhury  2nd Engineer
11. H.K. Jain  3rd Engineer
12. M.N. Muralidharan  3rd Engineer
13. Kuldeep Sengar  TME
14. A.R. D’Cruz  Electrical Officer
15. T.P. Gairola  Electronics Officer

Cruise Details

The vessel was scheduled for sailing on 19.5.1999 at 0700 hrs. Due to late arrival of Pilot, the vessel sailed from Chennai port at 1130 hrs.

Vessel reached deep waters around 2000 meters in the afternoon and dummy weights (about 300 kgs) operation for winch testing and performance was conducted. This was essentially done to check the hydraulics, friction and storage winch synchronization and wire rope (18 mm) winding since the wire rope was recently procured and wound at Goa and the Deep sea winch was relocated after last crawler expedition. The operation lasted for 3 hours and the performance of winch found satisfactory.

Chain Bag Dredge was operated through A frame in a known location of phosphorites occurrence. The dredge was lowered at around 250 meters and was dragged on the seafloor for more than half an hour. No sample was obtained.

On 20.5.2000, the following operations carried out sequentially between 200 – 300 m water depth. Interested groups (NIO, Andhra University & Goa University) collected the core samples.

   a) Vanveen Grab – sediment recovered.
   b) Spade Corer - ~ 30 cm long core recovered.
   c) Gravity Corer - ~ 3.5 m core recovered.

Thus, all samplers performed satisfactorily.
Piston Corer with 12 m long assembly was launched on 21.5.2000. While the operation was in progress, the lower 6 m long G.I. pipe segment with core catcher assembly gave away into waters at 100 hrs while launching was in progress. The part of Piston assembly sheared and was lost with the above pipe, liner and core catcher. The operation was called off in the absence of spare Piston assembly and the upper 6 m long pipe with weights has been brought back on to the vessel.

The vessel reached Chennai Anchorage at 1530 hrs on 21.5.2000 and the participants Sl.Nos. 1, 20, 22 & 23 disembarked on 22.5.2000. Rest of the participants continued on the vessel for participating in the next Training / sampling cruise SK-145 B.

Name of the participants:

1. Dr. M. Sudhakar Chief Scientist
2. Dr. N. Pillay
3. V. V. S. S. Suresh
4. John Fernandes
5. Witty D’Souza
6. O. V. N. Sarma Andhra University
7. Anzali Azra Goa University
8. Bhende Hema
9. Fernandez Sherry
10. Furtado Ramil
11. Srijen Vishwanath
12. N. G. G. Vaitheeswaran
13. Sharon Sequeira
14. Sobhini Shakti
15. Xavier Vaz
16. P. S. Sundar Cochin University
17. C. P. Prash
18. Girish Gopinath
19. C. V. Tune
20. Mr. V. S. Rajasenan Norsvik Pvt. Ltd.
21. Vital Raj
22. Biju V. Nair
23. Jagdish Nagari