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Cruise Report

of the

TROL cruise to the Skagerrak

12.06. - 22.06. 2003,

F.S. Heincke cruise HE 191



A research project supported by the European Commission under the Fifth Framework Programme and contributing to the implementation of the Key Action "Sustainable marine ecosystems" within the Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development

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Report F.S. Heincke – cruise no HE 191

RV Heincke call sign:DBCKCruise number:HE 191Dates of Cruise:12.06.-22.06.2003General subject of research:Geology/geochemistry, EU Project METROL (Methanefluxes in ocean margin sediments:microbiological and geochemical control)

| Port Calls: | Bremerhaven: 12.06.2003; 22.06.2003 |
|------------------|---|
| Institute: | Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research |
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1. Cruise objectives

This cruise and the scientific work is part of the collaborative project METROL sponsored by the EU (METROL: METhane fluxes in ocean margin sediments: microbiological and geochemical contROL) lead by the MPI-Bremen. Project partners are Germany, Norway, Denmark, UK, The Netherlands, Romania, and Ukraine. In the framework of this project the question is addressed how the methane turnover is regulated in shallow gassy sediments of the European continental margin.

Objectives of this cruise were shallow hydro acoustic mapping of subsurface gas plumes and sediment sampling for (*i*) the quantification of the microbial turnover of methane in gassy sediments as well as the characterisation of the geochemical conditions for the anaerobic methane oxidation; (*ii*) the characterisation and identification of microorganisms involved in the methane oxidation in aerobic and anaerobic sediment layers. As part of these investigations, characteristic organic molecules are to be identified which can be used as biomarkers for the anaerobic methane oxidising microorganisms. At sites with active methane seepage, additional water samples should give information on the aerobic oxidation of methane in the water column.

Target working area was the Skagerrak Trench, stretching from shallow areas on the southern slope in the Danish EEZ to the deepest parts of the trench in the Norwegian EEZ. The purpose of the cruise was primarily to collect the samples which will be analyzed in the home laboratories during subsequent months.

2. Participants / participating institutions

- 1. Christian Borowski (chief scientist) MPI
- 1. Tomas Wilkop (technician) AWI
- 2. Regina Usbeck (scientist) AWI/Fielax
- 3. Nina Knab (scientist) MPI
- 4. Jens Kallmeyer (scientist) MPI
- 5. Maren Nickel (scientist) MPI
- 6. Fabian Jacobi (student) MPI
- 7. Barry Cragg (scientist) Univ. Bristol
- 8. Fiona Brock (scientist) Univ. Bristol
- 9. Dan Secrieru (scientist) GeoEcoMar
- 10. Christian Hübscher (scientist) Univ. Hamburg
- 11. Sofie Gradmann (student) Univ. Hamburg
- AWI = Alfred Wegener Inst. for Polar and Marine Research, Columbusstr., 27568 Bremerhaven, Germany
- MPI = Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology, Celsiusstr. 1, Bremen, Germany
- Univ. Bristol = University of Bristol, Dep. Earth Sciences, Queens Road, Bristol BS8 1RJ, Great Britain.
- GeoEcoMar = National Institute for Marine Geology and GeoEcology, 23-25 Dimitrie Onciul St, 70318 Bucharest, Romania
- Univ. Hamburg = Geophysical Institute, University of Hamburg, Bundesstr. 55, Hamburg, Germany

3. Scientific equipment

Seismic equipment

The seismic survey was performed with two instruments, a water gun and a boomer:

- Water gun: S15.02 water gun (Seismic Systems/Sodera, USA) a pneumatic seismic source using compressed air as air guns do. Compressed air stored in the firing chamber (0.16 l per "shot") is used to propel a water jet that creates vacuum cavities. These emit a strong bubble-free high-frequency acoustic pulse when they implode due to surrounding hydrostatic pressure. The pulse has a broad spectrum and a middle frequency of around 1.2 kHz. Penetration depth of the signal is maximum 200 m.
- Boomer: 230-1 Uniboom (EG&G, USA). The boomer is towed behind the ship at the water surface. Reflected sound frequencies of 0.6-2.5 kHz are recorded by the streamer hydrophones.



Figure 1. Left: S15.02 water gun mounted under a boy. Middle and right: The water gun was launched by hand over the side of the ship.

Echosounders

The navigation echosounder of RV Heincke was used for the determination of the water depth. A "fish finder" and an Atlas DESO25 sediment echosounder (33 kHz; Seatronics, USA) were used for the detection of pockmarks in water depths down to 550m.

Sediment sampling

- Gravity corer (GC): A large gravity corer equipped with a top weight of approx. 700 kg recovered sediment cores of maximum 5.5 m length. The cores were sub-sampled for the analyses of various geochemical and micobiological parameters (see below).
- Rumohr lot (RL): A small gravity corer that samples the top 50-100 cm of sediment. This corer is used to sample surface sediments which are usually incompletely recovered by the gravity corer. The RL consists of a top frame, loaded with weights (~40 kg) and a plexy-glass core liner of variable length. A lid at the top end closes during bottom contact and seals the core on top during sample recovery. We used 1-m long core liners and the core lengths obtained from the various stations ranged from 50 95 cm. These cores served for calibration of the biogeochemical gradients found in the long GC cores.
- Multiple corer (MUC): A multiple corer (type of Barnett et al. 1985) was equipped with five coring tubes of 9.5 cm inner diameter and 60 cm length.
- Van Veen grab: A 1/10-m⁻² Van Veen Grab was used for quickly "probing" the sediment for seep outlets.

Water sampling

- CTD/rosette. The CTD was a OTS124 (ME Grisard). The Rosette was equipped with 9 Niskin-bottles.



Figure 2. Sampling gear. A: Recovery of the gravity corer. B: Rumohr lot with sediment core visible through the wall of the plexy-glass liner. C: Multi corer filled with 30 cm long cores. D. 0.2 m² Van Veen grab. E. The CTD/Rosette just below the water surface on the way down. F: After recovery, the gravity corer is laid down horizontally.

4. Narrative

| 12-June-03 | |
|---------------|---|
| 12:00 Middle | European Standard Time (MEST) We are leaving the port of |
| | Bremerhaven, heading to "Roter Sand" off Bremerhaven in the German |
| | Bight. |
| 13:06 MEST | Start of scientific work with a CTD-rosette station at "Roter Sand". Ship station 762 |
| 13:20 MEST | Continue the cruise with heading to the Skagerrak. During the transit, installation of laboratories and scientific equipment (Gravity corer, Multi corer, Rumohr lot) |
| 13-June-03 | |
| 14:40 UTC | Arrival in working area 1. Ship station 763: Test of Multi corer |
| 15:15 UTC | Test of seismic equipment at Pos. 57°47`N, 9°43`E |
| 16:39 UTC | Ship stations 764, 765: seismic profiles 1 and 2 with Water gun. |
| 14-June-03 | |
| 08:00 UTC | End of seismic profile |
| 11:06-17:10 U | JTC station work, ship stations 766-774: gravity corer and Rumohr lot, wind W 5. |
| 17:10 UTC | Seismic profile 3 with Water gun, ship station 775. |
| | |



Figure 3. Cruise Track HE 191, with working areas 1 and 2.

15-June-03

| 14:00 U1C End of profile, Pos. 58 19,5 N, 9 50,0 E | :00 UTC | End of profile, | Pos. 58°19 | 9,3`N, | 9°30,0`E |
|---|---------|-----------------|------------|--------|----------|
|---|---------|-----------------|------------|--------|----------|

- 07:00 UTC Station work with Rumohr lot and Gravity corer, ship stations 776-781. Wind calms down to N 3
- 10:50-14:20 UTC profile with echosounder DESO25, ship station 78215:06 UTC Station work at 58° 02,7°N, 9° 37,7°E, Gravity corer and CTD. Ship stations 783, 784
 - moving to starting point of seismic profile 4
- 20:40 UTC Seismic profile 4 with Water gun, ship station 785



Figure 4. Launching of the streamer

| 16-June-03 | |
|------------|--|
| 02:19 UTC | End of seismic profile 4, Pos. 58°05,3`N, 8°49,5`E |
| 06:03 UTC | Start of station work at pos. 58°03,3`N, 9°36,5`E |
| | alternating deployments of CTD/rosette, Multi corer, Rumohr lot, Gravity |
| | corer, and Van Veen grab. Ship stations 786-810. |
| | Moving to starting point of seismic profile 5 at pos. 57°54,0°N, 9°46,9°E. |
| 19:18 UTC | Seismic profile 5 with Boomer, ship station 810-a |



Figure 5. Recovery of the gravity corer and start of core processing.

| 17-Jun-03 | |
|-----------|---|
| 02:18 UTC | End if profile 5, Pos. 58°08,5`N, 9°28,5`E |
| 04:32 UTC | Start with station work at Pos. 57°55,2`N, 9°45,3`E, |
| | alternating deployments of Rumohr lot, Gravity corer, CTD/rosette at |
| | various positions, ship stations 811-823 |
| | Moving to starting point of seismic profile 6 at pos. 58°03,5`N, 9°48`E |
| 18:36 UTC | Start with seismic profiles 6-16 with Water gun. Ship stations 824-834 |

| 18-June-03 | |
|---------------|---|
| 06:28 UTC | End of profile 16 at pos. 58°01,0`N, 9°31,8`E, moving to next position. |
| 07:42 UTC | Start with station work at pos. 57° 57,1`N, 9° 42,4`E. |
| | Alternating deployments of Gravity corer, Rumohr lot, Van Veen grab, |
| | ship stations 835-847. |
| 15:55-16:15 U | TC working-boat maneuver at 57° 57,1`N, 9° 42,4`E |
| 16:45 UTC | Transit to working area 2 |
| 18:54 UTC | Pos. 58° 22,0`N, 10° 00,0`E |

Start with seismic profiles 17-20 with water gun, ship stations 848-852



Figure 6. Working-boat maneuver

19-June-03

| 05:51 UTC | End of Seismic profile 20, 58° 28,0°N, 9°43,9°E moving to pos. 58° 27,7°N, 9°50,6°E |
|------------|--|
| 08:21 UTC | Start with echosounder profiles with DESO25, ship stations 852-856 |
| 12:10 UTC | Start with station work at pos. 58° 26,5 N, 9°49,0 E. |
| | Alternating deployments of Gravity corer, Rumohr lot. Ship stations 857- |
| | 861. |
| 16:25 UTC | Wind picks up to WSW 7/8. End of station work. |
| 17:00 UTC | Moving to position 58°16′N, 10°00`E. |
| 20-June-03 | |
| 04:00 UTC | On pos. 58°16′N, 10°00°E. Wind has not calmed (W 7/8), station work impossible |
| 07:00 UTC | Secure and tie down scientific equipment |
| 08:45 UTC | Pos. 57° 56.6`N, 9°43.4`E, Wind continuously speeds up. End of scientific work. Disassemble scientific equipment on deck. Return to Bremerhaven. |

21-June-03

Transit to Bremerhaven. Disassemble laboratory equipment.

22-June-03

00:54 MEST Arrival in Bremerhaven

5. Overall sampling program

Seismics

MCS profiles 1 and 2 (ship stations 764, 765) served for an overview on the shallow seismic reflection patterns across the depth gradient of the southern Skagerrak Trench slope. The chosen way points of profiles of 1 and 2 led across the area that was investigated for methane seepage by earlier studies (Dando et al, 1994, Zimmermann et al 1997). Profiles 3 an 4 (ship stations 775, 784) were performed parallel to profile 1 and extended the observations in working area 1 to the west and the east. Profile 5 (ship station 810-a) was the only boomer profile of the cruise, which served for a comparison with the MCS data and was performed on the same track as profile 1. A detailed survey of the core area of working area 1 was done with profiles 6-16 (ship stations 824-834). 17-20 were performed in working area 2.



Figure 7. Overview on the seismic profiles in working area 1 (profiles 1-16) and working area 2 (Profiles 17-20).

Sediments

The sediment sampling program in working area one had two objectives.

1. Sampling across the depth gradient of the southern trench slope was entirely done along seismic profile 1. The water depths in which the sediment cores were collected along this transect ranged between 86 and 496 m.

2. A transect of 5 gravity cores and the accompanying Rumohr lot samples was sampled across a pockmark on the upper trench slope.

Additionally to the intensive sampling program in working area 1, two gravity cores and three Rumohr lot cores were sampled in working area 2.



Figure 8. Overview on the sediment sampling locations during HE 191. The aligned sampling stations in working area 1 were positioned along seismic profile 1. Two gravity cores and three Rumohr lots samples were obtained from the working area 2 in the north.



Figure 9: Sediment sampling locations along the transect following seismic profile 1. For position details see Table 1.



Figure 10: Bathymetric profile of seismic profile 1 and sediment stations. A pockmark on the upper slope was sampled with a serious of 5 gravity cores and accompanying Rumohr lot samples.



Figure 11. Bathymteric profile and sampling transect across the pockmar on the upper trench slope.

Active seepage

The DESO 25 echosounder was used to search for gas flares in the water column as an indication for active seepage. Observations were performed on a small scale grid, that was positioned in the core area of working area 1 according the coordinates of reported seeps and according to conspicuous cloudy signals observed in the 35-kHh echosoundings during the seismic profiling which had been interpreted as potential gas flares. Positions of the most conspicuous signals were selected for sampling with the Multi corer and Van Veen grab.



Figure 12. Overview on the location of seismic profiles, gravity coring stations (red dots) and the DESO25 survey in the central region of working area 1. CTD stations are indicated as blue circles. Multiple Van Veen grab deployments were performed at the location marked with the orange diamond.

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Scale: 1:51414 at Latitude 0°

Figure 13. Detailed view of the DESO 25 survey grid. The coloring of the track indicates water depths of the sea floor. Red marks on the track indicate the locations in which the echogram showed cloudy signals. The most conspicuous signal was seen at the position in the upper right corner of the grid. This position served as the starting point for a sequence of multiple Van Veen grab deployments, which was performed while the ship was drifting slowly to the south west. One of these samples retrieved black sulfidic surface sediment, which is believed to origin from a seep outlet.



Figure 14. DESO25 echogram showing cloudy signal in the near-bottom water and reflections of the down and up-gowing CTD at ship stations 791 and 792. Note that the ship is standing still and that potential flares are depicted as more or less evenly distributed shading instead of columns.

6. Treatment of gravity cores: geochemical parameters, process rates and microbiology

The sediment cores obtained with the gravity corer were up to 575 cm long. Immediately after retrieval, the cores were cut into 1-m long sections (4-6, depending on the entire core length). Before the sectioned core liner was capped,

- 1) sediment was sampled from the top of the sediment for *in situ* CH₄ concentrations
- 2) temperature was measured
- 3) pH was measured

The capped sections were stored upright until further treatment.

Based on the "rough" *in situ* CH₄-profile (i.e. 1-m interval) it was decided in which of the 4-6 sections the SMTZ was to be expected, and an appropriate sub-sampling scheme for detailed methane and sulfate profiling was developed for each individual core. Two strategies were followed:

- 1. A first serious of cores served for the determination of the SMTZ at different locations along the transects across the trench slope and across the pockmark. In these cores, the wall of the pvc-liner was opened at distance intervals of 10 to 20 cm, and samples for the analysis of methane and sulfate concentrations were taken.
- 2. A total of four sample sites were selected for detailed analyses of geochemical, microbiological and molecular ecological parameters and for rate measurements of anaerobic oxidation of methane (AOM), sulfate reduction (SRR) and methanogenesis. Three of these sites were distributed at different depths across the trench slope (i.e.86 m, 307 m, 390 m) and one was located on the bottom of the pockmark (120 m). Each of these locations was sampled with two gravity cores and a Rumohr lot core.

Sections subject to detailed sub-sampling were placed horizontally in a cutting rag and the necessary number of 20-cm long Plexiglas core liners were pressed 10 cm into the sediment (Fig. 16). Samples for AOM were taken as triplicates in 5-cm intervals. The sediment was extruded from the GC-core liner using a piston until the bottom of the inserted core liners were in line with the rim of the GC core liner and the extruded "lump" of mud was cut of. The subcores were closed with rubber stoppers, gently washed and stored at *in situ* temperature until further treatment. As the number of target parameters was too large, two groups were formed which were always sampled from the same of the two duplicates. Figure 15. Example for the detailed sub-sampling schemes in the two duplicate gravity cores 816GC and 834 GC from the bottom of the pockmark. The grey shaded squares indicate the sediment depths in which the sub-samples for the various parameters were taken. Note that the parameters listed in the headers of the schemes were always sampled together from the same cores.

| Core identity: 816 GC Date of | | | | | | | | or | e co | olle | cte | d | | # | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---------|----|-------|----------------|---------|----------------|------------|------|----------|-----|-----------|------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|-------|
| Lena | Length of core: cm Date c | | | | | | | or | e sa | ami | ole | d: | | # | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | > | " | | | | | | | | |
| Section 4: 5cm shrinkage Section 1: 10cm shrinkage | | | | | | | | Discharged | CH4 | AOM | SRR | 14C rates | density/porosity | porewater | VFA | Sulphate | CH4 isotopes | H20 isotopes | AODC & FISH | 16S (MPI) | 16S (Bristol) | Hd |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Core | Subc. | De | €k | oth | De | ₹ | oth | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| sec. | NO. | Inte | r١ | al in | interv | a | I from | | | | | _ | | | | | | | _ | _ | | |
| 5 | - | | 5e | | | ונ _ | 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u> </u> | 1 | 11 | t | 21 | 11 | - | 21 | | | | | | | | | \square | | | | | | 7.33 |
| | - | 21 | ŀ | 25.5 | 21 | - | 25.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | - | 0 | - | 5 | 25.5 | - | 30.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2 | 5 | Ē | 15 | 30.5 | - | 40.5 | | | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | 7.38 |
| \vdash | 3 | 15 | ŀ | 25 | 40.5 | - | 50.5 | | | 2 | 2 | _ | | | | | | | | | | 7.39 |
| | 4 F | 25 | ╞ | 35 | 50.5 60 F | - | 60.5 70 5 | \vdash | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 7.31 |
| \vdash | о 6 | 35 | ŀ | 40 | 70.5 | - | 70.5 80 F | \vdash | | | | F | | | \vdash | \vdash | | - | | | ⊢ | 1.30 |
| \vdash | 7 | 55 | E | 65 | 80.5 | - | 90.5 | \vdash | | | | - | | | \vdash | \vdash | | - | | | - | 7.25 |
| | 8 | 65 | 1- | 75 | 90.5 | - | 100.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 7.26 |
| | 9 | 75 | 1- | 85 | 100.5 | - | 110.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 7.26 |
| | 10 | 85 | - | 90 | 110.5 | - | 115.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 7.31 |
| | - | 90 | - | 97 | 115.5 | - | 122.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | - | 0 | - | 5 | 122.5 | - | 127.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 11 | 5 | ŀ | 15 | 127.5 | - | 137.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 7.28 |
| | 12 | 15 | ŀ | 25 | 137.5 | - | 147.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 7.00 |
| | 13 | 25 | ŀ | 35 | 147.5 | - | 157.5 | | | | | _ | _ | | _ | | _ | | | | | 7.29 |
| | 14 | 35 | ŀ | 45 | 157.5 | - | 107.5 | | | | | | | | | | _ | | - | | _ | 7 36 |
| | 16 | 40 | Ē | 65 | 177.5 | - | 187.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 7.30 |
| | 17 | 65 | 1- | 75 | 187.5 | - | 197.5 | | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | 7.57 |
| | 18 | 75 | - | 85 | 197.5 | - | 207.5 | | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | 7.55 |
| | 19 | 85 | - | 95 | 207.5 | - | 217.5 | | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | 7.63 |
| | - | 95 | ŀ | 99 | 217.5 | - | 221.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | - | 0 | ŀ | 5 | 221.5 | - | 226.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | 24 | 45 | t- | 55 | 266.5 | - | 276.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 7.30 |
| | - | 55 | 1- | 65 | 276.5 | - | 286.5 | | | | | | L | | | | | | | | L | |
| | 25 | 65 | - | 75 | 286.5 | - | 296.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 7.36 |
| | - | 75 | ŀ | 85 | 296.5 | ŀ | 306.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 26 | 85 | ŀ | 95 | 306.5 | - | 316.5 | | | | | _ | | | | | | | | | | 7.41 |
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| | 28 | 30 | ľ | 40 | 351.5 | - | 361.5 | | | | | | | | | \vdash | | | | | | 7.66 |
| | - | 40 | ŀ | 50 | 361.5 | - | 371.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 29 | 50 | 1- | 60 | 371.5 | - | 381.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 7.66 |
| | - | 60 | - | 70 | 381.5 | - | 391.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 30 | 70 | ŀ | 80 | 391.5 | Ŀ | 401.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 7.62 |
| | - | 90 | F | 100 | 401.5 | [- | 421.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

METROL Heincke Cruise 2003

Figure 15, continued

| ME | FROL | Hei | r | ncke | Crui | is | se 20 | 03 | 8 | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------|------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|------------|-----------|---------------|------------|---------------|----------|--|--|
| Core | identit | y: | | 83 | 6 GC | | Date c | ore | e co | collected | | | | | |
| Leng | th of c | ore: | | | cm | Date core sampled: | | | | | | | | | |
| Section Section | on 4: 23 on 1: 7 | 3cm sl cm sh | ר ור | rinkag inkage | e | | | Discharged | 16S (MPI) | 16S (Bristol) | Biomarkers | CH4 diffusion | Fe/Si | | |
| Core | Core Subc. Depth Depth | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| sec. | No. | inter | ٦. | al in | interv | a | l from | | | | | | | | |
| | | core | 56 | ectior | top c | of | core | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | - | 0 | - | 7 | 0 | Ŀ | 7 | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 7 | - | 17 | 7 | - | 17 | | | | | | | | |
| | - | 17 | - | 27 | 17 | - | 27 | | | | | | | | |
| | 2 | 27 | - | 37 | 27 | - | 37 | | | | | | | | |
| | - | 37 | - | 47 | 37 | - | 47 | | | | | | | | |
| | 3 | 47 | - | 57 | 47 | - | 57 | | | | | | | | |
| | - | 57 | - | 67 | 57 | - | 67 | | | | | | | | |
| | 4 | 67 | - | 77 | 67 | - | 77 | | | | | | | | |
| | - | 77 | - | 79 | 77 | - | 79 | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | - | 0 | - | 5 | 79 | - | 84 | | | | | | | | |
| | 5 | 5 | - | 15 | 84 | - | 94 | | | | | | | | |
| | - | 15 | - | 30 | 94 | - | 109 | | | | | | | | |
| | 6 | 30 | - | 40 | 109 | - | 119 | | | | | | | | |
| | - | 40 | - | 55 | 119 | - | 134 | | | | | | | | |
| | / | 22 | - | 00 | 134 | - | 144 | | | | | | | | |
| | - Q | 80 | - | 00 | 144 | F | 159 | | | | | | | | |
| | 0 | 90 | | 100 | 169 | E | 179 | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | - | ,0 | F | 5 | 170 | Ĥ | 1.27 | | | \vdash | | | \vdash | | |
| | - 9 | 5 | | 15 | 184 | Ē | 194 | | | | | | | | |
| | - | 15 | Ē | 40 | 194 | Ē | 219 | | | | | | | | |
| | 10 | 40 | Ē | 50 | 219 | Ē | 229 | | | | | | | | |
| | - | 50 | - | 75 | 229 | | 254 | | | | | | | | |
| | 11 | 75 | - | 85 | 254 | - | 264 | | | | | | | | |
| | - | 85 | - | 100 | 264 | - | 279 | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | - | 0 | - | 8 | 279 | - | 287 | | | | | | | | |
| | 12 | 8 | - | 18 | 287 | - | 297 | | | | | | | | |
| | - | 18 | - | 38 | 297 | - | 317 | | | | | | | | |
| | 13 | 38 | - | 48 | 317 | - | 327 | | | | | | | | |
| | - | 48 | - | 68 | 327 | - | 347 | | | | | | | | |
| | 14 | 68 | - | 78 | 347 | - | 357 | | | | | | | | |
| | - | 78 | - | 100 | 357 | - | 379 | | | | | | | | |



Figure 16. Sub-sampling of the 1-m sections of a gravity core for detailed analyses of geochemical and microbiological parameters and process rate measurements. Core liners of various diameters were pushed from the top into the sediment.

Samples obtained with the Rumor Lot and the Multi corer were used to analyze pore water gradients of sulfate and determinations of sedimentation rate in the upper sediment layers, which are usually washed out in gravity cores.

7. Preliminary results

Seismics

The high-resolution multi-channel seismic (MCS) data illustrate the correlation of fluid escape structures (e.g., pockmarks) on the seafloor with reflection pattern from both Quaternary and Mesozoic successions, which are typical of gas charged strata. Signal attenuation and acoustic whitening within the Quaternary succession of the upper slope indicate the presence of gas as already described by other authors (Bøe et al. 1998, Rise et al. 1999). The alignments of elongate depressions correlate with the location of bright reflections within Cretaceous strata which subcrop at the erosional unconformity beneath the Quaternary succession. The observations support the thesis that thermogenic gas from Cretaceous strata contributed to the seepage at the elongate depressions. MCS data reveal acoustic turbulence at and beneath the unconformity downslope of the edge of gas front in water depths of more than 400 m, which indicates the presence of gas. We suggest that

gas accumulates beneath the unconformity beneath a Quaternary capping sequence. In the central Norwegian Trench pockmark lineaments lie above subcropping bright reflections within the Jurassic bedrock. Some pockmark lineaments lie above elongated near vertical faults in the overburden.



Figure 17. Seismic profile 1 and selected coring locations in the pockmark and around the gas front drop (see insert).

Sediments

The sediment sampling program primarily focused on cores along the depth gradient of the southern slope of the Skagerrak trench. Most of the cores were obtained along the seismic profile 1 (working area 1, see figs 1, 3 and 4, tabs 1 and 2) in water depths between 85 m and 540 m, while two gravity cores plus the accompanying Rumohr lot cores were sampled around 58°26.70' N and 9°50' E in approx 500 m water depth (working area 2). On board analyses concentrated on the determination of methane concentrations in the porewaters of the gravity cores, while all other biogechemical and microbiological parameters will be analyzed during the subsequent months in the home laboratories. One major target on board was to identify the sediment depth of the sulfate methane transition zone (SMTZ) - the sediment layer in which the anaerobic oxidation of methane takes place, which is an important process for cycling of methane in marine sediments.

Area 1:

On the southern slope of the Skagerrak Trench, porewater methane was present in sediments between 85 m and 400 m water depth, while no methane occurred in the cores sampled at 540 m. In the shallower parts, methane was found below 2 m sediment depth, while at some deeper stations the SMTZ reached the top end of the cores. A transect through a pockmark showed an asymmetrical pattern of the methane distribution. Detailed analyses of the SMTZ will reveal the associated geochemical and microbiological processes at the various sampling locations. Active methane seepage was explored at locations where such phenomena have been reported before (Dando et al. 1994, Zimmermann et al. 1999), but signals from profiles with the DESO25 echosounder could not be unequivocally interpreted and multi corer deployments remained unsuccessful. However, black gassy surface sediment was once recovered from a non-pockmark location with a Van Veen grab at 58°0.4' N and 9°31.64' E.

Area 2:

Pockmarks described by Rise et al. (1999) were the targets in area 2. Gravity core #857 was positioned in an area of suspected pockmark accumulation according to the multi channel seismics, while the apart positioned core #860 served as a control. Both cores did not contain dissolved methane, and it was decided not to further concentrate on this area.

Literature:

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- Rise L, Sættem J, Fanavoll S, Thorsnes T, Ottesen D, Bøe R 1999. Sea-bed pockmarks related to fluid migration from Mesozoic bedrock strata in the Skagerrak offshore Norway. Marine and Petroleum Geology 16, 619-631.
- Zimmermann S, Hughes RG, Flügel HJ 1997. The effect of methane seepage on the spatial distribution of oxygen and dissolved sulphide within a muddy sediment. Marine Geology 137, 149-157.

6. Station lists

Gear abbreviations:

- Seis multi channel seismics or boomer (only profile 5, station # 810)
- DESO DESO25 echosounder
- GC Gravity corer
- RL Rumor lot
- MUC Multi corer
- VV Van Veen grab
- CTD CTD/rosette

Tab 1: List of profiles

| Station # | PI | Gear | Profile # | Begin | UTC | Lat. (N) | Long. (E) | End | UTC | Lat. (N) | Long. (E) |
|-----------|----------|------|-----------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| 764 | Hübscher | Seis | 1 | 13/06/2003 | 16:39:00 | 57°48.94764 | 9°54.22752 | 14/06/2003 | 0:15:00 | 58°16.0098 | 9°17.54076 |
| 765 | Hübscher | Seis | 2 | 14/06/2003 | 2:20:00 | 58°8.23944 | 9°31.55394 | 14/06/2003 | 7:43:48 | 57°50.41272 | 10°3.30498 |
| 775 | Hübscher | Seis | 3 | 00/01/1900 | 0:00:00 | 0 | 0 | 15/06/2003 | 3:44:00 | 58°28.0893 | 9°29.86722 |
| 782 | Usbeck | DESO | - | 15/06/2003 | 10:50:00 | 58°4.01076 | 9°41.50974 | 15/06/2003 | 14:20:20 | 58°3.00702 | 9°38.92692 |
| 785 | Hübscher | Seis | 4 | 15/06/2003 | 20:42:00 | 57°42.43182 | 9°0.191902 | 04/01/1900 | 2:19:00 | 58°5.01246 | 8°48.97194 |
| 810-a | Hübscher | Seis | 5 | 16/06/2003 | 19:18:00 | 57°0.968322 | 9°42.03702 | 17/06/2003 | 2:18:00 | 58°7.02462 | 9°33.18606 |
| 824-834 | Hübscher | Seis | 6-16 | 17/06/2003 | 18:36:00 | 58°3.1305 | 9°46.86636 | 18/06/2003 | 6:28:00 | 58°0.39828 | 9°32.5626 |
| 848 | Borowski | VV | - | 18/06/2003 | 13:37:25 | 58°4.04207 | 9°41.63519 | 18/06/2003 | 15:08:20 | 58°4.12856 | 9°41.63505 |
| 849 | Hübscher | Seis | 17 | 18/06/2003 | 18:54:00 | 58°22.1865 | 9°59.6532 | 18/06/2003 | 21:20:00 | 58°31.00842 | 9°43.87656 |
| 850 | Hübscher | Seis | 18 | 18/06/2003 | 22:12:00 | 58°30.98808 | 9°50.01708 | 18/06/2003 | 23:50:00 | 58°25.00902 | 10°0.00582 |
| 851 | Hübscher | Seis | 19 | 19/06/2003 | 1:07:00 | 58°30.00756 | 9°0.02898 | 19/06/2003 | 3:15:00 | 58°22.48596 | 9°48.45492 |
| 852 | Hübscher | Seis | 20 | 19/06/2003 | 4:09:00 | 58°21.98964 | 9°54.0219 | 19/06/2003 | 5:51:00 | 58°28.35912 | 9°0.727512 |
| 853 | Borowski | DESO | - | 19/06/2003 | 8:21:40 | 58°28.10497 | 9°50.83552 | 00/01/1900 | 0:00:00 | ٥ | 0 |
| 854 | Borowski | DESO | - | 19/06/2003 | 0:00:00 | 0 | 0 | 00/01/1900 | 0:00:00 | 0 | 0 |
| 855 | Borowski | DESO | - | 19/06/2003 | 0:00:00 | 0 | 0 | 00/01/1900 | 0:00:00 | 0 | 0 |
| 856 | Borowski | DESO | - | 19/06/2003 | 0:00:00 | 0 | 0 | 19/06/2003 | 10:53:00 | 58°28.14378 | 9°50.59796 |

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Tab. 2. Sediment stations.

| Data | Ctation # | ni | Coor | | Gear on | Bottom | |
|------------|------------|----------|-----------|--------------------|-------------|------------|----------------|
| Date | Station # | PI | Gear | UTC | Lat. (N) | Long. (E) | Depth (m) |
| 12/06/2003 | 762 | Usbeck | CTD | 13:06:30 | 53°50.69869 | 8°5.42066 | 13.3 |
| 13/06/2003 | 763 | Borowski | MUC | 14:42:00 | 57°46.36137 | 9°40,11117 | 0.0 |
| 14/06/2003 | 766 | Borowski | RL | 11:06:00 | 57°55,22302 | 9°45.319 | 85.9 |
| 14/06/2003 | 767 | Borowski | GC | 11:31:00 | 57°55,23984 | 9°45.31077 | 87.2 |
| 14/06/2003 | 768 | Borowski | RL | 12:51:01 | 58°1.08049 | 9°38.68776 | 265.2 |
| 14/06/2003 | 769 | Borowski | GC | 13:14:45 | 58°1.09333 | 9°38.682 | 266.6 |
| 14/06/2003 | 770 | Borowski | GC | 14:31:53 | 58°1.09535 | 9°38.62538 | 265.8 |
| 14/06/2003 | 771 | Borowski | RL | 15:19:20 | 58°1.47436 | 9°38.41335 | 269.4 |
| 14/06/2003 | 772 | Borowski | GC | 15:42:50 | 58°1.51573 | 9°38.45988 | 269.0 |
| 14/06/2003 | 773 | Borowski | RL | 16:38:54 | 58°2.2054 | 9°37.89611 | 309.0 |
| 14/06/2003 | 774 | Borowski | GC | 17:04:03 | 58°2.25072 | 9°37.97088 | 311.0 |
| 15/06/2003 | 776 | Borowski | RL | 6:51:58 | 58°2.80978 | 9°37.06143 | 354.9 |
| 15/06/2003 | 777 | Borowski | GC | 7:15:37 | 58*2.74319 | 9*36.85114 | 354.2 |
| 15/06/2003 | 770 | Borowski | RL | 7:59:29 | 58-3.23319 | 9135.9924 | 391.7 200.c |
| 15/06/2003 | 779 | Dorowski | | 0.10.00 | 50 3.2103 | 9 30.03015 | 209.0 527.4 |
| 15/06/2003 | 700 | Borowski | RL GC | 9.21.40 9.46:30 | 58% /911 | 9 31.12237 | 534.5 |
| 15/06/2003 | 783 | Borowski | 00 | 15:06:50 | 5892 70912 | 9°37 6833 | 339.2 |
| 15/06/2003 | 783 | Usheck | CTD | 16:49:00 | 58°3 82266 | 9°41 87286 | 335.1 |
| 16/06/2003 | 786 | Borowski | GC | 6:03:35 | 58°3 3159 | 9°36,48907 | 386.4 |
| 16/06/2003 | 787 | Borowski | RL | 6:35:14 | 58°3.20124 | 9°36.2886 | 384.3 |
| 16/06/2003 | 788 | Borowski | RL | 7:01:00 | 58°3.31896 | 9°35.96484 | 393.4 |
| 16/06/2003 | 789 | Borowski | GC | 7:31:00 | 58°3.25332 | 9°36.00546 | 391.1 |
| 16/06/2003 | 790 | Borowski | GC | 8:31:00 | 58°3.93756 | 9°38.01942 | 394.4 |
| 16/06/2003 | 791 | Usbeck | CTD | 9:21:00 | 58°3.82776 | 9°41.86404 | 335.1 |
| 16/06/2003 | 792 | Usbeck | CTD | 9:48:40 | 58°3.82404 | 9°41.81622 | 335.1 |
| 16/06/2003 | 793 | Borowski | MUC | 10:14:00 | 58°3.81826 | 9°41.82409 | 335.5 |
| 16/06/2003 | 794 | Borowski | MUC | 10:56:00 | 58°3.8373 | 9°41.81444 | 335.4 |
| 16/06/2003 | 795 | Usbeck | CID | 11:26:00 | 68°3.42601 | 9°41.75476 | 331.9 |
| 16/06/2003 | 796 | Borowski | VV | 777 | × | 0014 00057 | 334.8 |
| 16/06/2003 | 797 | Borowski | VV VAZ | 13:09:00 | 58-3.83406 | 9-41.86957 | 335.2 |
| 16/06/2003 | 790 | Dorowski | N/ | 13.25.04 | 20 3.00/09 | 9 41.01000 | 337.4 243 E |
| 16/06/2003 | 795 800 | Borowski | WV N | 222 | 0.3.33011 | ° | 042.0 0.0 |
| 16/06/2003 | 801 | Borowski | Ŵ | 13:50:19 | 58% 00206 | 9°41 64537 | 348.6 |
| 16/06/2003 | 802 | Borowski | Ŵ | 14:01:30 | 58°4.06065 | 9°41 59228 | 350.9 |
| 16/06/2003 | 803 | Borowski | RL | 15:15:08 | 57°55.24644 | 9°45.2558 | 86.3 |
| 16/06/2003 | 804 | Borowski | RL | 15:21:20 | 57°55.2488 | 9°45.29531 | 86.2 |
| 16/06/2003 | 805 | Borowski | RL | 15:30:50 | 57°55.2731 | 9°45.28932 | 86.4 |
| 16/06/2003 | 806 | Borowski | RL | 15:40:00 | 57°55.25169 | 9°45.33377 | 86.2 |
| 16/06/2003 | 807 | Borowski | GC | 16:12:53 | 57°55.24532 | 9°45.33555 | 86.3 |
| 16/06/2003 | 808 | Borowski | GC | 16:51:17 | 57°55.27971 | 9°45.29464 | 86.3 |
| 16/06/2003 | 809 | Borowski | RL | 17:10:52 | 57°55.28502 | 9°45.34019 | 86.1 |
| 16/06/2003 | 810 | Borowski | RL | 17:23:50 | 57°55.26749 | 9°45.38729 | 86.9 |
| 17/06/2003 | 811 | Borowski | GC | 4:23:30 | 57°55.25827 | 9°45.29846 | 86.2 |
| 17/06/2003 | 812 | Borowski | GC | 4:51:19 | 57*55.24457 | 9*45.29993 | 86.1 |
| 17/06/2003 | 813 | Borowski | GC | 5:13:20 | 57 55.26239 | 9*45.31632 | 86.4 |
| 17/06/2003 | 014 | Dorowski | GC | 7.04.00 | 57 55.23/5/ | 9 45.35/59 | 00.7 01.7 |
| 17/06/2003 | 010 | Dorowski | GC GC | 7.39.45 | 57 54.95166 | 9 45.17630 | 02.7 |
| 17/06/2003 | 817 | Borowski | RI | 10:59:00 | 57%57 11617 | 9°42.43031 | 148.4 |
| 17/06/2003 | 818 | Borowski | RI | 11:09:30 | 57°57 11809 | 9°42 42783 | 148.1 |
| 17/06/2003 | 819 | Usbeck | CTD | 11:44:50 | 57°55.87234 | 9°44,94803 | 104.2 |
| 17/06/2003 | 820 | Borowski | GC | 16:01:00 | 58°2.22593 | 9°37.99144 | 307.7 |
| 17/06/2003 | 821 | Borowski | GC | 16:54:06 | 58°2.24558 | 9°37.98319 | 308.7 |
| 17/06/2003 | 822 | Borowski | RL | 17:15:20 | 58°2.25507 | 9°37.96951 | 309.0 |
| 17/06/2003 | 823 | Borowski | RL | 17:30:12 | 58°2.23817 | 9°37.96622 | 308.4 |
| 18/06/2003 | 835 | Borowski | GC | 7:42:08 | 57°57.12268 | 9°42.4473 | 149.2 |
| 18/06/2003 | 836 | Borowski | GC | 8:42:33 | 57°57.12532 | 9°42.45235 | 148.9 |
| 18/06/2003 | 837 | Borowski | RL | 9:03:28 | 57°57.12415 | 9°42.41944 | 147.9 |
| 18/06/2003 | 838 | Borowski | RL | 9:12:10 | 57°57.12071 | 9°42.44422 | 149.2 |
| 18/06/2003 | 839 | Borowski | GC | 10:15:00 | 57°56.91281 | 9°42.70767 | 120.2 |
| 18/06/2003 | 840 | Borowski | RL | 10:34:31 | 57 56.91388 | 9°42.68695 | 120.6 |
| 18/06/2003 | 841 | Borowski | RL | 10:46:56 | 57 56.92716 | 9*42.69726 | 121.0 |
| 10/00/2003 | 042 | Dorowski | GC DI | 11.05.00 | 57 57.03626 | 9 42.56353 | 130.2 |
| 18/06/2003 | 844 | Borowski | RL GC | 11.10.12 | 57 57.02070 | 9 42.00040 | 137.5 |
| 18/06/2003 | 845 | Borowski | RI | 11:53:30 | 57%57 15448 | 9°42 40029 | 132.0 |
| 18/06/2003 | 846 | Borowski | GC | 12:14:00 | 57°57,24911 | 9°42.2689 | 128.0 |
| 18/06/2003 | 847 | Borowski | RL | 12:23:20 | 57°57.24787 | 9°42.26087 | 128.0 |
| 19/06/2003 | 857 | Borowski | GC | 12:10:30 | 58°26.67075 | 9°49.65427 | 496.0 |
| 19/06/2003 | 858 | Borowski | RL | 14:25:07 | 58°26.69154 | 9°49.698 | 506.0 |
| 19/06/2003 | 859 | Borowski | RL | 14:49:24 | 58°26.68697 | 9°49.67996 | 504.0 |
| 19/06/2003 | 860 | Borowski | GC | 15:21:55 | 58°26.79149 | 9°50.03202 | 499.0 |
| 19/06/2003 | 861 | Borowski | RL | 16:25:00 | 58°26.76712 | 9°49.97556 | 493.0 |