

## Day 5 – 30.11.22

"My sleep has been catching up with me! I'm really starting to feel the 12 hour shifts now. Despite this I still do as much work as I possibly can (with the help of a good cup of coffee, and a few Seasick tablets).

But to start my very late day was the water quality work. I think I mentioned in an earlier blog about stable isotopes? Well this work links in with that. This is a really technical piece of work, and what I understood from it is that the water is used to determine a base line of food in the food webs; so looking at the different amounts of carbon and nitrogen throughout the water column. Most of the analysis of this work needs to be done back in the UK, but I helped collect the samples of water from the CTD and filter them through a glass apparatus, which leaves behind all of the matter from the water. It sounds like a lot, but it's really interesting.

To break up my day I had conversations with lots of different people. My friends and family on the Island will know that I don't really like to talk to many people and get myself out there, but this trip has helped me to gain a lot more confidence. I've had really good conversations with the scientists, especially a lady onboard who specialises in data management, (for those that don't know, I am basically a junior data manager in SHG), she enlightened me about how and where data has taken her, and I've made it my responsibility to try and shadow her throughout this trip, just to find tricks to make my life back on Island a lot easier.

There were two pieces of work getting done at the same time at roughly 8pm; the BRUV's and the Bongo nets. I think I've mentioned before what the BRUVs is, so I'll briefly mention about the bongo nets. It's basically called a bongo net because it looks like two bongo drums. All it is, is a piece of equipment that collects plankton samples from the water with two different thicknesses of nets.

And that was the extent of my day, bringing water samples from the ocean onto the ship, ironic really?

Stay posted to our page for more on my DISCO adventures.

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## Day 6 – 1.12.22

"My six day onboard started at 9am and was full of data. I added the data independently from the bait fish worksheets, I was very amazed, that they were confident enough to let me sit and do the work myself. There was a huge pile to get through.

I had to break for lunch to relax my eyes. I feel like I should add that for lunch we were served, a traditional Saint dish; chicken plo, cooked by Elizabeth, but obviously I looked right pass it and went for the pies...sorry Liz. After the plo was devoured and the pies were gone, the data work load had to be next. I got finished at 3pm (which tells you how much I had to do). After I finished I took the time to chill my mind, do some light yoga and I will return to my shift later on in the evening.

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