

RV SONNE

Cruise SO285 "TRAFFIC 2"

Emden – Emden,
20th August – 2nd November 2021

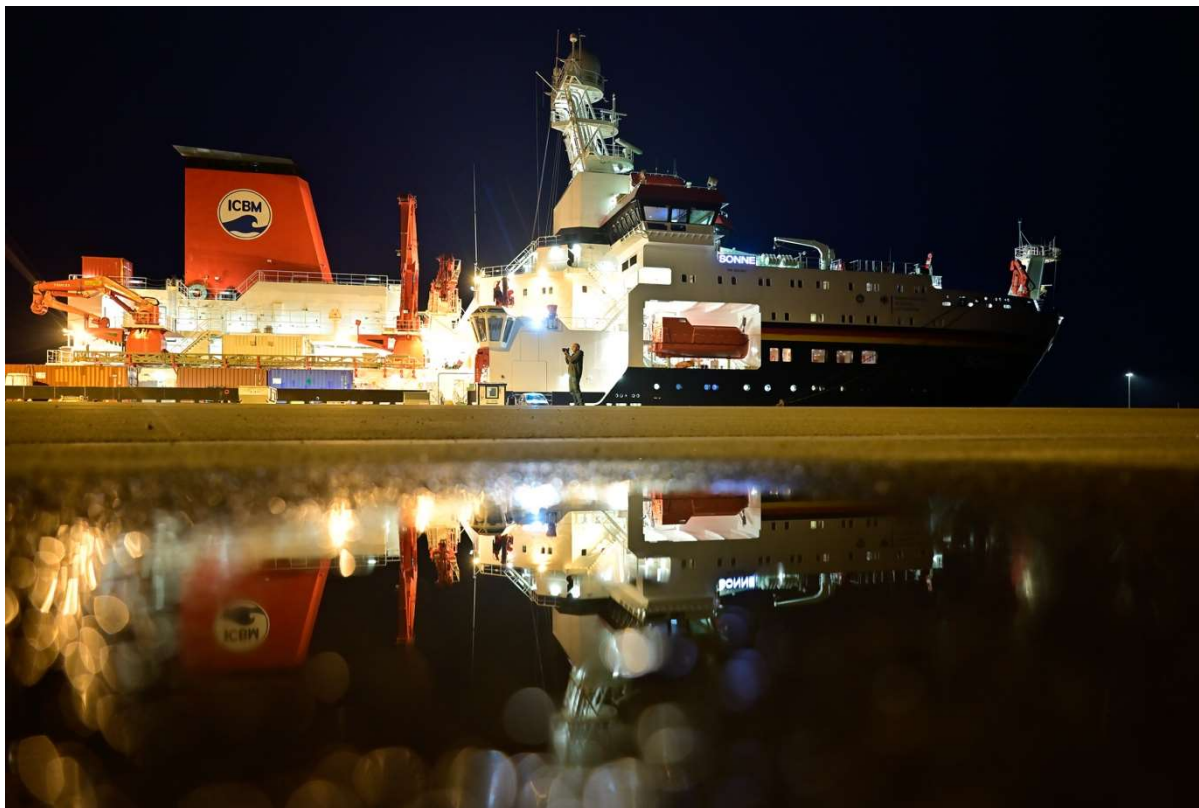
1. Weekly report

Reporting period: 20th – 22nd August 2021



The cruise SO285 is part of the joint project TRAFFIC, which stands for ,Trophic tRANSfer eFFiCiency in the Benguela Current. The Federal German Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) is funding TRAFFIC with the aim to explore effects of climate change on the marine ecosystem in the Benguela Upwelling System off Namibia and South Africa. The Benguela Upwelling System is among the most productive regions of the world's ocean, characterized by high turnover rates of CO₂ and of great relevance for fishers.

The purpose of cruise SO285 is thereby to elaborate how climate change impacts the marine ecosystem off South Africa and Namibia, as well as ecosystem services such as fisheries and the CO₂ sequestration of the ocean. The understanding of such processes is key to improve climate predictions and to adapt guidelines for the use of marine ecosystems to global change.



RV SONNE in Emden - August 2021

Picture: Solvin Zankl

In contrast to the previous RV SONNE cruises SO283 and SO284, which were both considered as rescue missions for the recovery of long-term observation systems in the central, western and southern Atlantic Ocean, the cruise SO285 is now once again dedicated to project-

oriented marine fieldwork, which was and is still strongly affected by the COVID pandemic. This was particularly noticeable during the cruise preparations, and will further keep us occupied until the end of the coming week.

At this point we, as members of the TRAFFIC team, would sincerely like to thank the BMBF, the German Research Fleet Coordination Centre at the Universität Hamburg, the shipping company BRIESE RESEARCH, the 'Projektträger Jülich' (PtJ) in the Jülich Research Centre GmbH, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and LPL Projects + Logistics GmbH as well as our project partners in Namibia and South Africa for their support, patience and flexibility to make this cruise possible.

Thanks to the excellent cooperation, all fell into place on the 19th August in Emden on the RV SONNE, allowing us to sail fully-equipped towards the Benguela Upwelling System off Namibia and South Africa on the morning of the 20th August. The weather and sea were calm so that we could spend the last two days unpacking the containers, setting up the laboratories and getting to know each other personally. It is hardly believably but many of the cruise participants have only met via online platforms before coming to the cruise. However, we will report in more details about us, our work and involvement of cruise SO285 into international research programs in the upcoming 2nd weekly report.

RV SONE at sea, 47°N / 9°W, 22nd August 2021

Tim Rixen

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