Research vessel
MARIA S. MERIAN

MSM131: 18.08. – 28.09.2024
Reykjavik - Emden

Seventh and last weekly report: 23 - 28 Sept. 2024

After finishing the station work in the Jøtul hydrothermal field, the MARIA S. MERIAN headed for our next port of call, Tromsø. It left the shelf of the Barents Sea on the night of Sunday, 22 September, to enter the fjord landscape of Flugløysundet and, after about 25 km, the wide passage of Grøtsundet, so that we could berth in the port of Breivika/Tromsø on time at 8:00 a.m. In addition to our Norwegian scientists, several other scientist also left the ship and 3 employees from the Kula company came on board to prepare for the shipyard period that would follow this cruise on the way to Emden. After 2 hours, we set off again at 10:00 a.m. and the MERIAN circumnavigated the island of Tromsøya in the north and sailed on the west side of the island across the southern fjord systems to the open sea of the European North Sea.

Figure 1: Scientist group of the second leg of the MSM131.

From there we went past the Lofoten Islands on the passage route south over the Vøring Plateau and the break-off niche of the famous Storegga slide on the continental margin to the Norwegian Trough, through Danish areas into the German Entenschnabel, where our cruise will end after passage over the Ems in Emden. Our expedition will end there on Friday, 27 September, a day earlier than planned. We are returning to Germany with new scientific findings from the Jøtul hydrothermal field with many new measurement results, data, samples and observations. We scientists are very happy about the goals we have achieved and are returning home with very good results. We owe the success of the scientific work to the excellent and friendly support of the ship's crew in all areas (nautical, WTD, deck crew, engine and service area, etc.), the shipping company and the employees of the German Research Fleet Coordination Centre as well as the colleagues from MARUM logistics. We would especially like to thank Captain Björn Maass and his entire crew, who were always friendly and helpful in all matters.

Everyone on board is healthy!

Greetings on behalf of all participants,

Gerhard Bohrmann RV MARIA S. MERIAN, Sunday 28 September, 2024