
September 12th | 2010

Ryan Chouest daily data transmission and report

Period covered: 1606 hrs 09/11/2010 – 1256 hrs 09/12/2010

89.645 - Nautical miles covered

Vessel science party:

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Cruise notes:

The Ryan Chouest continued along the planned Cruise 15 route. Cast #2 was performed at Site 4 (LAD-018) before transiting Northwest to Site 5 (LAD-019) and Site 6 (LAD-022) and Southwest to Site 7(DCS-062) then South East to Site 8 (DCS-009). Echosound surveys were conducted at all sites using a rough grid or 'cloverleaf' pattern to try and identify the exact location of suspected seeps. Collection of underway flurometer data was continuous. Cast #3 was performed at Site 6.

Science results and preliminary interpretation:

Fluorometry results

The Chelsea and Trios sensors generally indicate low levels of inferred hydrocarbons concentrations through the reporting period (Figures 3 and 4).

Surface Observations

No surface observations were made.

EK-60 Echosounder results

No echosounder contacts were observed during this report period at any of the sites selected for investigation on the basis of reports that they may be natural seep sites.

CTD Casts

Three CTD casts were performed during this reporting period Cast #2 at Site 4 (LAD-018, N 28 39.756, W087 49.268), Cast #3 at Site 6 (LAD-022, W087 29.284, N 28 47.060) and Cast #4 at Site8 (DCS-009,

N28 38.440, W087 32.303). No apparent features were observed except a small dip in the dissolved oxygen profile at 1329 water depth during Cast #3.

Wave Glider operations

Wave Glider's #1 and #2 have deviated from their planned circular courses 10NM and 20NM from the Macondo well site respectively. Further information along with Instrument data and operational notes is provided in a separate daily report.

It is intended to inspect the Wave Glider systems in approximately four weeks. This will be scheduled for a future sailing of the Ryan Chouest.

Planned route for cruise 15:

Ryan Chouest Planned Cruise 15 Route

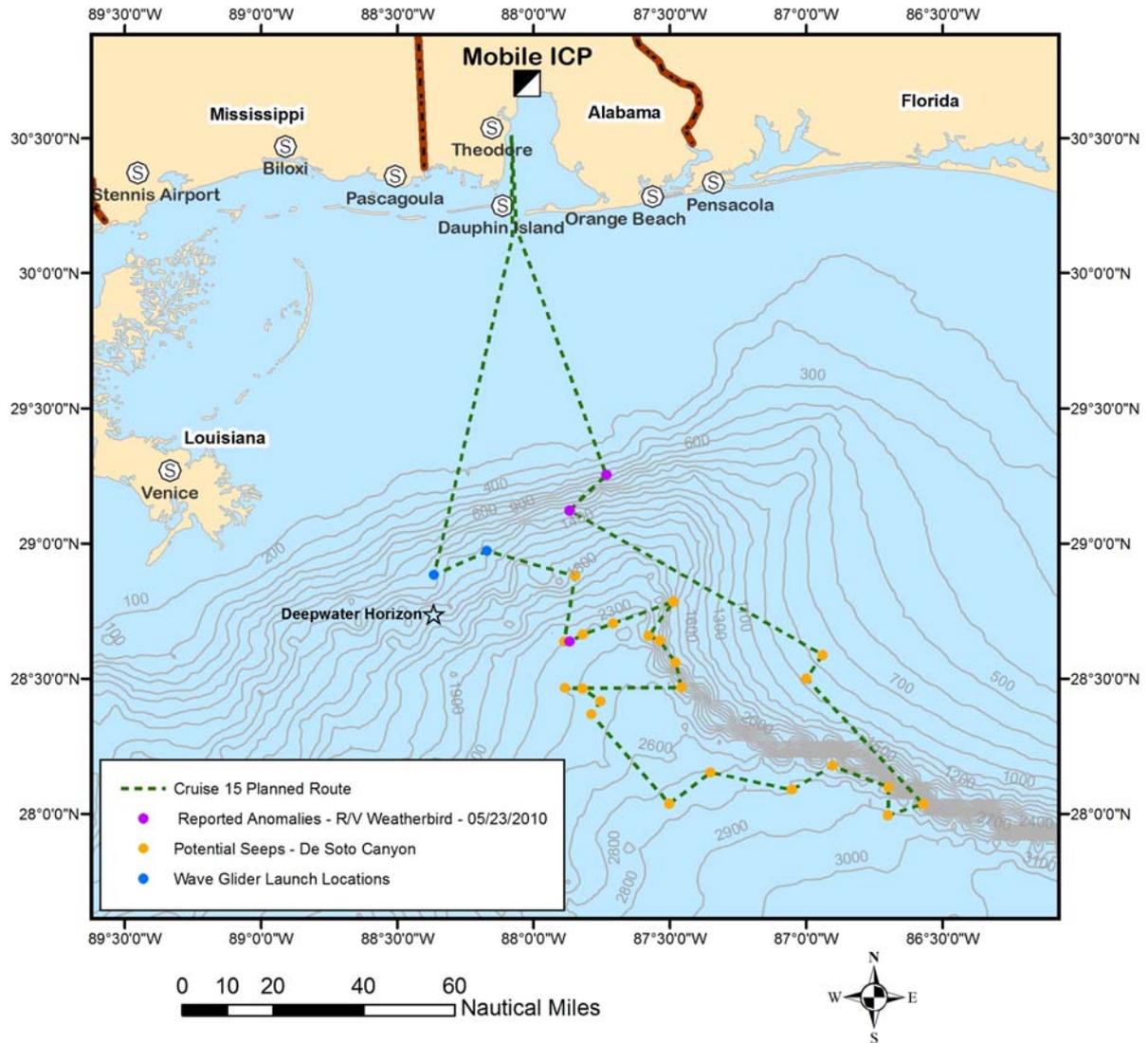


Figure 1: Planned route for cruise 15 from 09/09/2010 – 09/015/2010.

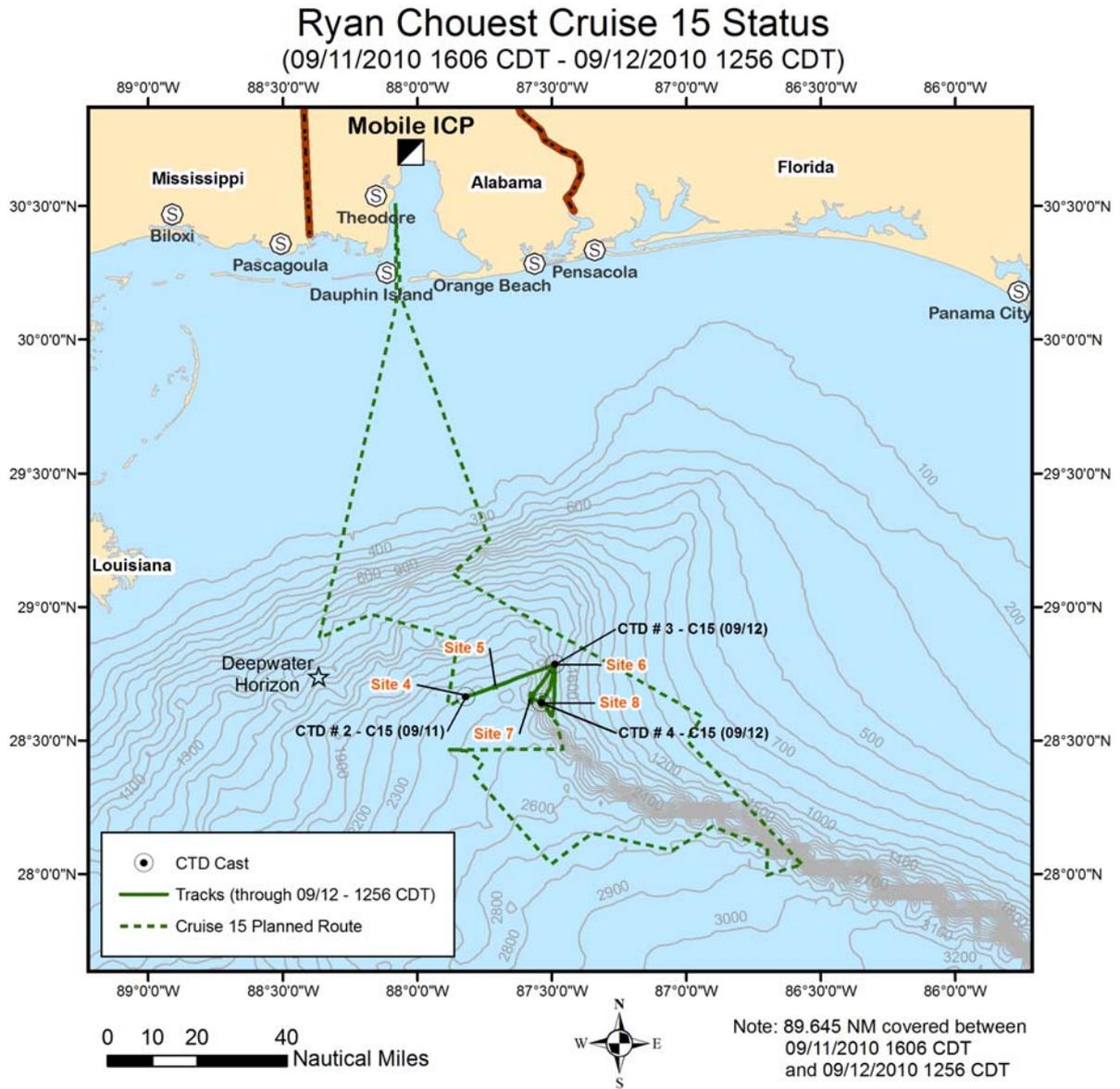


Figure 2: Actual route for cruise 15 from 09/11/2010 – 09/12/2010.

Ryan Chouest Cruise 15 Data Chelsea - Fluorometer (09/11/2010 1606 CDT - 09/12/2010 1256 CDT)

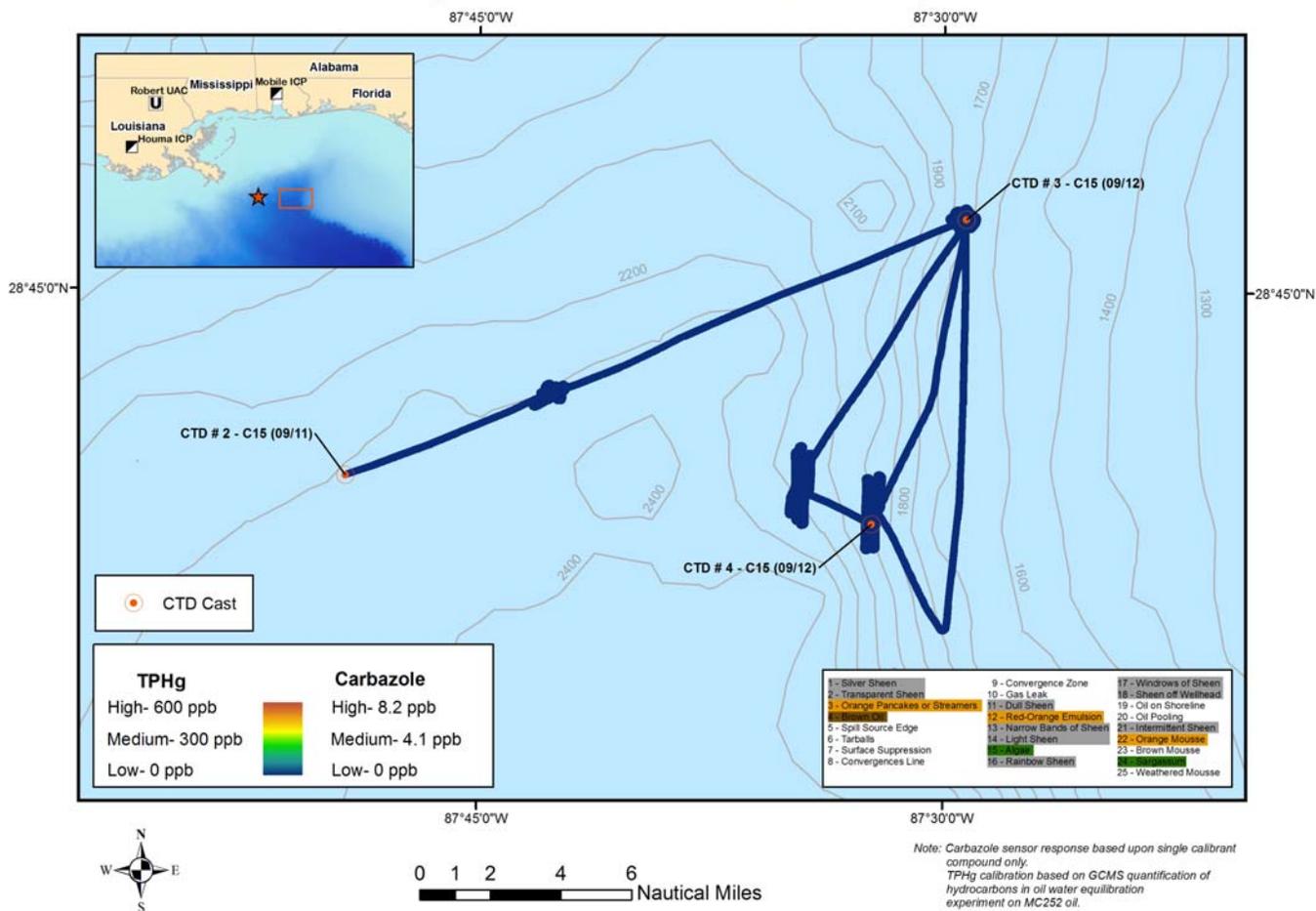


Figure 3. Chelsea fluorometer results plotted with location on cruise track 15. Breaks in data occur when either data quality is poor or the systems were turned off due to pump problems. Purple lines represent depth contours of 100 m intervals.

Ryan Chouest Cruise 15 Data Trios - Fluorometer (09/11/2010 1606 CDT - 09/12/2010 1256 CDT)

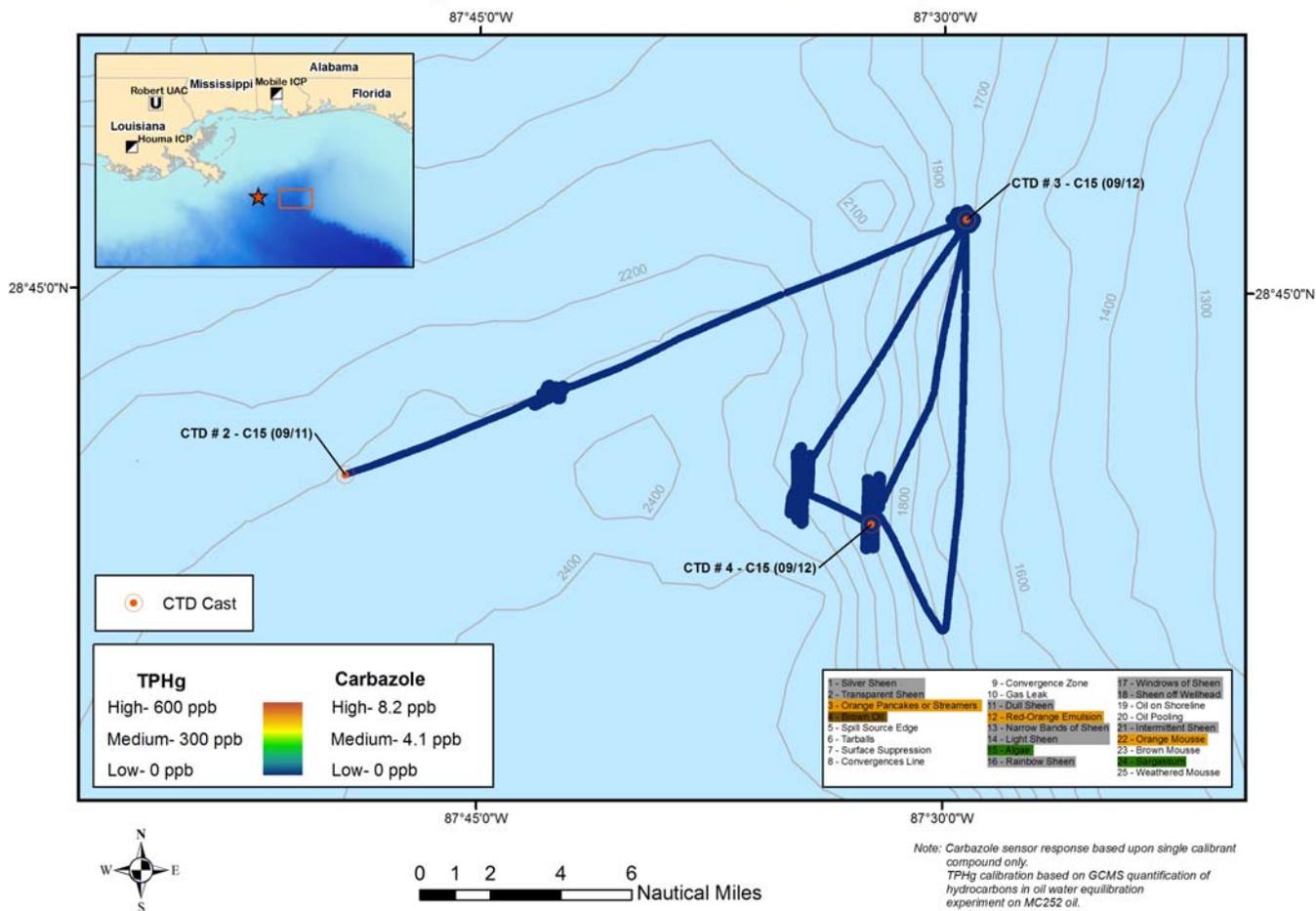


Figure 4. Trios fluorometer results plotted with location on cruise track 15. Breaks in data occur when either data quality is poor or the systems were turned off due to pump problems. Purple lines represent depth contours of 100 m intervals.

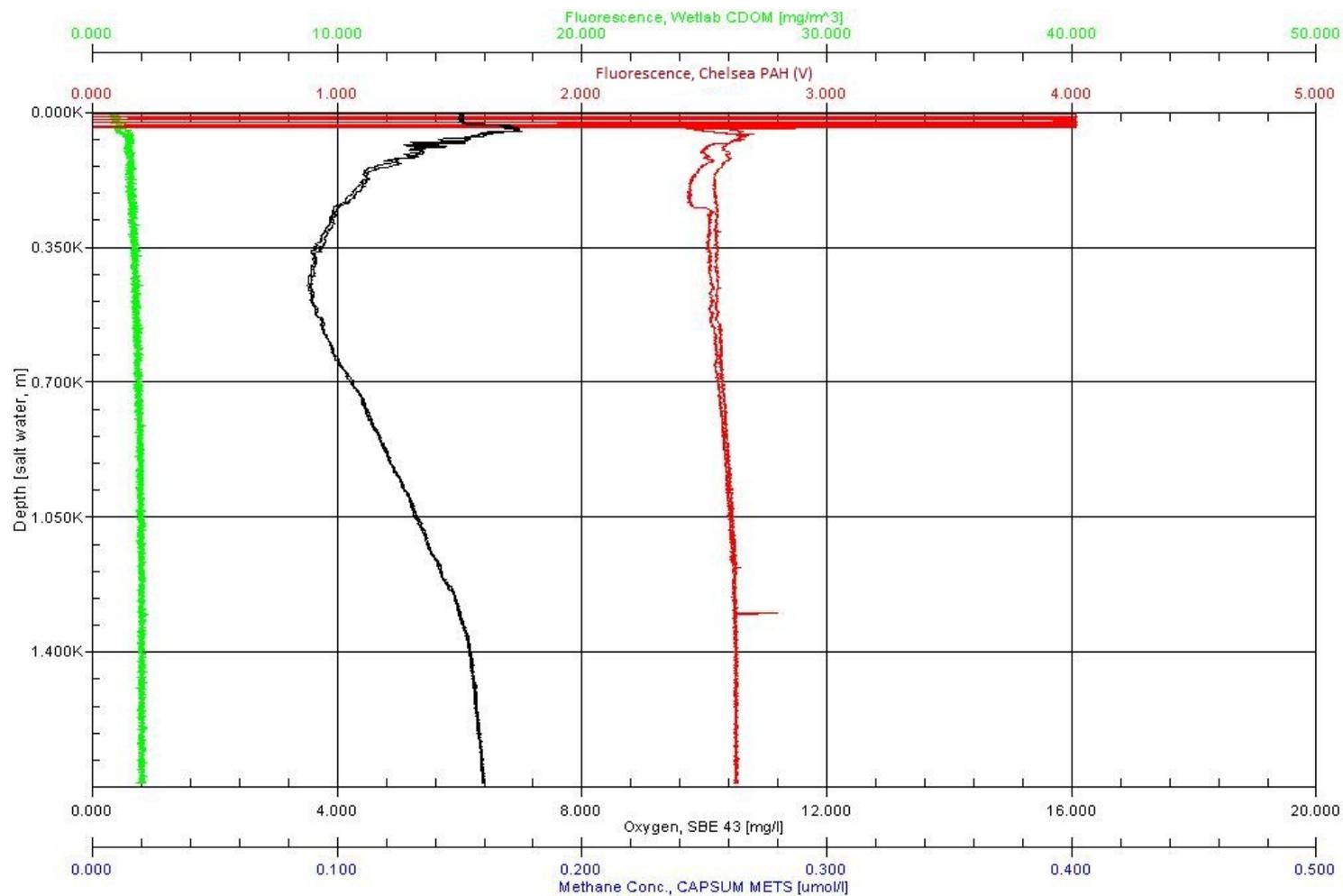


Figure 5 CDOM fluorescence, PAH fluorescence, dissolved oxygen, and methane concentration profiles. The results were obtained for Cruise 15 CTD cast 2 down to 1700 m. Water samples were collected at 1738m, 1130m, 265m and 235m. Temperature, conductivity and water depth measurements were also recorded from a SBE 19+ system.

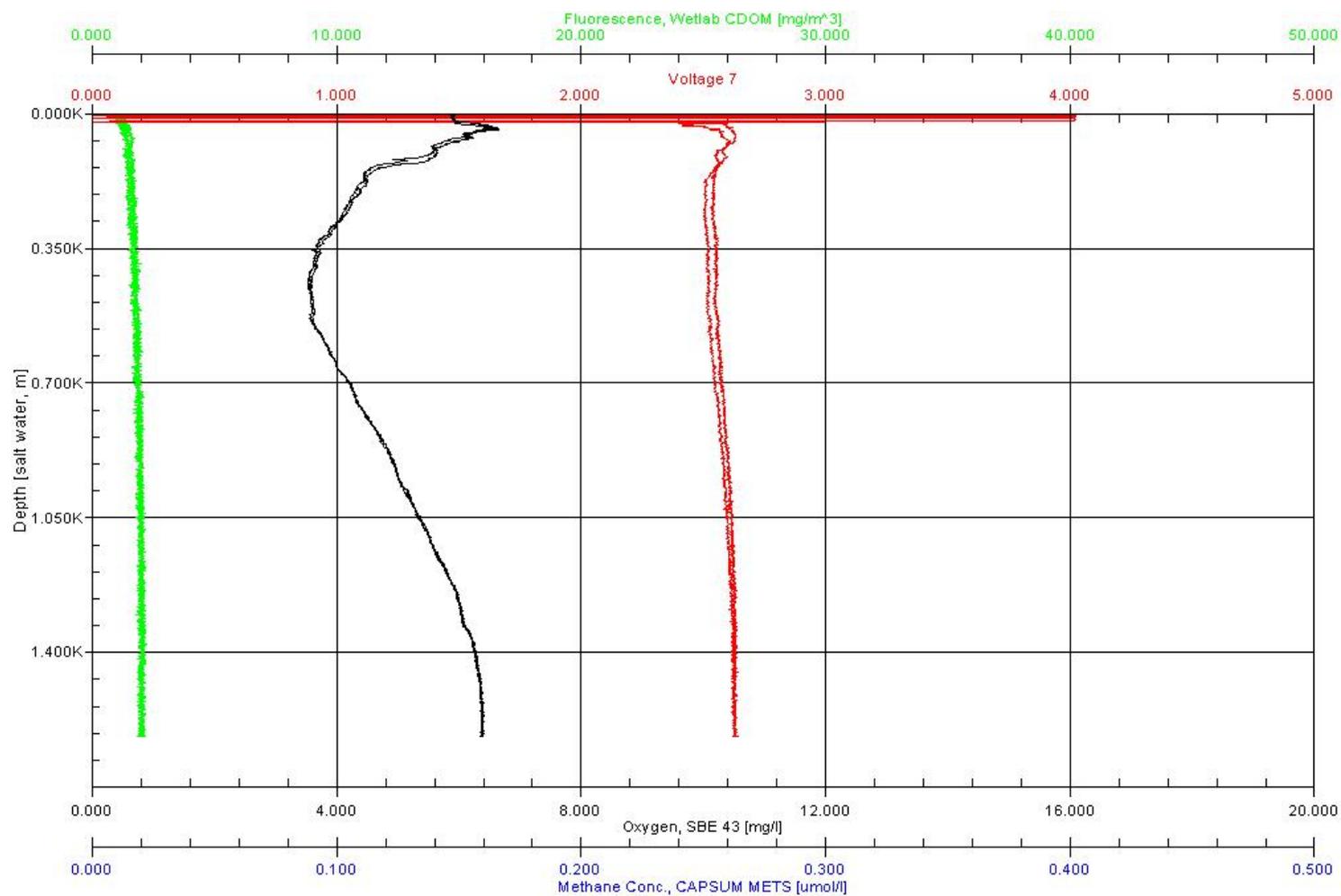


Figure 6. CDOM fluorescence, PAH fluorescence, dissolved oxygen, and methane concentration profiles. The results were obtained for Cruise 15 CTD cast 3 down to 1670 m. Water samples were collected at 1617m, 1339m, 1329m, 1319m and 446m. Temperature, conductivity and water depth measurements were also recorded from a SBE 19+ system.

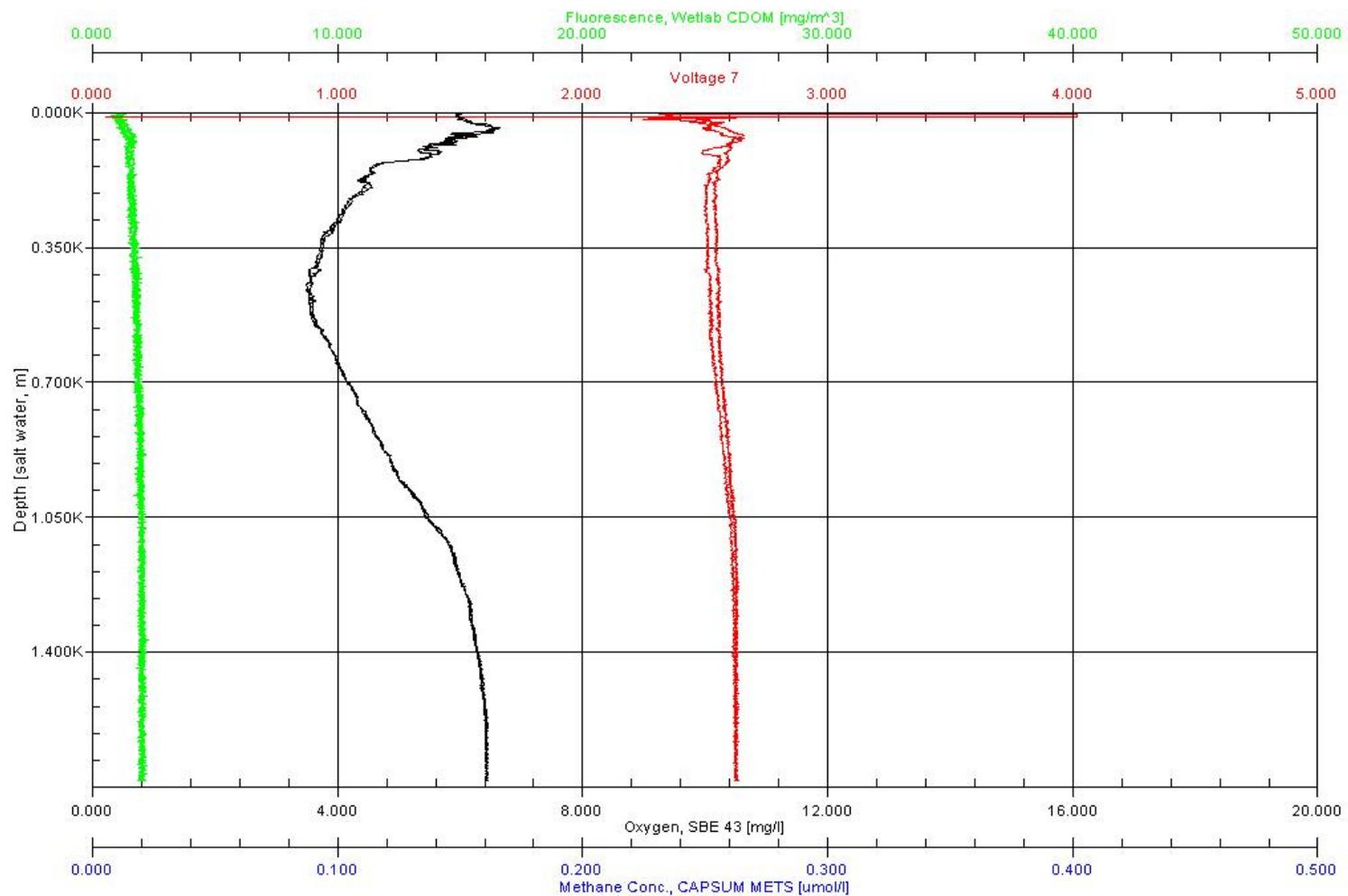


Figure 7. CDOM fluorescence, PAH fluorescence, dissolved oxygen, and methane concentration profiles. The results were obtained for Cruise 15 CTD cast 4 down to 1731m. Water samples were collected at 1731m. Temperature, conductivity and water depth measurements were also recorded from a SBE 19+ system.

Science Operations:

Observations of sea-surface conditions were made throughout. Three CTD casts were completed. The EK-60 echo sounder continuously collects data to evaluate the seabed and water column for possible seeps and to relocate seeps for further investigation and potential casting sites. We continue to analyse water samples using the GCMS.

Problems/operational issues:

No problems or operational issues are reported.

Selected Photographs:

No photographs were taken during the reporting period.

Planned activities for next 24 hours:

The Ryan Chouest will continue on its cruise 15 track investigating possible natural seeps at the Northwestern end of the De Sota Canyon. The "clover leaf" pattern will be used to establish the predominant direction of the seep plume using the echo sounder. A few vertical CTD casts will be attempted over the seep and along the seep plume.

Full Crew List:

Eric Houston	BP	William Smith	MASTER
Brett Bundick	C&C	Brian Corley	Mate
Mathew Baham	C&C	Mark Harmon	A/B
Quinn Guidry	C&C	Ricky Matherne	A/B/Cook
Tim MacEwen	C&C	Lance Broussard	ENG
Craig Smith	C&C	Patric Cousin	A/B
Jen Carlsen	C&C	Trever Dorics	A/B
Xiubin Qi	CSIRO	Patric Anderson	Qmed
Charlotte Stalvies	CSIRO	Jason Bednarski	A/B/Cook
Andy Revill	CSIRO	Eiljah Benjamin	O/S
Stephane Armand	CSIRO	Larry Luke	Crane Op
Gui de Almeida	Entrix		
Carlelton Edmunds	Shaw		
Brad Woolhiser	LR		
Dustin Boettcher	LR		

Important Disclaimer

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interim results only, which require further analysis. No reliance or actions must therefore be made on that information without seeking further expert professional and technical advice.