

## **Second cruise report of POS506, Practical course at sea for students of Biological Oceanography (MNF-bioc-301)**

### **Malmö - Gothenburg -Kiel**

During the second slot of the cruise, we sampled 18 stations, two of which for benthos. Nine stations were sampled in the Kattegat and 9 in the Skagerrak. We intentionally selected deeper stations (deeper than 300 m) in the northern Skagerrak, to be able to compare hydrography and biodiversity between shallow and deep water bodies. Unfortunately, due to technical reasons (type of winch), we could not cast both WP2 and WP3 with closing systems to take depth specific plankton sampling. The WP3 was used to sample the entire water column. The bongo net sampling for the very last station had to be cancelled due to strong wind and risks of material damage.

Both, students and tutors were working in day-night shifts to sort and count samples. We entered Gothenburg harbor on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October around 4 p.m. Samples were analyzed further during the following two days. On October 7<sup>th</sup>, we left the ship in order to visit the Sven Lovén Centre for marine Sciences in Kristineberg, at the Swedish west coast. We received a warm welcome from the head of the center, Prof. Michael Klages, who introduced us to the center, their activities, missions and future perspectives as well as to their cultivation systems and lab facilities. In an interesting talks to the local scientists, we agreed upon using a newly developed jellyfish counter for the next cruise, after they finished the validation phase of the device in January 2017.

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, four master students of Marine Sciences from Gothenburg University visited the ship. Upon their arrival, captain Guenther welcomed them on board and gave a short introduction to Poseidon, and provided some insides into the world of navigation. Our guests participated in our mini symposium, where our students presented the preliminary results of the cruise and discussed the outcome. The guest students also introduced two current projects at their university: one on the invasive jellyfish *Mnemiopsis leidyi* and the second on the

Swedish benthic-lander and its applications. Later on, Swedish students took us for a walk through the oldest part of the city.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of October, we left the harbor of Gothenburg. Dr. Barco and Dr. Pansch presented their own research projects and interests on the way back. Our students have also prepared their text blog to be posted on our ocean blog page, Jelly Meter.

All in all, this was a successful excursion elucidating the distribution and composition of benthic and pelagic communities along a steep salinity gradient and a valuable experience for a group of international students to work and research at sea.