

## SIGNAL 2009

### Weekly Newsletter #1 (Sunday, June 7)

Prior to departure of CCGS Hudson, the technicians and contractors did a great job on the mobilization of the seismic equipment. When the ship left the wharf at BIO on Friday at 10 am, everything was in good shape. Due to the long transit to the first line, there is ample time to do the remaining work on the airgun array, the compressors and the ocean bottom seismometers (OBS). After departure from Halifax, the scientific staff went through a safety briefing followed by a boat and fire drill for the entire crew. After lunch, all new staff participated in a familiarization tour through the ship. During this tour the survival suits were tried on, which is always associated with a lot of laughter. Daily science meetings are held at 11 am just prior to lunch. These meetings are meant to provide updates on the science program and on the weather, but also to address any safety issues.

Our track run parallel to the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia, went through the Cabot Strait and the Strait of Belle Isle into Labrador Sea. Weather conditions are favourable with very calm seas, which help to perform the last remaining tasks to have the equipment ready for the first line. The photo shows the glassy sea and the outrigger that will be used to tow part of the airgun array. At the northern entrance to the Strait of Belle Isle was a zone with 3/10 of ice cover that we had to navigate around and the first icebergs were already seen in the strait. This was the time when many people ran around with their cameras.

We expect to arrive at the western end of line 3 sometime on Tuesday morning. The line runs on the Eirik Ridge and is 280 km long with 24 OBS deployments. The weather forecast is good for Tuesday, with winds between 10 and 20 knots south of Greenland. The latest ice chart also shows that the ice at Kap Farvel is to the north of the line.

For the moment we still have internet connection that comes through the satellite that is used for the TV onboard. From 5 pm to 5 am the internet is closed and the connection is used for TV (hockey games!). However, soon we will get out of the footprint of the satellite and then we have to run our email through the satellite phone. Email addresses will be assigned shortly.

People are in good humour despite the falling temperatures (5 deg C). There is a lot of support by the ship's crew and Captain Martin is happy to do science with us.

Cheers,  
Thomas

