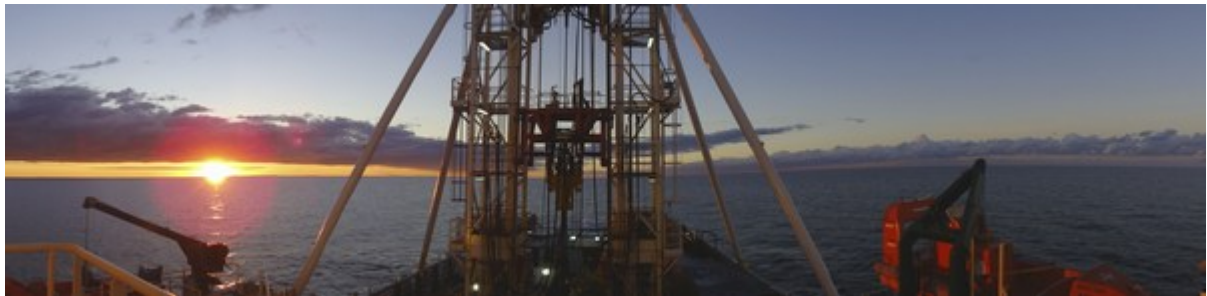


The weather today will be mostly.....

Carol Cotterill

10th October 2103

There are 11 nationalities represented amongst the ESO staff and the science party members offshore....but one of those is the British, and so naturally the weather is an important topic of conversation. We have contact with friends and family back home, and have heard tales of hailstones, Indian summers and beach days, the first scatterings of snow in the Highlands, and the turning of the leaves.....but what about here at sea?



Mary Mowat©ECORD/IODP

We sailed in blue skies and warmth, with people taking advantage of the foredeck during their off-shift hours, to sit and read or chat in the fresh air. This lovely weather followed us for three weeks, with calm seas and high spirits – sailing boats came and went at the weekends and contrails of what we think were military planes formed white streaks in the blue sky. The few showers that we saw on the horizon served to give us some lovely rainbows and not douse us with rain.



Andrea Torti©ECORD/IODP



Anne-Sophie Fanget©ECORD/IODP



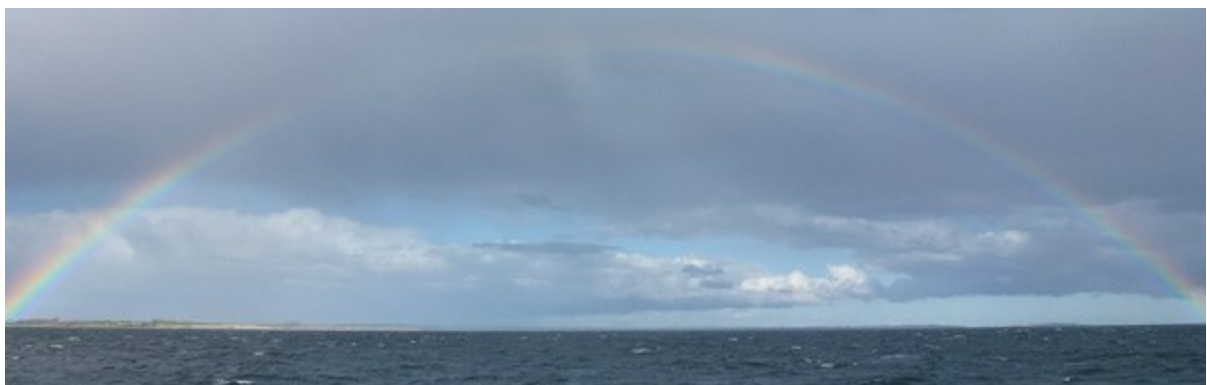
Carol Cotterill©ECORD/IODP



Caroline Slomp©ECORD/IODP



Anne-Sophie Fanget©ECORD/IODP



Carol Cotterill©ECORD/IODP

Up at the two sites in the Ångermanälven River Estuary we were within metres of the shoreline, and could see the Autumnal colours of the trees turning. For some of us this was a welcome reminder of the Scottish highlands, with the “brisk” mornings of -4 degrees in the wind a chance to wrap up warm and enjoy the periodic hot coffee that emerges from various containers. The Finnish amongst us felt right at home, however the Geoquip electrician Damion, hailing from Trinidad and Tobago, was not so enamoured, and was to be heard saying “Man was not made for these temperatures.....man will come outside when its above 7 degrees”! Apparently the correct temperature to be working in is when it is warm enough for your cold beer to form beads of condensation on the glass.....we have no beer onboard so no reliable temperature gauge unfortunately. Suffice to say I know why we say “Its Baltic” when its cold outside!



Dave Smith©ECORD/IODP



Graham Tulloch©ECORD/IODP

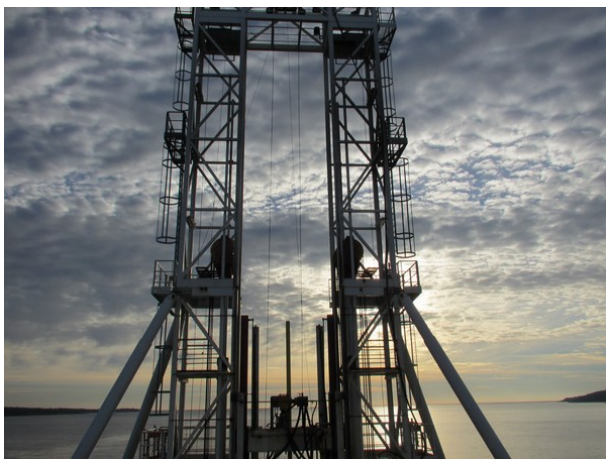
As you might well have noticed from many of the blogs already posted, there is a slight obsession for the sunrises and sunsets which have been spectacular - blazes of orange and red, fading out to dusky pinks and purples, with backlit clouds and sparkling calm seas.



Carol Cotterill©ECORD/IODP



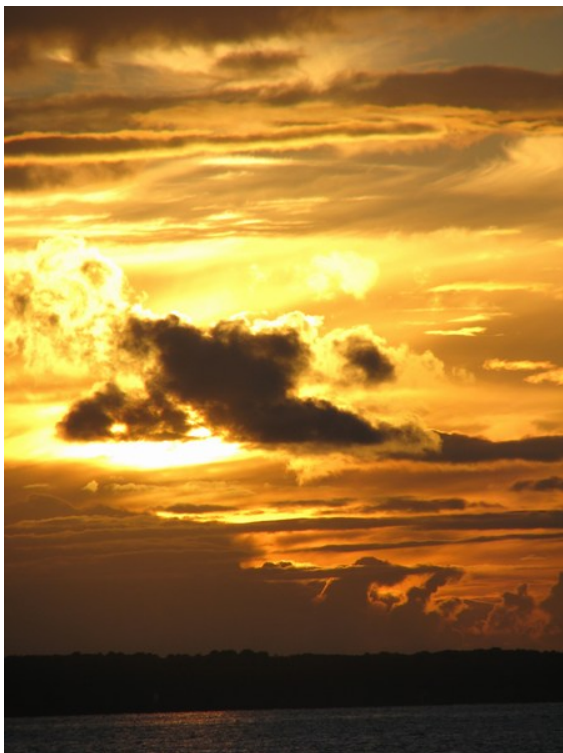
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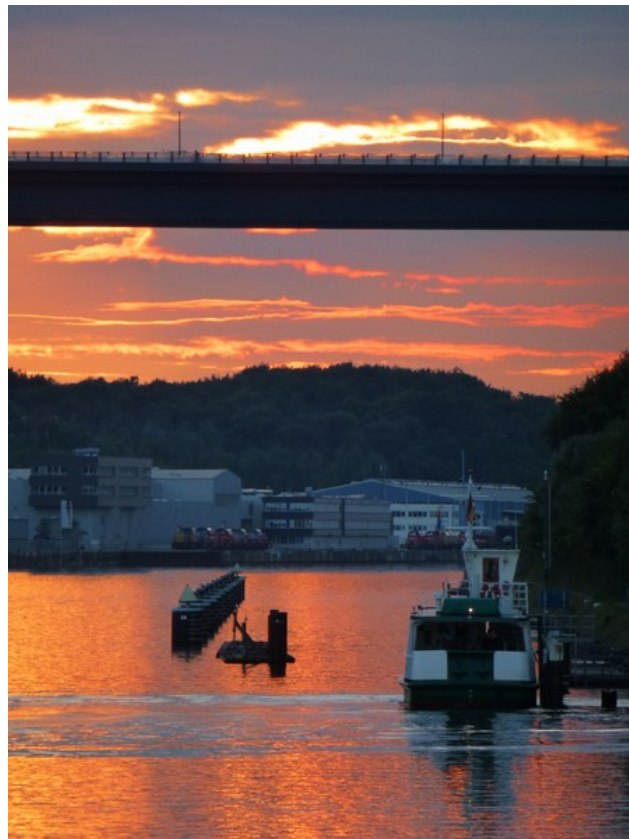
Mary Mowat©ECORD/IODP



Mary Mowat©ECORD/IODP

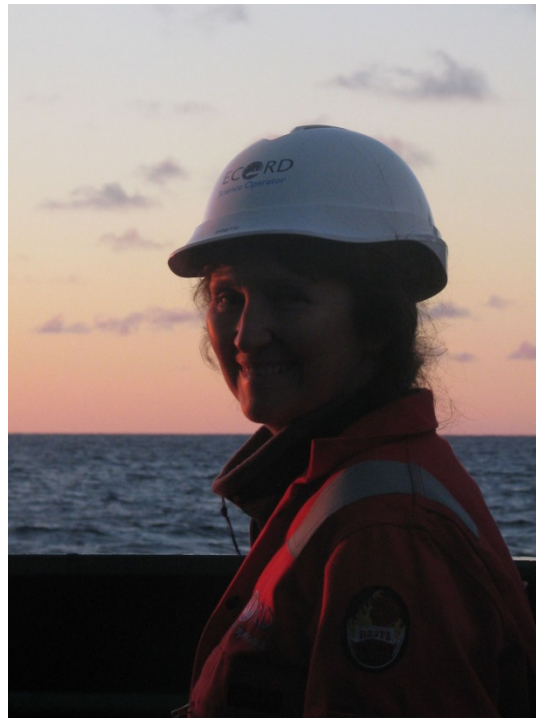


Jeanine Ash©ECORD/IODP



Carol Cotterill©ECORD/IODP

But as the weather draws in and winter approaches, the social occasions where those on shift gather at the stern to take the obligatory photo through the port-holes are becoming few and far between.



Mary Mowat©ECORD/IODP

Last night and this morning were the first indications of what the Baltic might have in store for us.....seas of 3 – 4m waves, lashing rain and overcast skies bringing a strange purple tinge to the skies!



Jeroen Groeneveld©ECORD/IODP

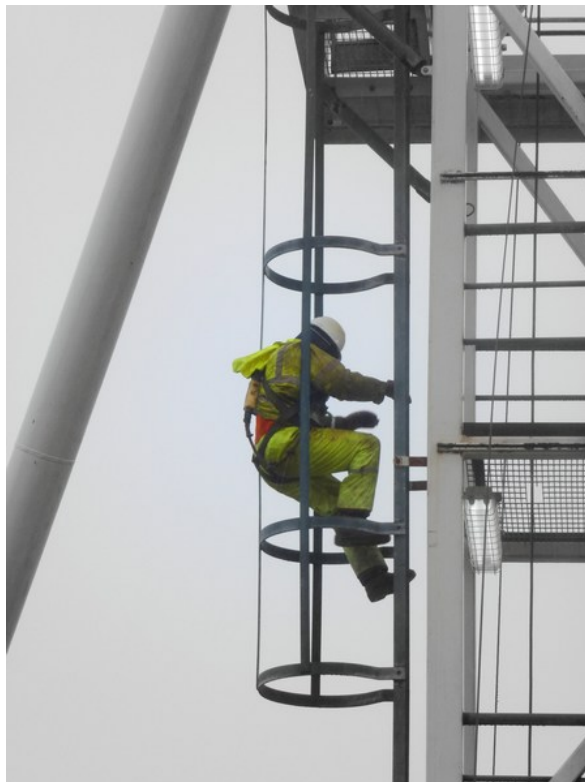
And a strange green tinge to some of those onboard. There was also the appearance of strange fluorescent clad figures stalking the drill floor like some cartoon gone slightly astray.....



Jeroen Groeneveld©ECORD/IODP



Carol Cotterill©ECORD/IODP



Carol Cotterill©ECORD/IODP

We have also had some lovely moon viewings – from full blood red moons to silver crescent moons hanging in the sky above the drilling derrick.



Dalton Hardisty©ECORD/IODP



Jeanine Ash©ECORD/IODP



Dalton Hardisty©ECORD/IODP



Nadine Quintana Krupinski©ECORD/IODP

But today was overcast with (according to the weather forecast) light rains.....light rains?! It was torrential for periods, with low lying clouds and various shades of grey haze out to sea. At times like this, wandering around feeling like a Michelin man in numerous warm and waterproof layers, the ship can feel a little bleak – puddles forming everywhere, the steady drip drip drip of water coming off hard hats and the distinct lack of people on deck unless a core is coming up! But with the forecast

predicting fair weather and light winds from tomorrow we look forward to the sun coming back with blue skies.....but until then the weather will be mostly.....wet!



Carol Cotterill©ECORD/IODP