

Beaufort Gyre Exploration Project: Dispatch 19: Back to "B"

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It's another frigid morning when we arrive back at Mooring B site to redeploy the mooring that we recovered two days earlier. Besides recovering an ITP and deploying an ITP yesterday, the mooring group had work practically nonstop to refurbish the mooring sphere and instruments for the mooring to be deployed today. Snow and frost covers everything on deck, making for slippery conditions. In addition, the cold further complicates the preparations, because frozen pipes and hoses need to be thawed to provide coolant to the mooring winch, and the capstan heads need to be cleared of ice so that the mooring wire doesn't slip on the drums.

Despite the difficulties, the deck crew and WHOI group redeploy the mooring without incident, paying special attention to safety in these severe conditions. Meanwhile, CTD, XCTD, and ice observing studies continue to be carried out around the mooring and buoy operations. Everything has to be carefully orchestrated to ensure that all of the work can be performed in the increasingly shorter days. We've been fortunate to avoid any major storms which would be severely detrimental to completion of the program.

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