

USA

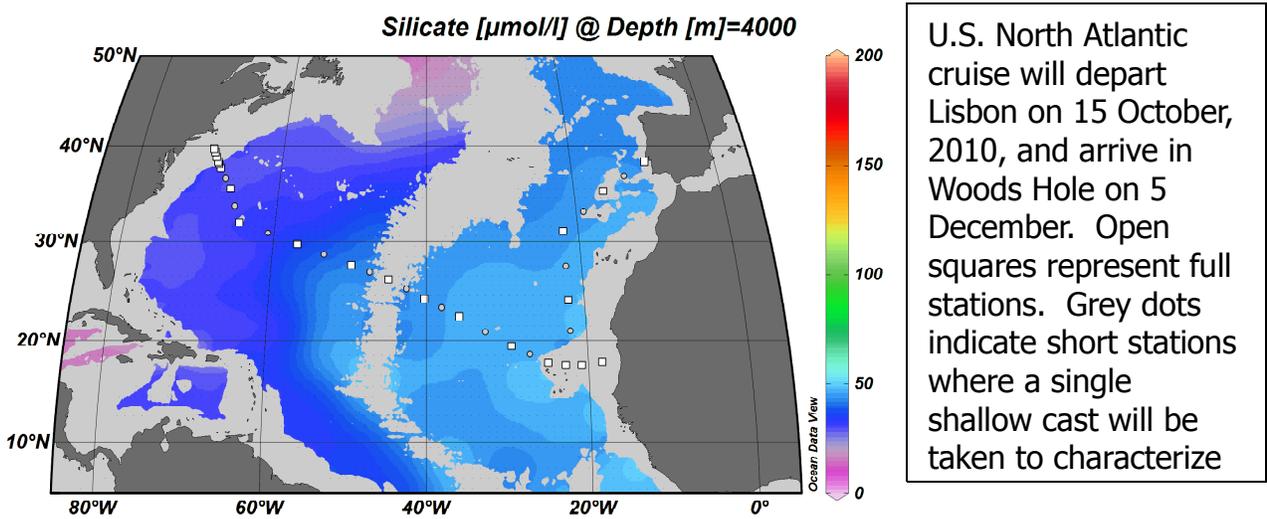
U.S. GEOTRACES scientists have been involved in the following activities during the past year.

1) Intercalibration: U.S. GEOTRACES, together with Greg Cutter (Chair, GEOTRACES Standards and Intercalibrations Committee), hosted the third and final Intercalibration workshop at Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia (8-10 March, 2010). Members of the Standards and Intercalibration standing committee of the international GEOTRACES program participated and reviewed the results of the intercalibration activities. While some further work is required to improve on blanks and on reproducibility for some trace elements and isotopes, it was generally concluded that the international community is ready to proceed with the main phase of the global GEOTRACES field program.

The workshop also provided an opportunity for scientists to complete the GEOTRACES methods manual. The last section was revised during the first week of June, and Greg Cutter reports that he anticipates final editing and distribution of the document for review in July.

2) Planning Workshops: A planning workshop for the U.S. GEOTRACES North Atlantic Zonal Section was held 11-12 March, 2010, at Old Dominion University (hosted by Greg Cutter). Station plans and water budgets were resolved during the workshop. In addition, the cruise was heavily oversubscribed compared to the number of berths available. An important activity of the workshop was to allocate the available berths in a way that enabled all funded projects to carry out their intended sampling. Approximately 24 projects involving approximately 40 principal investigators are funded to participate in, or receive samples from, this cruise. All GEOTRACES key parameters will be covered, as well as a number of additional parameters that will assist in understanding the biogeochemical cycles of trace elements and their isotopes. Additional sampling will be carried out for a number of unfunded studies.

The track for the U.S. North Atlantic cruise has been changed to reduce the number of nations for which permission to work in their EEZ is required. The revised track is shown in the figure below.



3) The U.S. GEOTRACES SSC met 1-2 June, 2010 at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. The U.S. SSC decided to delay the Tahiti-Peru section until early 2013 so that a second planning workshop can be held (tentatively in June, 2011). The general plan for this section was established during a planning workshop in October, 2008. The primary goal of the workshop in 2011 will be to establish priorities among a large suite of parameters that could be measured along the section, but which are not considered to be key TEIs for the GEOTRACES program.

Submitted by Bob Anderson 10 June 2010