

RSS James Cook Returns to Southampton, Expedition Broken Off



On March 9, the Royal Research Ship (RRS) *James Cook* departed from Tenerife on an expedition to measure one of the world's largest systems of ocean currents, the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC). These measurements are to be used to understand the natural variability of the ocean and climate system and its impact on the weather. Owing to travel restrictions as a result of COVID-19, the RRS *James Cook* is currently travelling back to Southampton (UK), and the completion of this expedition has been delayed.

Prior to the [RAPID-AMOC](#) research expedition being broken off, the on-board team were hard at work. This week, they launched the first Argo floats, recovered a Remote Access Sampler and deployed a massive 5,000-metre-long mooring.

4,000 Floats

Although the mooring took four hours to deploy, you can watch a 20-second time lapse on the project Twitter account [@RAPID_AMOC](#). The [Argo float](#) deployed will contribute to the 4,000 floats in the ocean observing system.

The Remote Access Sampler has been collecting in-situ water samples for the last 18 months. This data will help the [ABC fluxes](#) project team enhance understanding about the global impact of carbon and nutrient cycles within the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation.