



JO/D/1311/2018

Sopot, 16.08.2018

The Governor of Svalbard
Syssemmannen på Svalbard
NO-9171 Longyearbyen
Norway

Dear Honorable Governor,

On behalf of Polish scientists and r/v *Oceania* crew who are involved in research around Svalbard, we would like to express our sincere thanks for the swift and efficient support – rescue operation that was offered by the Norwegian Coast Guard vessel NORDKAPP to our research vessel *Oceania* on 15 August 2018.

The day before, on 14 August, our ship while steaming for the research station on the Svalbard shelf hit the underwater ghost net, which blocked the propeller and immobilized the engine. Inspection with an underwater camera performed by the crew revealed the mass of nylon rope wrapped around the propeller – the problem that crew could not resolve themselves. Our captain contacted the Norwegian Coast Guard and the Syssemmannen office in Longyearbyen (*Oceania* was about 100 NM from Longyearbyen) and immediately the rescue operation was launched, that resulted in arrival of K/V Norkapp with divers to the scene, only several hours later. The problem was quickly resolved, nets were removed, and *Oceania* could safely continue her survey.

This excellent operation was offered free of charge, what we read as a great sign of solidarity and friendship demonstrated so many times by Norwegians towards Poles working in the Svalbard region.

Thank you very much for this help and your support will not be forgotten.

Sincerely yours,

Director

Prof. Jan Marcin Węśławski



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