

Shor reports two research ships-- Argo and Horizon-- are sailing across the Indian Ocean for a week-end stop at island of Mauritius

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Two research ships of the University of California's Scripps Institution of Oceanography are sailing across the Indian Ocean for a week-end stop at the small island of Mauritius, where a new team of scientific leaders will take over the 13-month expedition.

Mauritius is a small island lying east of Madagascar in the western Indian Ocean. The ships are Argo and Horizon. Since late September the ships have been conducting investigations under the scientific leadership of Dr. Norris W. Rakestraw and Dr. George G. Shor, both of La Jolla, members of the Scripps staff.

Flying to Mauritius to assume leadership of the expedition are Dr. Russell W. Raitt, Scripps geophysicist from La Jolla, and Dr. Robert L. Fisher, Scripps geologist from Cardiff. Argo and Horizon are due in Mauritius on October 26 and will sail on October 29. Their route will take them across the southern part of the Indian Ocean to Fremantle, Australia where they will arrive on November 29. Argo's route will carry her far south to 49 degrees south latitude, to tiny, French-owned Kerguelen Island.

In a radioed progress report received this week by Scripps, Shor reported that to date the expedition, working southward from southern India, has made 17 seismic runs, 23 heat probes, 21 cores, three large-volume water stations. The seismic runs are intended to show the structure of the earth's crust beneath the sea. The heat-flow measurements and cores offer other information on the nature of the crust. The large-volume water stations are designed to collect samples of sea water for chemical analysis. The structure of the sea floor in the northern part of the ocean surveyed is very similar to that in the Pacific, Shor reported.

Argo sailed from San Diego on May 15 and will not return until July 1963. She sailed westward to the Indian Ocean. Horizon sailed through the Panama Canal and eastward, joining Argo in India late in September. She will return in February via the Pacific.

The expedition, called Lusiad Expedition, is one of the United States' contribution to the International Indian Ocean Expedition.