A cruise to the Norwegian Sea was intended [25 Aug. to 30 Sept. 1969]. Due to repairs of an engine failure which had occurred during cruise 17, METEOR could not undertake this cruise. The planned scientific programme was carried out by PLANET which also participated in this project. After completion of the repairs METEOR undertook a short cruise to the North Sea for the sole purpose of testing the engine. This trial cruise was given the No. 18, although no scientific programme was carried out. The planning of the cruises to follow had already advanced so far that their re-numbering was not possible. The originally planned Canaries Expedition (cruise No. 19) had to be postponed to the year 1970.