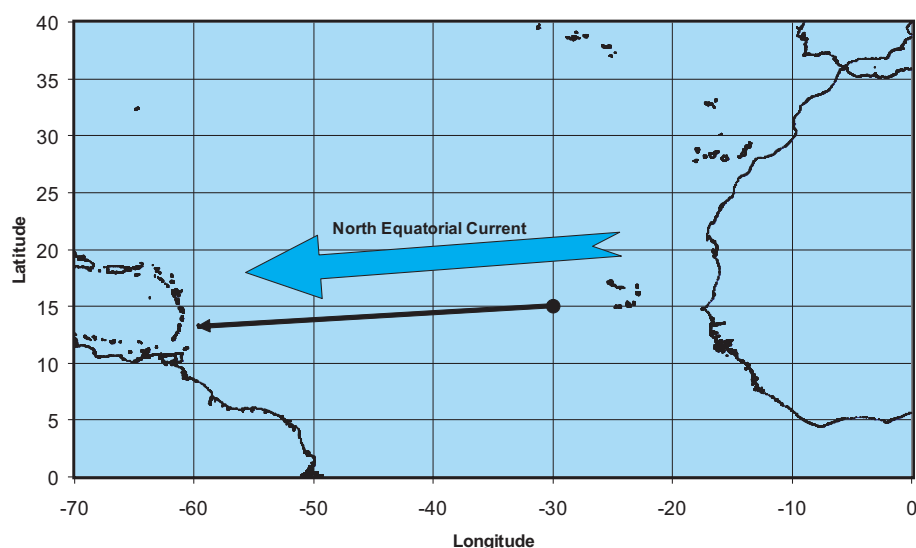


## MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE...

Contributor: C. Veth\*

During the R.V. Pelagia research cruise 64PE248 (bsik/LOCO-IW06) in the Canary Basin region, a bottle with a message has been launched on the 1st of June 2006 near mooring LOCO-18/3 at position 15° North, 30° West, just West of the Cape Verde islands. The bottle was found by Pat Stafford at Long Beach, on the southern most point of Barbados, West Indies on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2006. Apparently the bottle took the slave route from the Cape Verde islands to the West Indies, following the North Equatorial Current. The bottle has traveled more than 3000 km in about 172 days, giving an average speed of  $0.22 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  (~0.5 knts).

The release of the “bottle with a message” was promised during the the 2005 National Science Contest organized by the Dutch TV station VPRO and the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO).



27



photo by J.P.C. van Breevoort