

**NOAA SHIP OKEANOS EXPLORER R-337**  
*“America’s Ship for Ocean Exploration”*

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NOAA OCEAN EXPLORATION AND RESEARCH SITUATION REPORT FOR March 19, 2012

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CRUISE: EX1202L2 Gulf Of Mexico  
Exploration

DATE/TIME FILED: 03/20/12 2100 EDT  
FILED BY: Jeremy Potter  
VESSEL: NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer*  
(EX)

GEOGRAPHIC AREA: In transit from  
Tampa to Dive Site 001

MISSION PERSONNEL ON BOARD:

NOAA / OER:  
Dave Lovalvo (NOAA OER)  
Meme Lobecker (NOAA OER)  
Webb Pinner (NOAA OER)  
Jeremy Potter (NOAA OER)  
LTJG Brian Kennedy (NOAA OER)

OTHERS:

Tim Shank (WHOI/UCAR)  
Pen-Yuan Hsing (Penn State/UCAR)  
Dave Wright (OER/UCAR)  
Roland Brian (OER/UCAR)  
Art Howard (OER/UCAR)  
Ed McNichol (OER/UCAR)  
Thomas Kok (OER/UCAR)  
Gregg Diffendale (OER/UCAR)  
Bobby Mohr (OER/UCAR)  
Karl McLetchie (OER/UCAR)  
Jeff Williams (OER/UCAR)  
Tara Smithee (Stanford/UCAR)  
Christopher Pinero (OER/UCAR)

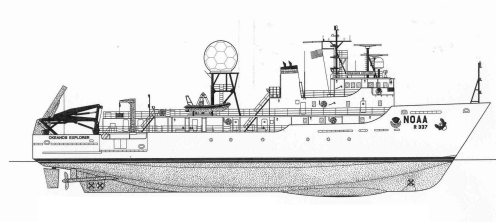
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**SUMMARY:**

The NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* left port to begin EX-12-02 Leg II at 1000 EDT. Following required annual operations to ‘swing compass’, the ship passed the Tampa sea buoy at approximately Tampa 1700 EDT. SCS and mapping operations began while in transit to the EX-12-02 Leg II Dive 001. All Teams continued trouble-shooting to prepare for Leg II operations.

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### **SURVEY:**

Multibeam sonar EM 302 and Single Beam sonar EK 60 data were collected. A brief multibeam survey of the dive area was planned.

### **SCIENCE:**

Science Team continued preparations for the beginning of Leg II operations. A draft list of ROV dive targets for the entire Leg was distributed to shore-side participants for comment. Elliott provided the second of two Collaboration Tools Training sessions from Silver Spring. On board Science Team members familiarized themselves with on board systems and procedures.

### **TELEPRESENCE:**

Telepresence Team continued preparations for Leg II operations. Expected shore-side participants reported various quality levels of video. WHOI and the ISC reported degraded I2 video quality. LSU, SS, and Temple reported high quality I2 video. I1 video quality started high but degraded in the morning. It improved again at night. ISC staff continued trouble-shooting. Both I2 and I1 issues are related to the shore-side network and beyond direct NOAA control. Stennis ECC is not yet active.

### **VSAT:**

Though the VSAT was fully operational, ship and mission personnel experienced very slow internet. Chief ET and Telepresence Lead identified a strong surge in ship-based activity soon after high speed was activated. They traced the surge in inbound bandwidth requests to a few shipboard computers – primarily iPads. Once those platforms were shut off traffic returned to normal.

### **DATA MANAGEMENT:**

Leg II data collection began.

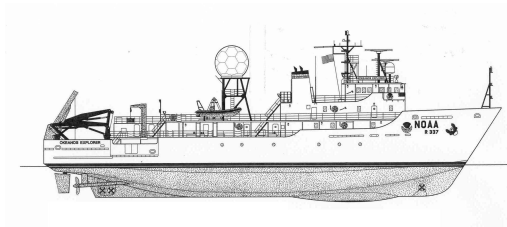
### **ROV:**

ROV personnel continued preparations for Dive 001.

### **BOW/STERN THRUSTER:**

No update.





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**OTHER:**

Ship command and Mission Team Leads spoke with Bob Haddad, NOAA Office of Response and Restoration, about ongoing Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) activities in the Gulf of Mexico and issues to be aware of during EX-12-02 Legs II and III.

**- PLAN OF THE DAY -**

Tuesday March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012

<b>0000</b>	<b>Underway as before Mapping Operations</b>
<b>~0730</b>	<b>Arrive at Dive Location Rocky Scarp</b>
<b>0745</b>	<b>Safety Brief (Bridge)</b>
<b>~0800</b>	<b>Commence ROV deployment</b>
<b>1500</b>	<b>Ops Brief (Forward Lounge)</b>
<b>~1700</b>	<b>ROV on deck/ start overnight mapping</b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Resume Overboard Discharge</b>

- Conduct ROV dive in DP
- Continue multibeam operations
- XBTs conducted as necessary

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END OF SITUATION REPORT

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