

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 20, 2012

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CRUISE: EX1202L2 Gulf Of Mexico
Exploration

DATE/TIME FILED: 03/20/12 2200 EDT
FILED BY: Jeremy Potter
VESSEL: NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer*
(EX)

GEOGRAPHIC AREA:
West Florida Escarpment

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)

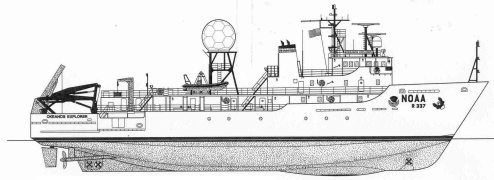
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SUMMARY:

The NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* conducted a brief multibeam survey overnight in the area surrounding the dive target for EX-12-02 Leg II Dive 001. At approximately 0830, ship and mission crew launched *Little Herc* and *Seiros* for the first dive of the 2012 field season. The target was a rocky scarp on the shelf at a depth of ~450m. Shore-side video problems continued. The ROV and Camera Platform were safely recovered by 1700. Mapping operations continued following recovery.

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SURVEY:

Multibeam sonar EM 302 and Single Beam sonar EK 60 data were collected. The Mapping Team completed a brief multibeam survey of the dive area and created bathymetry and backscatter products to facilitate dive target selection. Night mapping operations continued to expand previous surveys. Data quality degraded in the late evening due to weather. Training of new mapping watchstanders continued. Daily products have been delayed but are expected to resume 3/21.

SCIENCE:

Mission personnel engaged a largely new group of shoreside science participants. Shore-side participation varied during the dive but included individuals from Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, University of North Carolina – Wilmington, Temple University, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center, NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, Louisiana State University, C&C Technologies, and NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. As expected, there was steep learning associated with the Collaboration Tools for some participants. The need to change the I1 viewing link increased confusion for some.

TELEPRESENCE:

Telepresence Team continued assisting shore-side participants and trouble-shooting on board internet issues. 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. The I1 issue is related to a bottleneck at URI. Shore-side personnel are working to identify solutions. Both I2 and I1 issues are related to the shore-side network and beyond direct NOAA control. Stennis ECC is not yet active.

Due to a degraded I1 signal, Kelley Elliott set-up an Adobe Connect work-around that shared the Silver Spring ECC monitors with shore-side science participants whose participation is dependent upon an I1 feed. Though certainly not perfect, several scientists commented following the dive that it was a vast improvement.

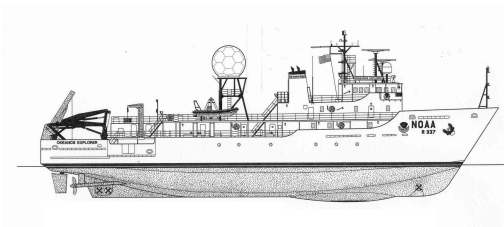
VSAT:

Shipboard internet speeds have improved since Monday.

DATA MANAGEMENT:

Development of some products have been delayed but are expected to resume on 3/21.





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ROV:

ROV personnel completed the first dive evolution of the 2012 field season. No issues.

BOW/STERN THRUSTER:

Ship personnel are monitoring the bow thruster temperature.

OTHER:

- Gulf of Mexico 2012 Expedition offering is live on oceanexplorer.noaa.gov. Additional background content will be posted in the coming days. The Internet 1 feed is not yet available to the public.

- PLAN OF THE DAY -

Wednesday March 21th, 2012

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

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

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END OF SITUATION REPORT

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