

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 21, 2012

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CRUISE: EX1202L2 Gulf Of Mexico
Exploration

DATE/TIME FILED: 03/22/12 2000 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)

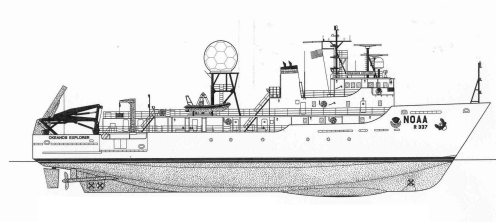
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SUMMARY:

The NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* continued overnight mapping operations on the shelf adjacent to the Florida Escarpment. The ROV dive at the Shoulder Basin was cancelled due to opposing wind/waves and currents. Ship and Mission personnel adapted to continue mapping operations throughout the day and through the night.

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SURVEY:

Multibeam sonar EM 302 and Single Beam sonar EK 60 data were collected. There are insufficient Mapping Team members on board to support 24-hr mapping operations. When the ROV dive was cancelled, ROV personnel – previously cross-trained as mapping watchstanders – served as mapping watchstanders. Data quality degraded in the late evening/early morning due to weather. Training of new mapping watchstanders continued. Fledermaus 7 is being used to create daily bathymetry products. Cumulative geotiffs and kmz are being created despite known offsets.

Due to instability issues, survey reverted to using Caris 6.1 instead of 7.1 .

SCIENCE:

On board Science Team members spent much of the day working to identify an appropriate dive target for 3/22. Various options and back-up plans were discussed

TELEPRESENCE:

Telepresence Team continued assisting shore-side participants and trouble-shooting on board issues. The I1 issue remains problematic. URI is working to address the situation but moving the I1 equipment to an alternate location (e.g., Silver Spring, PMEL) is being considered. Both I2 and I1 issues are related to the shore-side network and beyond direct NOAA control. Stennis ECC is not yet active.

VSAT:

Shipboard internet speeds remain improved.

DATA MANAGEMENT:

Development of daily products resumed.

ROV:

Subset of ROV personnel served as mapping watchstanders during the day.

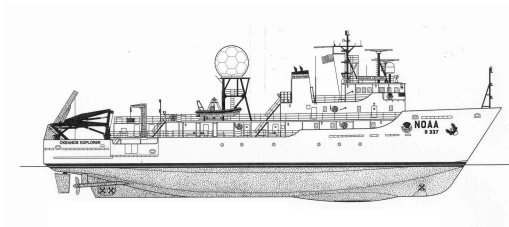
BOW/STERN THRUSTER:

None.

OTHER:

None.





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- PLAN OF THE DAY -

Thursday March 22nd, 2012

0000	Underway as before Mapping Operations
0400	Arrive at primary dive site and assess conditions. Transit to back-up location if necessary.
~0730	Arrive at feasible dive location
0745	Safety Brief (Bridge)
~0800	Commence ROV deployment
1500	Ops Brief (Forward Lounge)
~1700	ROV on deck/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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