

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 23, 2012

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CRUISE: EX1202L2 Gulf Of Mexico
Exploration

DATE/TIME FILED: 03/24/12 1000 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)

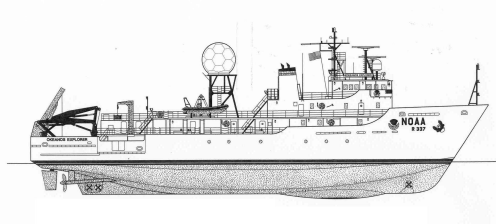
OTHERS:
Tim Shank (WHOI/UCAR)
Pen-Yuan Hsing (Penn State/UCAR)
Dave Wright (OER/UCAR)
Roland Brian (OER/UCAR)
Art Howard (OER/UCAR)
Ed McNichol (OER/UCAR)
Thomas Kok (OER/UCAR)
Gregg Diffendale (OER/UCAR)
Bobby Mohr (OER/UCAR)
Karl McLetchie (OER/UCAR)
Jeff Williams (OER/UCAR)
Tara Smithee (Stanford/UCAR)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

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SUMMARY:

23-March was the smoothest day of operations to date. The NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* conducted overnight mapping operations along the West Florida Escarpment. At approximately 0830, ship and mission crew launched *Little Herc* and *Seirios* for the third dive of the 2012 field season. The target was a canyon area along the Escarpment. Most shore-side video issues have improved. The ROV and Camera Platform were safely recovered by 1800. Mapping operations continued following recovery. The electrical fire in Silver Spring affected oceanexplorer.noaa.gov web development servers. The website cannot currently be updated.





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SURVEY:

Multibeam sonar EM 302 and Single Beam sonar EK 60 data were collected. 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.

SCIENCE:

Mission personnel continue engaging a largely new group of shoreside science participants. Though there is still a steep learning associated with the Collaboration Tools for some participants, the amount of assistance required from ship and shore Mission personnel is declining.

Combined use of a telecon, Adobe Connect, I2, URI Internet 1 links, and the eventlogger continues.

During the ascent meeting, scientists noted the dramatic improvement in I1 feeds.

TELEPRESENCE:

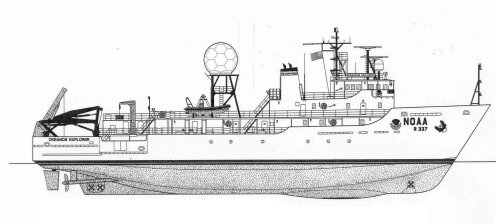
Telepresence Team continued assisting shore-side participants and trouble-shooting various systems. Shore-side participants reported various quality levels of video. Silver Spring is currently inoperable. WHOI reverted to using I1 since I2 video quality is poor. LSU and Temple report high quality I2 video. The I1 issue at URI appears to be resolved.

Stennis succeeded in accessing both I2 video and audio for the first time today. We plan a slow ‘spin-up’ at Stennis ECC. Some limited science participation is expected there during the second half of Leg II.

Because the SS ECC is inoperable, Skarke continued to initiate the Adobe Connect work-around from UNH. We will continue using it through the weekend. If I1 remains stable through Sunday, we will terminate use of Adobe Connect.

The bridge that Pinner and ISC staff initiated yesterday to improve audio comms with scientists at non-ECC locations did not work today. The issue is believed to be at the ISC. The EX reverted back to directly dialing into the ROV telecom via VOIP.





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VSAT:

NOAA restored connectivity to all NOAA ships.

DATA MANAGEMENT:

Maritime heritage-related ROV dives and the need to protect location/position information have dramatic implications for the Data Management Team. Discussions continue.

ROV:

ROV personnel completed a third successful dive.

BOW/STERN THRUSTER:

Ship personnel are closely monitoring the bow thruster temperature. Chief Engineer initiated another short-term cooling mechanism. HPU temperature appeared steady at 120°.

OTHER:

- Pinner, Lovalvo, Potter approved Dive 01 highlights video produced by onboard videographer. We hope to have first two available to Web Coordinator for posting on Monday.

- PLAN OF THE DAY -

Saturday March 24th, 2012

0000	Underway as before Mapping Operations
~0730	Arrive at Dive Location West Florida Escarpment 1
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



END OF SITUATION REPORT