

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 24, 2012

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CRUISE: EX1202L2 Gulf Of Mexico
Exploration

DATE/TIME FILED: 03/25/12 0900 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)

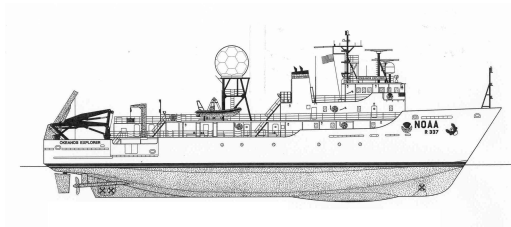
Christopher Pinero (OER/UCAR)

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SUMMARY:

The NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* conducted overnight mapping operations along the West Florida Escarpment. At approximately 0830, ship and mission crew launched *Little Herc* and *Seirios* for the fourth dive of the 2012 field season. The target was a canyon area at the base of the Escarpment. Most shore-side video issues have improved. The ROV and Camera Platform were safely recovered by 1700. Mapping operations continued following recovery. The website remains impacted from the Silver Spring fire.





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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:

A core team of interested shore-side scientists seems to be emerging during ROV dives. Combined use of a telecon, Adobe Connect, I2, URI Internet 1 links, and the eventlogger continues.

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 is using I1 due to poor I2 video. LSU and Temple report high quality I2 video. The I1 issue at URI appears to be resolved. We are planning for a slow start-up for the Stennis ECC.

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 ISC continues to trouble-shoot RTS issues. EX Team continues to work to identify the best mechanism to enable two-way audio discussion with shore-side scientists at non-ECC locations.

VSAT:

None.

DATA MANAGEMENT:

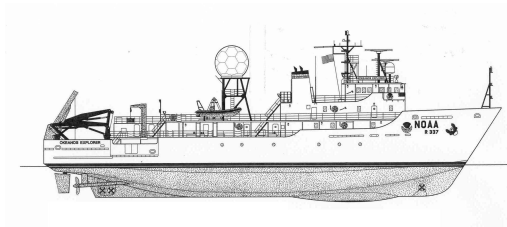
None.

ROV:

ROV personnel completed a fourth successful dive.

BOW/STERN THRUSTER:





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Ship personnel are closely monitoring the bow thruster temperature. The new temporary cooling mechanism seems to be working well. The HPU temperature appeared steady at 120°.

OTHER:

- PLAN OF THE DAY -

Sunday March 25th, 2012

0000	Underway as before Mapping Operations
~0730	Arrive at Dive Location
0745	Safety Brief (Bridge)
~0800	Commence ROV deployment
1500	Ops Brief (Forward Lounge)
~1700	ROV on deck/ start overnight mapping and CTD operations
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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