

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 25, 2012

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CRUISE: EX1202L2 Gulf Of Mexico
Exploration

DATE/TIME FILED: 03/26/12 0700 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)

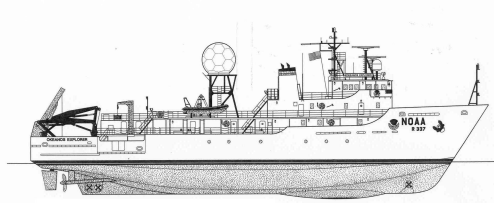
OTHERS:
Tim Shank (WHOI/UCAR)
Pen-Yuan Hsing (Penn State/UCAR)
Dave Wright (OER/UCAR)
Roland Brian (OER/UCAR)
Art Howard (OER/UCAR)
Ed McNichol (OER/UCAR)
Thomas Kok (OER/UCAR)
Gregg Diffendale (OER/UCAR)
Bobby Mohr (OER/UCAR)
Karl McLetchie (OER/UCAR)
Jeff Williams (OER/UCAR)
Tara Smithee (Stanford/UCAR)
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 fifth dive of the 2012 field season. The target was a steep hardbottom anomaly at the base of the Escarpment. Most shore-side video issues have improved. The ROV and Camera Platform were safely recovered by 1700. A shallow test vertical CTD cast was conducted. 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. Fledermaus scene files created during the ROV dive planning process are being provided to shore in the multibeam folder under /OkeanosCruises/EX1202L2/Multibeam/EX1202L2_MB_HIRES. The scene files typically include the following layers: 1) backscatter mosaics draped over bathymetry; 2) bathymetry; and 3) start / end points of dive.

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 continued.

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 and I1 feed testing continued, Skarke initiated the Adobe Connect work-around from UNH. Now that personnel are confident that the I1 feed is stable, use of Adobe Connect will be discontinued.

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. Today, the ship dialed directly into the telecom using the VOIP line. After some audio adjustments during descent, it seemed to work well.

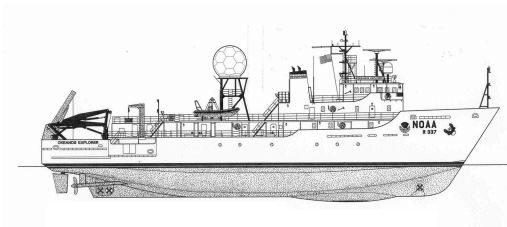
VSAT:

None.

DATA MANAGEMENT:

None.





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ROV:

ROV personnel completed a fifth successful dive.

BOW/STERN THRUSTER:

None.

OTHER:

- Mark Schrope, a freelance journalist, inquired about visiting Stennis as part of a story about *Okeanos Explorer* telepresence operations.

- PLAN OF THE DAY -

Monday March 26th, 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
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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