

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 26, 2012

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CRUISE: EX1202L2 Gulf Of Mexico
Exploration

DATE/TIME FILED: 03/27/12 0900 EDT
FILED BY: Jeremy Potter
VESSEL: NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer*
(EX)

GEOGRAPHIC AREA:
DeSoto Canyon

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)

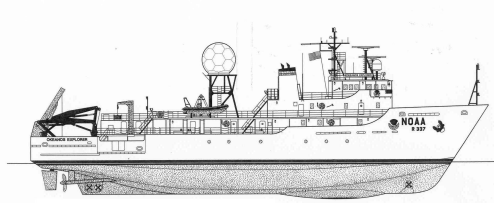
OTHERS:
Tim Shank (WHOI/UCAR)
Pen-Yuan Hsing (Penn State/UCAR)
Dave Wright (OER/UCAR)
Roland Brian (OER/UCAR)
Art Howard (OER/UCAR)
Ed McNichol (OER/UCAR)
Thomas Kok (OER/UCAR)
Gregg Diffendale (OER/UCAR)
Bobby Mohr (OER/UCAR)
Karl McLetchie (OER/UCAR)
Jeff Williams (OER/UCAR)
Tara Smithee (Stanford/UCAR)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

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SUMMARY:

The NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* (EX) conducted overnight mapping operations along the West Florida Escarpment. At approximately 0830, ship and mission crew launched *Little Herc* and *Seirios* for the sixth dive of the 2012 field season. The dive included the first test of mid-water ROV operations from the EX. The ROV and Camera Platform were safely recovered by 1700. One of the I2 video feeds appeared to slowly degrade during the day. It was corrected by mid-evening. 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, I2, URI Internet 1 links, and the eventlogger continued. Adobe Connect was restarted during the dive to provide an alternative option for scientists.

TELEPRESENCE:

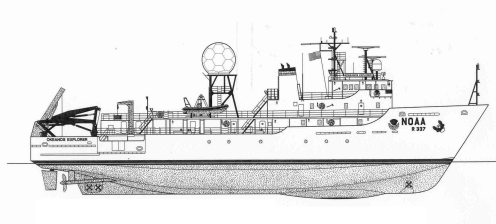
Telepresence Team continued assisting shore-side participants and trouble-shooting various systems. Shore-side participants reported various quality levels of video. All shore-side participants noted one degrading video feed during the day. In the evening, Pinner downloaded an older configuration file and noted difference between current and previous video settings. After restoring previous settings, video markedly improved. Telepresence Team will continue to monitor video quality.

Silver Spring is operational again.

The I1 issue at URI appears to be largely resolved but a bug was noted in the oceanexplorer I1 video feeds. The bug cannot be fixed until the web development servers are operational again.

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. For the second day in a row, the ship dialed directly into the telecom using the VOIP line. After some audio adjustments during descent, it seemed to work well.





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VSAT:
None.

DATA MANAGEMENT:

Ship and shore-side personnel prepared for the first planned marine archaeology dive on Tuesday March 27. In anticipation of the Tuesday dive, Pinner disabled Collaboration Tools accounts for shore-side personnel that had not signed a requested Non-Disclosure Agreement.

ROV:

ROV personnel completed a sixth successful dive. Dive included the first mid-water tests for science operations. Two different configurations of the ship, *Little Herc*, and *Seirios* were tried. The second figuration with *Little Herc* below *Seirios* – instead of stretched out at the same depth - worked better given conditions yesterday.

BOW/STERN THRUSTER:

Ship personnel are monitoring the bow thruster HPU temperature.

OTHER:

- Oceanexplorer website remains impacted from the Silver Spring fire.

- PLAN OF THE DAY -

Tuesday March 27th, 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



END OF SITUATION REPORT