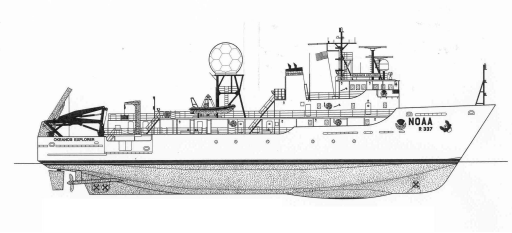

NOAA SHIP OKEANOS EXPLORER R-337

"America's Ship for Ocean Exploration"

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NOAA OCEAN EXPLORATION AND RESEARCH SITUATION REPORT FOR March 27, 2012

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CRUISE: EX1202L2 Gulf Of Mexico Exploration

DATE/TIME FILED: 03/27/12 2200 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 seventh dive of the 2012 field season. The dive included the first ROV operations from the EX in direct support of maritime archaeology. 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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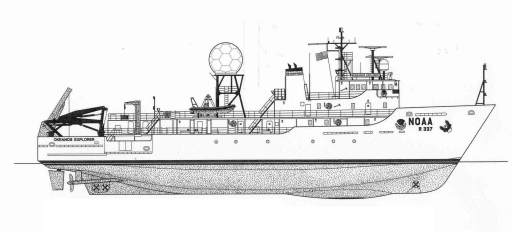

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SURVEY:

Multibeam sonar EM 302 and Single Beam sonar EK 60 data were collected. 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. The Sub-bottom Profiler was run last night for ~1 hour over the martime archeology site to. Sub-bottom Profiler data has not been processed yet.

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.

Today marked the greatest use of Collaboration Tools and the telecon during any dive for this Expedition. This was largely driven by strong participation by marine archaeologists.

TELEPRESENCE:

Telepresence Team continued assisting shore-side participants and trouble-shooting various systems. Shore-side participants reported various quality levels of video. The ISC voluntarily began sending a unicast feed to WHOI. Telepresence Team will continue to monitor video quality.

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/video 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 third day in a row, the ship dialed directly into the telecom using the VOIP line.

VSAT:

None.

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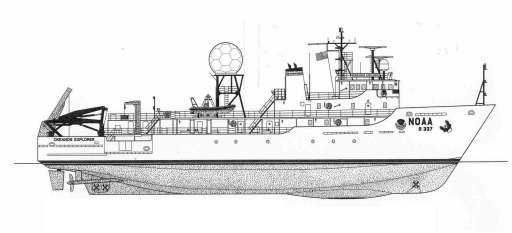

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DATA MANAGEMENT:

Pinner disabled Collaboration Tools accounts for shore-side personnel that had not signed a requested Non-Disclosure Agreement. SCS emails to shiptracker, SAMOS and NCDDC were shut down throughout the day. Once the ship transited 3NM away from the maritime archeological site, all systems were turned on to resume normal

ROV:

ROV personnel completed a seventh successful dive. Dive included the first maritime archaeology ROV work on the EX. Operations went very smoothly

BOW/STERN THRUSTER:

Engineering cleared out a few restrictions/blockages in the bow thruster heat exchanger and have opened the scuttle hatch to the bow for extra cooling to the bow thruster. Ship personnel continue to monitor the bow thruster HPU temperature. Premilimary results show that these temporary fixes have stabilized the bow thruster HPU temperature for the time being; however, the ship still plans/needs to have a more permanent robust fix for the bow thruster.

OTHER:

- Oceanexplorer website remains impacted from the Silver Spring fire.

- PLAN OF THE DAY –

Wednesdy March 28th, 2012

0000	**Underway as before Mapping Operations**
~0730	**Arrive at Dive Location #8**
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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