

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 28, 2012

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CRUISE: EX1202L2 Gulf Of Mexico
Exploration

DATE/TIME FILED: 03/29/12 2030 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:

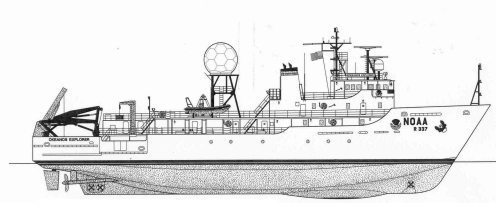
Tim Shank (WHOI/UCAR)
Pen-Yuan Hsing (Penn State/UCAR)
Dave Wright (OER/UCAR)
Roland Brian (OER/UCAR)
Art Howard (OER/UCAR)
Ed McNichol (OER/UCAR)
Thomas Kok (OER/UCAR)
Gregg Diffendale (OER/UCAR)
Bobby Mohr (OER/UCAR)
Karl McLetchie (OER/UCAR)
Jeff Williams (OER/UCAR)
Tara Smithee (Stanford/UCAR)
Christopher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

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SUMMARY:

The NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* (EX) conducted overnight mapping operations to extend coverage of the DeSoto Canyon area. At approximately 0830, ship and mission crew launched *Little Herc* and *Seirios* for the eighth dive of the 2012 field season. The ROV and Camera Platform were safely recovered by 1700. Mapping operations continued following recovery. The Web Team regained access to the website development servers.





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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 for ~1 hour over the dive site. 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.

TELEPRESENCE:

Telepresence Team continued assisting shore-side participants and trouble-shooting various systems. Shore-side participants reported various quality levels of video. WHOI video issues have improved since the ISC starting sending them a unicast feed. Telepresence Team will continue to monitor video quality.

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 fourth day in a row, the ship dialed directly into the telecom using the VOIP line.

VSAT:

None.

DATA MANAGEMENT:

None

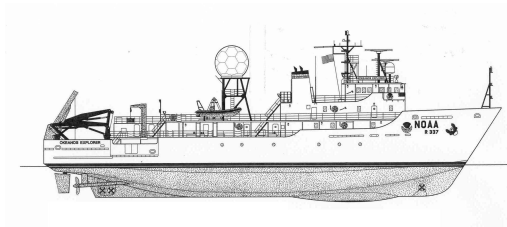
ROV:

ROV personnel completed a eighth successful dive. Operations went very smoothly

BOW/STERN THRUSTER:

Ship personnel continue to monitor the bowthruster HPU temperature.





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OTHER:

- Oceanexplorer website updates started in earnest.
- Mark Schrope, freelance reporter, cancelled tentative plans to visit the ECC this week.
- Discovery Canada’s visit to the EX during the Pascagoula inport is doubtful.
- NOAA Office of Legislative Affairs distributed expedition information, including live video links, to Capitol Hill contacts.

- PLAN OF THE DAY -

Thursday March 29th, 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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