

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 29, 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:

Western 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)

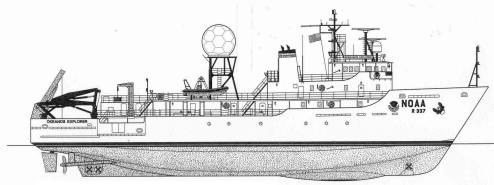
Christopher Pinero (OER/UCAR)

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SUMMARY:

The NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* (EX) conducted overnight mapping operations extended coverage along the northern portion of the DeSoto Canyon area . At approximately 0830, ship and mission crew launched *Little Herc* and *Seirios* for the ninth dive of the 2012 field season. The dive included the second ROV dive from the EX in direct support of maritime archaeology. The ROV and Camera Platform were safely recovered by 1700. Mapping operations continued following recovery.





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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.

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 dive included substantive use of Collaboration Tools and the telecom. This was again largely driven by strong participation by marine archaeologists.

TELEPRESENCE:

Telepresence Team continued assisting shore-side participants and trouble-shooting various systems. Practically all shore-side participants reported very high quality internet feeds. The only issue was likely due to limited bandwidth at one particular location. 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 fifth day in a row, the ship dialed directly into the telecom using the VOIP line.

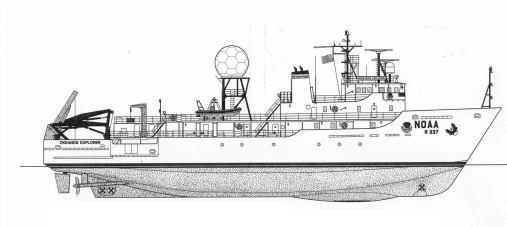
VSAT:

OMAO took low-speed down for ~20min during the dive. Though ship and mission personnel had only very short notice, the shipboard team successfully worked around the problem with minimal impact to dive operations.

DATA MANAGEMENT:

SCS emails to shiptracker, SAMOS and NCCDC were shut down throughout the day. Those systems will remain down until we are 3nm away from the marine archaeology target for the 3/30 dive.





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ROV:

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

BOW/STERN THRUSTER:

Ship personnel continue to monitor the bowthruster HPU temperature.

OTHER:

- Oceanexplorer updates continue.
- I1 links appear to be widely distributed throughout NOAA. OMAO, OAR, and NMFS Office of Habitat Conservation are showing live feeds in HQ monitors. Notification of expedition has been circulated via several NOAA email distribution lists (e.g. deep coral, biodiversity).

- PLAN OF THE DAY -

Friday March 30th, 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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