

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 30, 2012

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CRUISE: EX1202L2 Gulf Of Mexico
Exploration

DATE/TIME FILED: 03/31/12 0900 EDT
FILED BY: Jeremy Potter
VESSEL: NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer*
(EX)

GEOGRAPHIC AREA:
Northwest of Deepwater Horizon area

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)

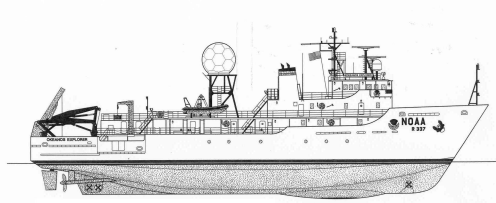
OTHERS:
Tim Shank (WHOI/UCAR)
Pen-Yuan Hsing (Penn State/UCAR)
Dave Wright (OER/UCAR)
Roland Brian (OER/UCAR)
Art Howard (OER/UCAR)
Ed McNichol (OER/UCAR)
Thomas Kok (OER/UCAR)
Gregg Diffendale (OER/UCAR)
Bobby Mohr (OER/UCAR)
Karl McLetchie (OER/UCAR)
Jeff Williams (OER/UCAR)
Tara Smithee (Stanford/UCAR)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

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SUMMARY:

The NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* (EX) conducted overnight mapping operations to extend coverage north of EX mapping efforts in 2011. At approximately 0830, ship and mission crew launched *Little Herc* and *Seirios* for the tenth dive of the 2012 field season. The dive included the third and final ROV dive during Leg II 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:

Combined use of a telecon, I2, URI Internet 1 links, and the eventlogger continued. The telecom was only available for only part of the dive due to OMAO shore-side testing. OMAO had indicated that there should be no interruption.

Today’s 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. 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.

VSAT:

OMAO shore-side personnel took low-speed down for several hours. This impacted the ROV telecon and forced the Science Team to rely on the eventlog.

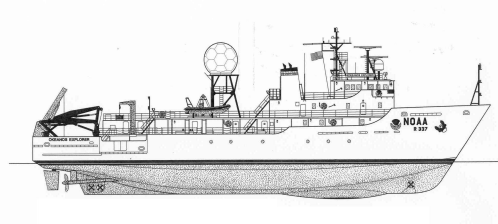
DATA MANAGEMENT:

SCS emails to shiptracker, SAMOS and NCDDC were shut down throughout the day. Systems were restarted once we were 3nm beyond the dive location.

ROV:

ROV personnel completed a tenth successful dive.





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BOW/STERN THRUSTER:

Ship personnel continue to monitor the bowthruster HPU temperature.

OTHER:

- Oceanexplorer updates continue.
- 11 links appear to be widely distributed throughout NOAA.
- Discovery News highlighted the expedition:
www.news.discovery.com/earth/take-a-virtual-voyage-to-the-deep-sea-120329.html

- PLAN OF THE DAY -

Saturday March 31st, 2012

0000	Underway as before Mapping Operations
~0730	Arrive at Dive Location #11
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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