# UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI ROSENSTIEL SCHOOL of MARINE & ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE



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#### SWAB REPORT # 704

#### SWAB DATE: 21 November 2013

R/V Atlantic Explorer and UNOLS Van # 2409.01

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Distribution: SWAB Committee James Caison

#### COMMENTS TO SWAB REPORTS

Typical LSC instrument background values for <sup>3</sup>H and <sup>14</sup>C are 2 and 5 cpm, respectively. The LSC is a Tricarb 2910 TR with the low level counting option.

All samples are counted for 60 minutes, the instrument background is subtracted, and activities are reported in  $dpm/m^2$ . Bucket blank activities are not subtracted. Counting errors (2 standard deviations) are also reported in  $dpm/m^2$ . An error larger than the activity indicates that the activity is not significantly different from zero.

### Criteria for SWAB Results

| Category | $^{3}$ H (dpm/m <sup>2</sup> ) | $^{14}$ C (dpm m <sup>2</sup> ) | Recommendations   |
|----------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| А        | <500                           | <50                             | No action   |
| B*       | 500-10,000                     | 50-10,000                       | Needs cleaning before any<br>natural tracer work. Decks in<br>radiation vans with activities<br>above 1000 dpm/m2 should be<br>cleaned. |
| C**      | 10,000-100,000                 | 10,000-50,000                   | Must be cleaned before any use.   |
| D***     | >100,000                       | >50,000                         | May be a health hazard. Notify local radiation safety official.   |

Note: <sup>14</sup>C and <sup>35</sup>S have peak energies of 156 and 167 KeV, respectively; thus <sup>35</sup>S will be registered as <sup>14</sup>C by our counting techniques. Categories A, B and C are not a health hazard.

<u>Recommended Cleaning Proceedure</u> Wearing ordinary household rubber gloves:

<sup>3</sup>H: Wash and scrub with radioactive cleanup detergent such as COUNT-OFF (50 ml COUNT-OFF to 4 liters of water), using sponges to distribute solution and reabsorb it.

<sup>14</sup>C: Wash with 1% sulfuric or 2% hydrochloric (muriatic) acid with good ventilation (will dissolve carbonates, releasing <sup>14</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>). Follow up with wash as if for <sup>3</sup>H.

#### Disposal of Cleaning Materials (gloves, sponges, etc)

Categories A & B dispose as ordinary garbage, C & D dispose in radiation waste system.

Note: If category C or D is encountered, we try to notify the insitution promptly by phone or email.

## REPORT FOR SWAB # 704

# LOCATION: St. George, Bermuda VESSEL: *R/V Atlantic Explorer*

DATE: 21 November 2013 TECHNICIAN: Cecilia Roig

| Sample # Sample Identification     | <sup>3</sup> H dpm/m <sup>2</sup> <sup>14</sup> C dpm/m <sup>2</sup> |
|------------------------------------|--|
|                                    | activity error activity erro   |
| 1 1st Vial Bkgnd                   | $0 \pm 0 0 \pm$  |
| 2 Initial bucket blank             | $14 \pm 135 \qquad 0 \pm$  |
| Aft Wet Lab (Figure 1)             |  |
| 3 Inside fume hood                 | $12 \pm 0 \qquad 0 \pm$  |
| 4 Deck at entrance to hood room    | $18 \pm 413 \qquad 0 \pm$  |
| 5 Benchtop forward of sink         | $0 \pm 0  0 \pm$   |
| 6 Inside Roper freezer top         | $22$ $\pm$ 60 0 $\pm$  |
| 7 Inside Roper fridge bottom       | $0 \pm 0  0 \pm$   |
| 8 Inside GE freezer                | $0 \pm 0$ $6 \pm 8$  |
| 9 Inside small black GE            | $0 \pm 0 0 \pm$  |
| 10 Center benchtop                 | $0 \pm 0 0 \pm$  |
| 11 Deck at forward entrance        | $18$ $\pm$ $82$ $0$ $\pm$  |
| 12 Forward benchtop                | $0 \pm 0  0 \pm$   |
| Forward Lab (Figure 1)             |  |
| 13 Benchtop forward of sink        | $9 \pm 0 \qquad 0 \pm$   |
| 14 Forward benchtop                | $0 \pm 0 0 \pm$  |
| 15 Deck at starboard entrance      | $18$ $\pm$ $208$ $0$ $\pm$   |
| 16 Deck at infirmary entrance      | $0 \pm 0 0 \pm$  |
| 17 Deck at top of stairs           | $26 \pm 82 \qquad 0 \pm$   |
| 18 Inside VWR freezer              | $0 \pm 0 0 \pm$  |
| 19 Center benchtop                 | $0 \pm 0 0 \pm$  |
| 20 Benchtop aft of sink            | $0 \pm 0 0 \pm$  |
| 21 Benchtop inside Enviro Room     | $9 \pm 0 \qquad 0 \pm$   |
| 22 Deck in Enviro Room             | $0 \pm 0  0 \pm$   |
| Main Lab (Figure 1)                |  |
| 23 Starboard forward freezer       | $0 \pm 0 0 \pm$  |
| 24 Port forward freezer            | $0 \pm 0 0 \pm$  |
| 25 Starboard benchtop              | $10$ $\pm$ $122$ $0$ $\pm$   |
| 26 Deck in front of port benchtop  | $0 \pm 0  0 \pm$   |
| 27 Deck in front of freezers       | $14 \pm 202 \qquad 0 \pm$  |
| 28 Deck in front of stbd. benchtop | $0 \pm 0 0 \pm$  |
| 29 Deck inside aft entrance        | $6 \pm 0 \qquad 0 \pm$   |

| Sample # Sample Identification         | <sup>3</sup> H dpn |          | <sup>14</sup> C dpm/m <sup>2</sup> |          |       |       |
|--|--------------------|----------|------------------------------------|----------|-------|-------|
|  | activity           |          | error                              | activity | (     | error |
| 30 Center benchtop                     | 4                  | <u>+</u> | 0                                  | 0        | ±     | 0     |
| 31 Benchtop aft of sink                | 26                 | $\pm$    | 117                                | 0        | $\pm$ | 0     |
| 32 Sink area                           | 0                  | ±        | 0                                  | 0        | $\pm$ | 0     |
| 33 Inside clean air bench              | 0                  | $\pm$    | 0                                  | 0        | $\pm$ | 0     |
| 34 Intermediate bucket blank           | 22                 | ±        | 97                                 | 0        | ±     | 0     |
| UNOLS Share Use Van 2409.01 (Figure 2) |                    |          |                                    |          |       |       |
| 35 Sink area                           | *1,416             | $\pm$    | 116                                | 0        | $\pm$ | -4    |
| 36 Benchtop next to LSC                | *1,715             | ±        | 125                                | 30       | ±     | 10    |
| 37 Inside fume hood                    | 261                | ±        | 65                                 | 0        | ±     | -25   |
| 38 Top of LSC                          | *4,204             | $\pm$    | 184                                | *69      | ±     | 11    |
| 39 Deck between LSC and hood           | *2,048             | $\pm$    | 134                                | *51      | ±     | 13    |
| 40 Deck at entrance                    | *1,394             | ±        | 113                                | 16       | ±     | 7     |
| 41 Inside Danby under sink             | **23,600           | $\pm$    | 432                                | *1,821   | ±     | 60    |
| 42 Forward benchtop                    | 65                 | $\pm$    | 53                                 | 1        | ±     | 8     |
| 43 Final bucket blank                  | 7                  | ±        | 0                                  | 0        | ±     | 0     |

### **Comments**

Please note that the error reported for each isotope is the two-standard deviation counting error.

All areas tested in the ship were free from isotope contamination. Minor <sup>14</sup>C and <sup>3</sup>H contamination was detected in the radioisotope van. Moderate <sup>3</sup>H contamination was detected in sample taken inside van's Danby fridge, cleaning required in this area. Cleaning of van deck is also recommended to help prevent tracking radioisotopes into the ship.



