

UNOLS Seismic Operations: *Permitting, Observers, other requirements*

LAMONT-DOHERTY EARTH OBSERVATORY of columbia university

L-DEO Procedural Steps

Preliminary Assessments

- Environmental Assessments [-> NSF -> NMFS -> Biological Opinion / ITS]
- **IHA** applications
- Monitoring / Mitigation
- **Post-Cruise Reports**

LAMONT-DOHERTY EARTH OBSERVATORY of columbia university

Before a Survey:

<u>Before funding or scheduling:</u> Preliminary Assessments

<u>After funding:</u>

Environmental Assessments [-> NSF -> NMFS -> Biological Opinion / ITS & Foreign, as required] IHA applications Scheduling Pre-surveys protocols/observer's guides, crew orientation

During a Survey:

Monitoring & Mitigation:

Qualified visual & Acoustic monitors [5 per cruise]

Visual monitoring – all days

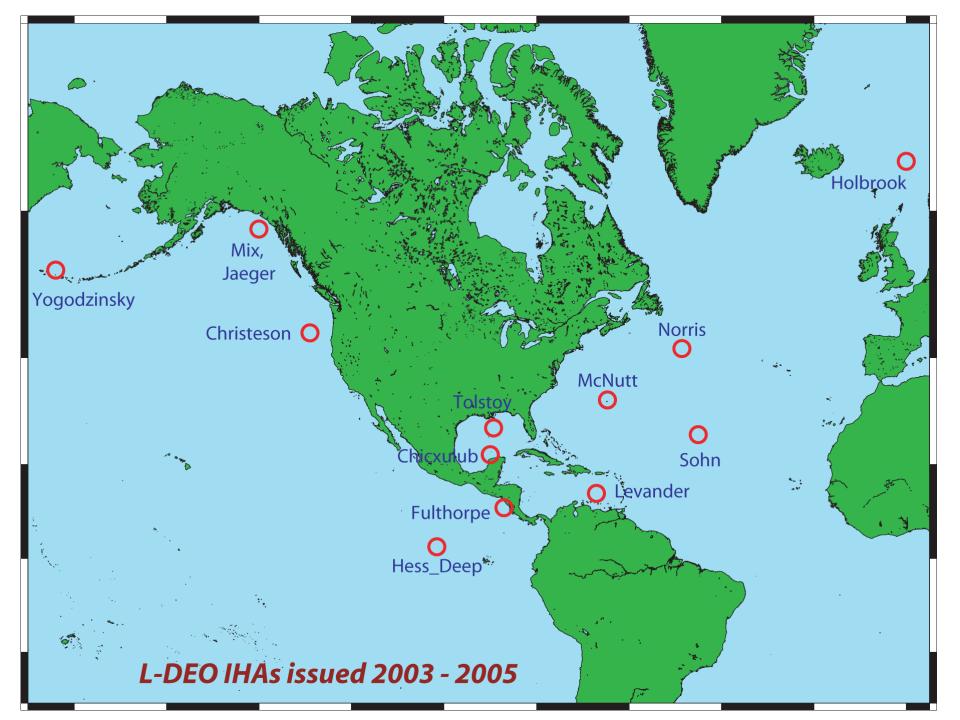
Visual & passive monitoring 30 min before & during survey activities

Rampup - 6 dB per minute = 20 - 30 minutes

Safety radius maintained by power-down or shut down

After a Survey:

Followup Surveys, as required 90-day reports to NMFS, foreign states



Marine Animal Factors

- Population Assessment
- Habitat
- Temporal Activities
 - Mating
 - Foraging
 - Migration corridor
 - Nesting (Incl Migration): Sea Turtles

Marine Mammal Observers

- Lead Observer
- 2 Visual Observers (L-DEO/Foreign)
- 1-2 Passive Acoustic Monitors (PAM)
- (Possible additional for foreign progs.)
- MMO has authority to Power Down or Shut Off guns
- PAM is verified by Visual Observation

Visual Observation Factors

Beaufort Scale

Yucatan: Force 2 but modified to Force 4 (17 Kts).

Nightime Shooting

No Startup MMO Observations (NVD) Prohibition (Mexico)

Safety Radii (meters from Gun Array)

Water Depth(m) <100 100-1000 >1000 **180 dB (Cetaceans)** 2 GI Gun 400 82 54 20 Air Guns 35001350 900

Marine Protected Areas (MPA)Sea lion Haulouts:750Sea Turtle Nesting & Migration:750

Surface Vessel/Aircraft Monitoring

Surface Vessel

Warn fishing vessels Check for Injured Animals

• Aircraft

Presence of Marine Animals Injured Animals along track and on adjacent coastline

Mitigation Effects

- Delayed Start-ups
- Nightime Shooting
- Shutdowns

5 Cruises affected by Shutdowns3 Less than 10; Yucatan: 12 (weather)ETP: 12 MM's; 87 for Turtles

Mitigation Results

Permits Issued & Cruises Completed: NMFS IHA: 12 Mexico: 1 **Total Kms Shot: 20,513 Marine Mammals Observed** Groups 359 Individuals 3,767 **Sea Turtles Observed** 136 Groups Individuals 147

R/V LANGSETH

Facilities and Support of Marine Mammal Activities

Visual Monitoring

Passive Acoustic Monitoring

Active Monitoring

Additional Mammal Activity Support:

Direct Scientific Research on Marine Mammals Calibration of Air Gun Arrays and Procedures Permitting

Visual Marine Mammal Observation





Passive Monitoring

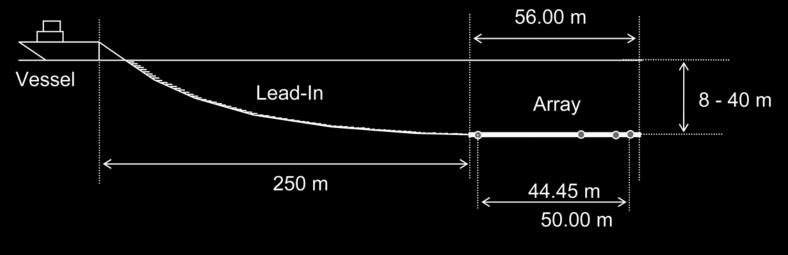
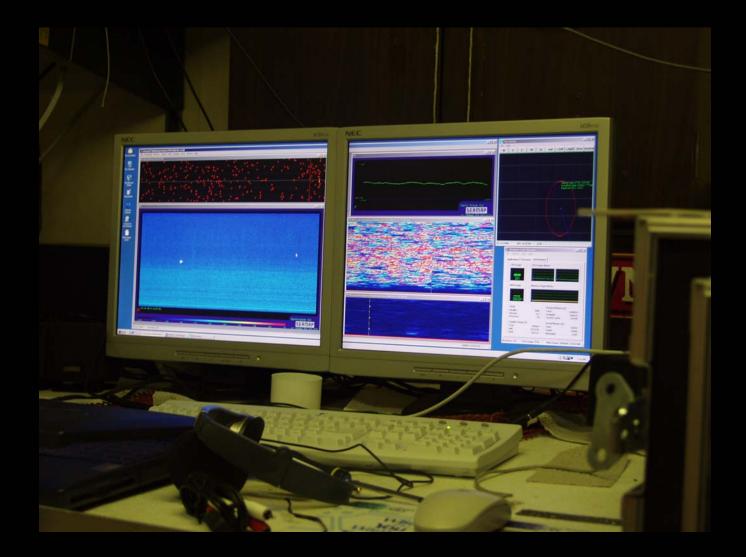


Fig 1c. Standard Towing Configuration

The in-water part of the passive acoustic system is a 4channel hydrophone array. Each channel has a single, high bandwidth hydrophone.



The SeaMap onboard software provides a variety of screens and identification aids which help locate and identify mammal species, even at night.

Active Monitoring Sonar – Scientific Solutions' IMAPS

IMAPS

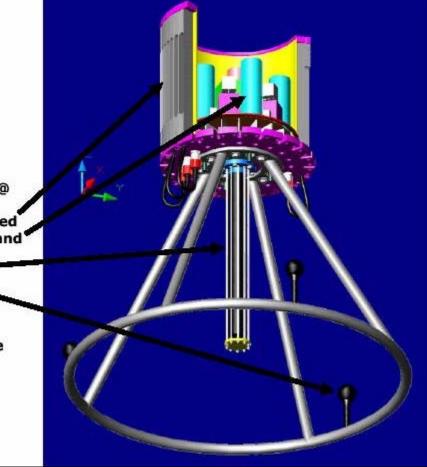
Integrated Marine Mammal Monitoring and Protection System

Features:

- 20-40 kHz, Max R of 2.5km
- Source level up to 210 dB re μPa @ 1m
- 60 Receivers, electronically steered
- Self-contained power amplifiers and receive electronics
- Vertical line array source
- Integrated passive receivers

Benefits:

- Enhanced tracking
- Integrated low-frequency passive detection capability



Towed from vessel

Active Monitoring Sonar – Far Sounder



Hull Mounted