

NIC email from Pablo Clemente-Colon

The National Center's mission for HOTRAX was conducted to provide ice reconnaissance support using imagery interpretation of radar and visual satellite images and ice reconnaissance from ice patrol missions. The NIC made available a sea ice analyst, Petty Officer AG1 Gene Swope, and provided access to available remote sensing imagery. AG1 Swope provided Healy's CO, Capt. Daniel Oliver, and ship's science personnel with critical ice analysis that assisted in navigating through Arctic sea ice and help in the decision for the science.

From comments we received from the Healy crew, it is clear they were pleased to have an experienced sea ice/imagery analysts aboard. In particular, LTJG Jessica Noel, Healy's marine science officer, expressed that AG1 Swope fit in nicely with the marine science technicians and did an excellent job of briefing the CO on a nightly basis. He was able to use the feedback from the CO, Operations Officer and Marine Science Officer to tailor the ice products to their needs. According to Don Perovich, a CRREL scientist aboard, the support that AG1 Swope offered to the scientific contingent was also very valuable and well received. Besides an initial problem with the visualization station, the main issue cited as a problem was, as expected, the lack of sufficient high resolution SAR imagery as well as the limited bandwidth. Still, additional imagery was consistently used to fill the gaps when needed.

The NIC is open to providing similar support during next year's Healy activities and welcome any additional feedback from you and the HOTRAX science team as to what went right, what went wrong, and what else we can do to provide an improved and tailored support.