

NOAA and the National Deep Submergence Facility

**DEep Submergence Science Committee
Meeting**

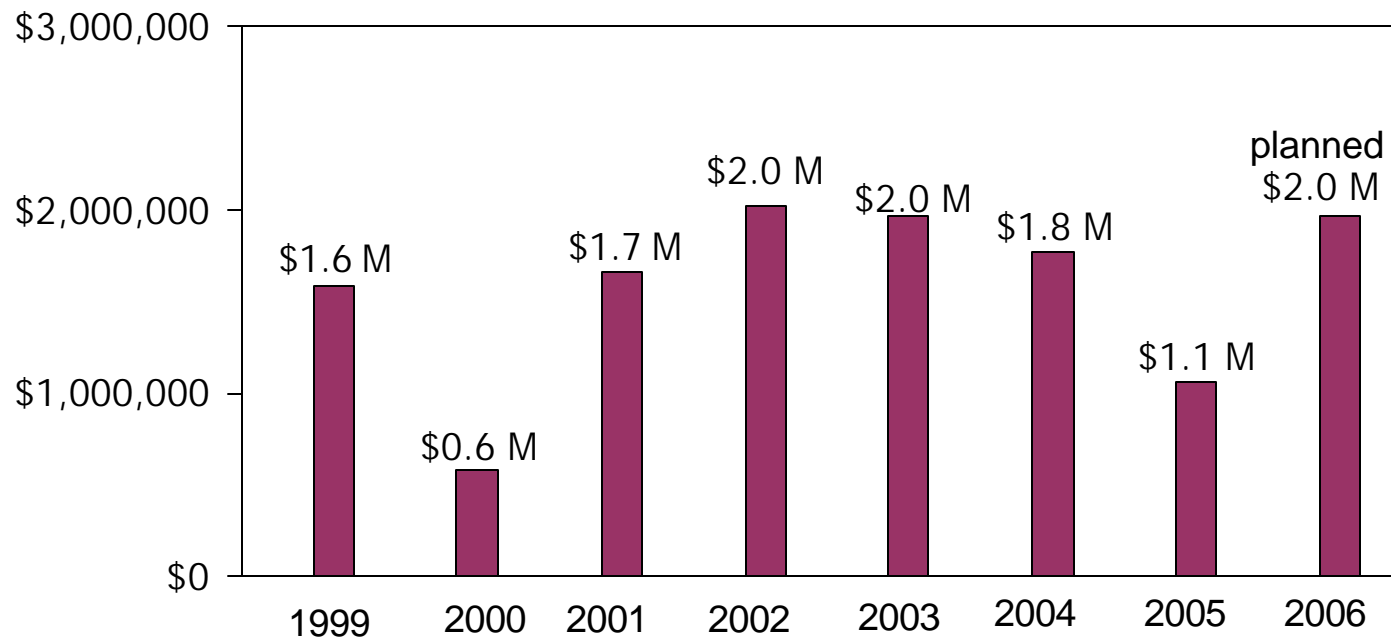
December 2005

NOAA and the NDSF

- NOAA, Navy, and NSF fund the NDSF through an MOU.
- Two NOAA programs use NDSF



NOAA funding levels



National Deep Submergence Facility Use in FY2005

Location: Galapagos Rift

Dates: May 20-June 3, 2005
PI: Tim Shank
Asset: DSV Alvin
Dives: 11 dives (90 hours)
Objective: Investigate colonization of a recent lava flow found in 2002

Dates: Nov 3-Jan 10, 2005
PI: Rachel Haymon
Asset: DSL-120/Medea
Dives: 40 days planned
Objective: Investigate how magma supply and crustal thickness may affect hydrothermal activity and processes

NSF is principal funder of Haymon project

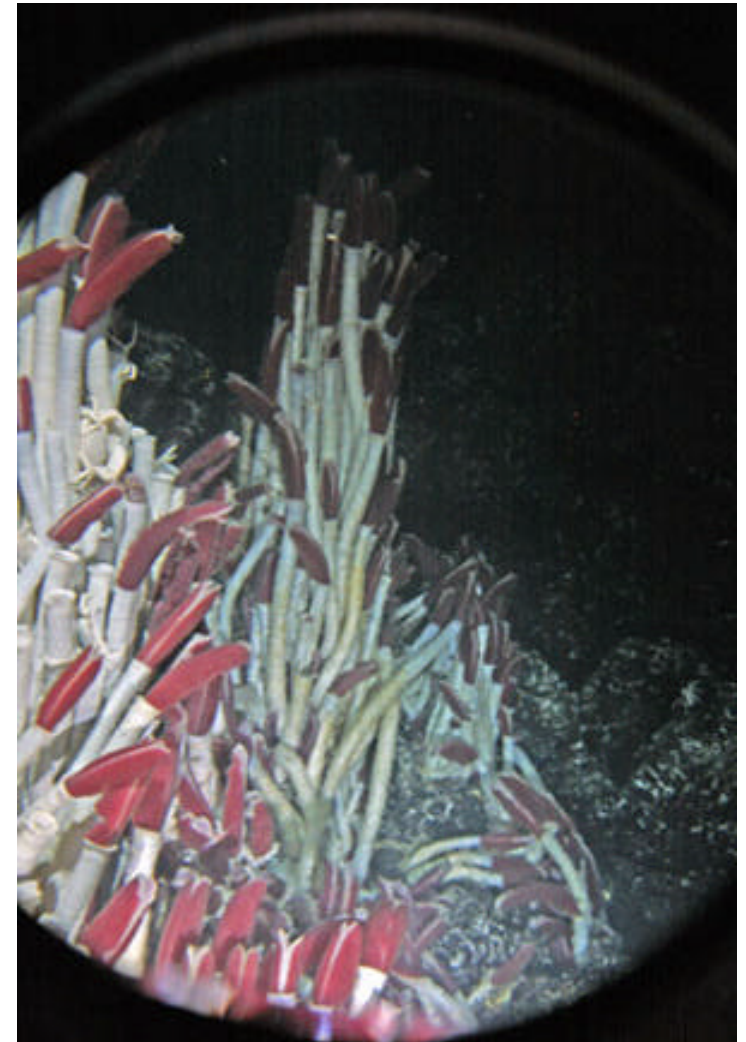


Photo Origin:
divediscover.whoi.edu/expedition9/daily/050528/

National Deep Submergence Facility Use in FY2005

Location: Western New England Seamounts

Deep-Sea Coral

- Dates:** Oct 20-31, 2005
- Asset:** DSV Alvin
- Dives:** 3 out of 10 due to Hurricane Wilma and gale
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- PI:** Watling et al.
- Objective:** Deep-sea coral habitat suitability model
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- PI:** Mullineaux and Adkins
- Objective:** Recruitment dynamics of deep corals
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- PI:** Rohwer
- Objective:** Microbial symbionts of octocorals



Other Deep Assets Use in FY2005

- NOAA ship Ron Brown & IFE ROVs
Hercules and Argus

- *Lost City Hydrothermal Vent Field*
(Deb Kelly & Bob Ballard)
- *Deep Atlantic Stepping Stones*
(Peter Auster, Les Watling, Tim Shank)



Image courtesy of IFE, URI-IAO, UW, Lost City science party, and NOAA

- KOK & NURP submersibles

Pisces IV and V

-- *South Pacific Expedition*

- USCG Healy &
Global Explorer ROV

-- *Under ice*

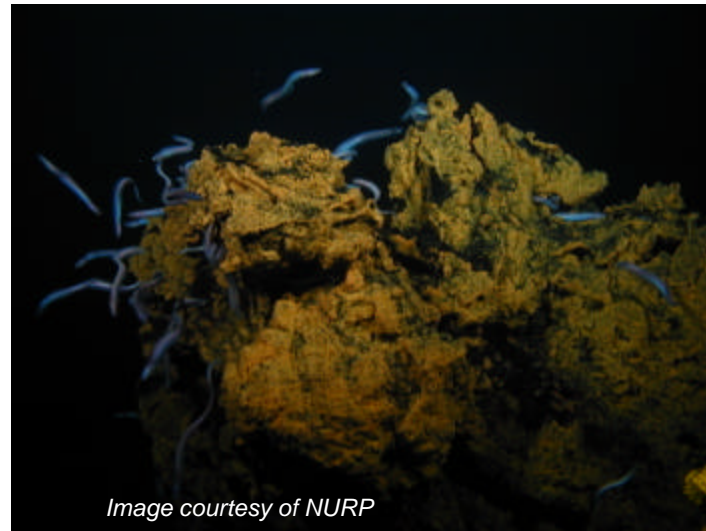


Image courtesy of NURP

National Deep Submergence Facility Use in FY2006

Location: Gulf of Mexico

Asset: DSV Alvin
Dives: 42 days (planned)

Project: CHEMO III
Funding Agency: NOAA and MMS
Objective:

to assess chemosynthetic and other hard bottom communities at depths below 1,000 m

Project PI: Harry Roberts
Funding Agency: NOAA
Objective:
to investigate hard bottom habitats colonized with the deep coral *Lophelia pertusa* including depths below 1,000 m



Ocean Exploration and Research Budgets in 2006

	2005	2006	change
NURP	17.2	9.2*	-8.0
OE	28.6	14.3	-14.3

* Appropriation language provides no funding for 4 NURP centers

Impact:

- potential closing of NURP centers (NA&GL), (MAB), (SA&GC), (CMRC)
- reduced funding for West Coast & Polar Regions Center
- reduced funding for OE research grants
- current plan retains 2006 NOAA NDSF cruise (42 days)

New NOAA ship *Okeanos Explorer*

 **Refit underway**

 **Sea trials projected to begin Fall 07**



**ROV contract:
Phoenix International**

