

Alvin Feedback collected from 2 cruises in 2007

- Jim Ledwell (WHOI): EPR 9°50'N, Dec'06-Jan'07
- Tim Shank (WHOI): EPR 9°50'N, Jan-Feb'07

Feedback calls w/ Mike Tryon (SIO) & Chris German: 4/26/07

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Pre-cruise planning

- Started 9 mths pre-cruise, worked well, good feedback to WHOI & Canadian scientists to prepare equipment to work with Alvin.
- Particular success was the implementation of a slurp gun that worked for catching fish (not a *normal* requirement) using spare Alvin thruster - but that means modified “Jason” slurp remained untested.

Mobilization

- No significant problems. US shipper refused to carry specialis N2 gas, WHOI-SIO, but PI managed to get it to Manzanillo on time.
- More disruption to ship (to/from container port) than usual. Liz Caporelli made sure people who missed flights didn't delay ship sailing.

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Operations - Vehicle

- 12 of 12 dives completed thanks to Captain's willingness to keep ship out long enough to complete final dive and docking late (pm).
- Alvin performed very well, all dive-missions fully completed.
- Alvin worked very well. Dive 1 cancelled due to weather but full
- program of dives still achieved thanks to EL & Alvin Gp's agreement to forego mid-cruise maintenance day.

Operations - NDSF provided equipment

- Scope to improve treatment of CTD on Alvin. Instrument is good but needs more systematic calibrations for Phys.Oc. applications.
- Magnetometer, slurp, Imagenex (incl. timing) all worked well.
- DSC image quality not as good without lighting booms from MISO facility - problems with software in sub that crash system.

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Operations - User provided equipment

- All worked well, no problems
- New sensors & HD cameras all interfaced extremely well & with great success. Alvin Group worked hard to implement multiple changes in basket configuration.
- **NB:** A big key to success was the ability to present the case for each dive in some depth with the ENTIRE Alvin piloting team (rather than just the next day's pilot) each night at 7pm. What seemed a sacrifice of precious time to do this so early in the evening proved extremely valuable by the cruise end.

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Data hand-over

- The pre-cruise briefing left confusion over how many blank DVDs the science party should have brought (only just had enough).
- The data handover was done in a timely manner; SSSG's did a good job.
- There needs to be greater clarity over what should be expected at the cruise end. Key issues identified included:
 - a) Lack of quality assurance conducted by SSSGs routinely at sea
 - b) Data needs to be accessible at sea for scientists wanting to do QA

Demobilization - nothing significant.

Final Recommendations

- Alvin CTD has no spares, could do with being replaced.
- Nothing additional