

NDSF Vehicle Debrief Interviews

Goals:

- Candid assessment of NDSF performance at sea from science user's point-of-view
- Confidentiality
- Way for DESSC to track problems and implementation of solutions
- Facilitates constructive communication between science users and NDSF

NDSF Vehicle Debrief Interviews

Standardized 10-point questionnaire:

- 1) Pre-cruise planning
- 2) Mobilization
- 3) Operations - Vehicle
- 4) Operations - NDSF provided equipment
- 5) Operations - User provided equipment
- 6) NDSF Personnel - Expedition Leader
- 7) NDSF Personnel - Team as a whole
- 8) Data hand-over
- 9) Demobilization
- 10) Recommendations

NDSF Vehicle Debrief Interviews

- Chief Scientist interviewed by phone after each *Alvin/Jason/ABE-Sentry* cruise
- Chris German (CSDS) & one DESSC rep.
- Write-up agreed to by all participants, then archived at UNOLS for DESSC (not public)
- Summary of debriefs presented at next DESSC meeting (public, but comments anonymous)
- Opportunity for NDSF to respond
- Sensitive or confidential issues discussed in DESSC executive session (not public)

Jason debrief summaries - 12/07

Fisher	June 2007	Ron Brown	Gulf of Mexico
Rathburn	July 2007	Atlantis	Monterey, California
Chadwick/ Dilorio	Aug 2007	Atlantis	JdFR
Garcia	Sep 2007	Kilo Moana	Hawaii
Moyer	Oct 2007	Kilo Moana	Hawaii
Wooding	Nov 2007	Kilo Moana	Hawaii

Jason debrief issues - 12/07

1) 12-hour turn-around time between dives

- Current procedures optimal for long dives
- But some science users require short-turn arounds for time-sensitive sampling, or to visit many different dive sites
- Elevators can help, but it is not always possible to use them: in deep water, in bad weather, on some ships (Kilo Moana)
- For some users, this severely limits what science they can do (or get funded)
- Solution: re-thinking Jason watch schedules?

Jason debrief issues - 12/07

2) Air-weight limitation for Jason (& crane?)

- Currently limits how much science gear can be on the vehicle - especially biological samplers that hold water
- Can this be improved?

3) Catastrophic failure of Kilo Moana cable during testing

- How can this be prevented in the future?
- Do standard protocols exist for cable testing?
- Was the team at sea too inexperienced?

Jason debrief issues - 12/07

4) Kilo Moana Jason ops

- Can operate in rougher sea states, but...
- More limited number of berths for science
- Restrictions on elevator usage
- Will work for some cruises and not others

5) Pre-cruise planning could be improved

- Equipment promised but not brought on board
- Proactive about needs of inexperienced users
- Expedition leader should participate

Jason debrief issues - 12/07

6) Equipment issues:

- Kraft arm
- Science video camera position and lighting
- Digital still camera results mixed