



Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on OBSIC Operations

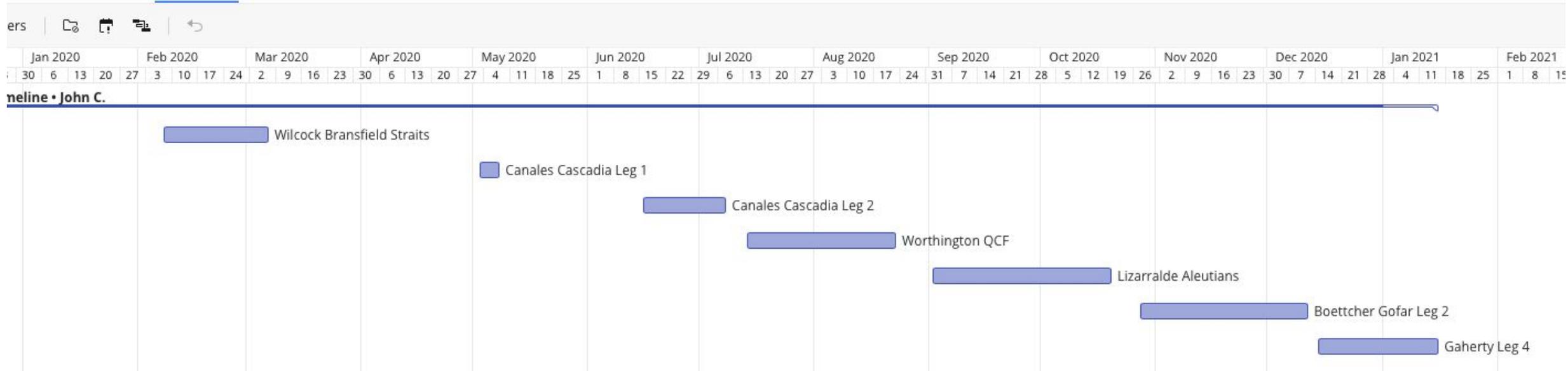
- WHOI campus closed on March 16. On July 6 campus began to re-open, but in a phased manner. Restrictions on distancing, masks, still apply.
- WHOI OBS Lab remained open during the campus shutdown but lab operated at a greatly reduced capacity. Initially just 1 – 2 people (but preferably 1) were allowed in the lab. Over time, as we developed a risk mitigation plan, additional staff were allowed to work in the lab. We are now allowed to have 2 people in each of the 3 spaces that make up the OBS Lab. Some staff split their work hours between home and the lab. Some work at odd hours and at weekends to comply with distancing rules.
- Same story for the SIO and LDEO OBS labs.
- Supply chain disruption has delayed many purchases, e.g. batteries, cables, anchors, etc.



Current state of deployed instruments

- Currently, there are 81 OBSs deployed on the seafloor.
- These comprise 30 SIO Broadband OBSs for Jim Gaherty and 51 short-period/Broadband, WHOI & SIO, for Margaret Boettcher.
- Gaherty's instruments are in the SW Pacific, while Boettcher's OBSs are at 5°S on the East Pacific Rise

COVID Impact on Pre-Pandemic OBSIC 2020 Experiment Schedule



- *Wilcock* Bransfield Straits: Experiment completed prior to pandemic but return shipment of OBS took >3 months
- *Canales* Cascadia experiment (two-ship): *Delayed to 2021*
- *Worthington* Queen Charlotte Fault active-source experiment (two-ship): *Delayed to 2021*
- *Worthington* Queen Charlotte Fault passive-source experiment: *Delayed*, now scheduled to sail August 14, 2020
- *Lizarralde* Andreanoff Islands active-source experiment: *Delayed*, now scheduled to sail September 02, 2020
- *Boettcher* Gofar Leg 2: *Delayed* to January 2021 because of WHOI COVID-related closure
- *Gaherty* Pacific Array Recovery: *Delayed* to January 2021



Delayed Experiments => Busy OBSIC Schedule for 2021

Cruise dates and vessels subject to change .

<i>Boettcher</i> Gofar Year 2 Deployment/Recovery: 01/154/2021 – 03/02/2021;	WHOI and SIO ; 13 BBOBS; 10 SMOBS; 28 SPOBS R/V Revelle, San Diego to Gulfport, MS
<i>Gaherty</i> ORCA Year 2 Recovery: 01/15/2021 – 02/27/2021;	SIO; 30 BBOBS R/V Sally Ride, Honolulu to Honolulu
<i>Laske</i> NE Pacific Deployment 04/22/2021 – 05/14/2021;	SIO; 25 BOBS R/V Kilo Moana; Honolulu to Honolulu
<i>Wilcock</i> Axial Seamount Year-1 Deployment 06/01/2021 – 05/06/2021;	WHOI; 10 SPOBS and 5 BBOBS R/V Oceanus, Newport to Newport
<i>Canales</i> Cascadia Active-Source (2-ship): 05/03/21 – 05/07/21 and 06/16/21 – 07/07/21;	WHOI and SIO; 60 SPOBS; 115 drops R/V Oceanus , Newport to Newport
<i>Worthington</i> Queen Charlotte Fault Active-Source (2-ship): 07/18/2020 – 08/24/2021 (MGL dates);	WHOI and SIO; 35 SPOBS; 149 SPOBS drops Canadian Coastguard Vessel Tully(?) , Ketchikan to Ketchikan(?)
<i>Worthington</i> Queen Charlotte Fault Recovery (2-ship) August/September 2021?;	WHOI, 28 BBOBS (1-year); 35 SPOBS; 149 SPOBS drops Sikuliaq(?), Ketchikan to Ketchikan (?)
<i>Boettcher</i> Gofar Leg 3 Recovery: January 2022?	WHOI and SIO; 13 BBOBS; 10 SMOBS; 28 SPOBS Ship:??; San Diego to San Diego (?)



Impact on OBSIC Personnel

- OBSIC personnel are (mostly) willing to go to sea. UNOLS documents and webinars laying out risks and procedures for risk mitigation seen as positive by staff. Likewise efforts by ship operators to describe in detail risk mitigations plans while at sea. Full disclosure about risks increases people's confidence to sail.
- WHOI techs are interviewed privately by WHOI HR to discuss possible pre-existing conditions and to make sure they are not under any unreasonable pressure to sail.
- Cruise risk mitigation plan needs to be reviewed by WHOI HR — leads to increased confidence among OBSIC staff.
- Need to Quarantine for 14 days prior to cruise negatively impacts productivity. At least one WHOI staff insists on quarantining post-cruise as well to avoid risk to vulnerable family members after flight from West Coast. More lost productivity.



MSROC Name Changes

- UNOLS, nor any of the UNOLS committees, provide any oversight roles in their support for NSF, ONR or other federal agencies
- OBSIC-OS guides, advises, and supports the OBSIC facility operator based on the current Terms of Reference.
- OBSIC-OC recommended changing “OC” to Operations Subcommittee. NSF concurred in the change.
- Toward this end, we recommend that MSROC be understood to connote: “Marine Seismology Research Operations Committee.”
- A proposal for the annual Marine Seismology Symposium was funded by the NSF and planned for 29-30 September 2020. The site was the Maritime Conference Center in Maryland, not far from Annapolis. This has been cancelled due to COVID-19 and will move into the future.