

DESSC Report for RVOOC

April 2008

■ DESSC Meetings:

- Annual Community Meeting in December 2007 (San Francisco) - Reports on NDSF vehicle operations, upgrades, and plans.
- January 2008 Phone Meeting - Discussion items included archive DVDs for *Jason*, magnetometer use, HDTV cameras, and vehicle exclusion limits.
- March 2008 Phone Meeting – Discussed status of the Replacement Human Occupied Vehicle (RHOV) project.

NDSF Vehicle Operation/Exclusion limits

- Multiple ship operations in the same geographic areas are on the rise. NDSF policy for multi-vehicle operations:
 - *Alvin* - the policy is 2 nm separation during launch and recovery. *Atlantis* must be able to move right over *Alvin*. NDSF uses “the one water depth distance” as the rule for separation from other vehicles.
 - AUV operations with other vehicles in the water are permitted as long as the position of the AUV in the water is known.
 - Operations with two ROVs vehicle are required to keep one-water depth separation from each other.
- DESSC recommends that ship schedulers be informed about this issue.

DESSC Activities

- Technical Advancement of Remotely Operated Vehicles & Submersibles Workshop:
 - NSF supported
 - January 23-24, 2008
 - Attended by about 25 engineers, operators, and scientist.
- *Alvin & Jason* debriefs – DESSC members continue to interview the users of *Alvin* and *Jason*. The debrief interviews have been very effective in identifying areas requiring further attention.
- 2008 Meeting Plans:
 - Spring Meeting – June 10-11 at WHOI
 - Winter Meeting - DESSC will continue to discuss how forums and formats for better engaging students.