

# Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee (AICC) Meeting

June 3 & 4, 2008

Preliminary Debrief Report

National Science Foundation

Stafford I, Room 1235

Arlington, VA

# Preliminary comments from HLY0801 (Debrief scheduled for June 10)

- Successful, though challenging because of the cold (-20°C with 20-40 kt winds). Efforts of CG to facilitate research under such adverse conditions much appreciated
- Diversity of sampling and participation of media and agency representatives made for a complex cruise. CG thanked for their patience and assistance in dealing with these challenges
- Following are modest criticisms of a successful research cruise:

# Modest Suggestions from HLY0801

- Cruise too short
- Last minute change to the departure time (from 9:00 to 16:00) was surprising
- Helicopter contracted negotiated late so that Aviation Management Division rep was unfamiliar with the cruise plans. Also, capability to deploy a small CTD from the helo door (requested by Cooper) was not possible.
- CTD support for only 12 hours a day. The science party paid for travel and a stipend for a second operator from UAF. Some nutrient and chlorophyll collections were supported by an individual NSF project. However, these data should be used by the whole BEST-BSIERP program

# Modest Suggestions from HLY0801

- Safety briefings prior to off-ship activities, while necessary, seemed too long, up to 20-30 minutes. Other suggestions. This will be discussed at the debrief.
- Could not conduct ice stations and CTDs simultaneously.
- Ice deployments seemed to take a long time.
- No EOL support for HLY0801; data sharing will have to be done by Chief Scientist
- Medical form submission continues to be a problem. This must be rectified. An inordinate amount of time was spent by all to keep track of and locate medical forms that went astray, never arrived, etc.
- The in-bound freight shipment web site was not updated.

# Preliminary comments from HLY0802 (Debrief scheduled for June 16)

- Very successful cruise. Achieved more than our planned objectives. Satiated the science party.
- On-board procedures/logistics were in general quite smooth.
  - Locating and anchoring to suitable ice floe went well (thanks bridge crew)
  - Very good support to get on/off the ice
  - Excellent support deploying gear off fantail and stb. A-frame
  - Support for installation of acoustic transducers for backscatter measurement was excellent; thanks to Dale and the ETs for their “Can do” attitude
- Ship’s crew was helpful, cheerful, and a pleasure to work with
- MSTs and MSO were exceptional
- Getting the medical form submitted was much too difficult (e-mail problems)
- Berthing assignments went VERY SMOOTHLY; THANKS XO and Tasha! Good coordination also with the Cooper cruise to make sure that “long-termers” did not have to move

# Preliminary comments from HLY0802

- The on-line shipping tracking form was not updated even after the ship had sailed
- Difficulty in identifying radioactive isotope licensing
- Stable isotope documentation - need an appropriate form (not the radioactive isotope form)
- Difficulty in identifying and procuring vans. The labs were full to the gills; the vans were necessary to accommodate all of the needed lab space (in addition to the need for a rad van).
- 24/7 e-mail access was extremely useful (and reliable!). This should continue to be offered.
- The berthing and food were good. Mid-rats were much improved on this cruise relative to previous ones. The presence of lettuce (edible even) on Day 39 was amazing.
- The failure of one of the -80 Freezers near the end of the cruise highlighted the necessity of having two. In addition, one science team used the entire space in one of the -80 freezers, only emptying it at the mid-cruise personnel transfer.
- Note - no backup for the regular freezer...get one for next year?



# Debriefs of 2007 Cruises

- Mayer Cruise - November 19
- Grebmeier/Lovvorn Cruise - November 20
- Both cruises highly successful; achieved >100% of expected goals
- Both had high praise for almost all aspects of their cruise
- Excellent support from all personnel (CG, LDEO, Scripps)
- Debrief summaries not complete
- Sambrotto/BEST cruise debrief to be scheduled



# Mayer 2007 Cruise - Preliminary Key Points

- Greater use of helicopter for community relations than anticipated by the NSF; much larger bill (science needs to do a better job of anticipating use)
- Need to anticipate CG use of helos for personnel transfers as well
- Press (North Pole): Would have been easier if there was a single point of contact but overall CG did a great job
- Safety on ice: Both science and CG needed better training for environmental exposure (cold, sun), ice physical safety, and bears
- Mid-Rats Food
- Better medical clearance and on-board medical expertise, especially for long trips away from shore, is desirable
- Participation of NIC personnel on cruise seen as very helpful and informative for those people
- Kudos to Steve Roberts

# Grebmeier/Lovvorn Cruise - Preliminary Key Points

- Need to be sure to discuss appropriate internet use with science party (e.g., no facebook, music downloads, other high band width ancillary activities) Perhaps this should be added to cruise manual?
- Dependence on the single, walk-in freezer is alarming; suggest buying back-up chest freezers (relatively inexpensive)
- Helo should be thought of as critical for ice recon during spring (and winter!) cruises
- Need to carefully identify planned helo activities before cruise (and helo charter)
- Mid-Rats need improvement