

AUV facility debrief and recommendations

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Specific comments

- ABE team deserves high praise for a successful cruise, including difficult conditions
- The shear pins on ABE thrusters appear to provide only a failure mode rather than a protection function
- The ABE team should procure a better radio direction finder for recoveries
- Compared to prior experience (2003) the PI could identify no obvious difference in how this ABE cruise was conducted from those conducted previously (pre- to post-NDSF incorporation)

AUV needs/recommendations

- Formal pre-cruise planning procedure
 - This year's cruise involved a PI with previous ABE experience; not all will
 - Operation as a facility will probably mean less direct involvement of the AUV group in the proposal-writing stage
 - On the science side, science needs to either provide good bathy to AUV group ahead of time for dive planning or allow for collection of multibeam data as part of cruise plan
 - First dive(s) should be planned pre-cruise
- Pre-cruise mobilization
 - Allow adequate time in port
 - Operation as facility should hopefully allow for more between-cruise maintenance

AUV needs/recommendations

- Working from different platforms
 - AUVs are even more portable than *Jason II* and will encounter more issues with ships' handling systems, crew experience, etc.
 - This requires even greater attention to the two other recommendations
 - Is there some means by which platforms can be vetted?
 - In other words, is it valid to assume that AUVs are infinitely portable?