



## *Alvin* Hull Inspection Issues



- A hull inspection is now required every two years since finding the hull anomalies in 2006
- The 2008 hull inspection ultrasonic testing (UT) procedure found no changes in known acceptable flaws
- The 2010 UT procedure detected 4 new indications in an area which had previous acceptable flaws
- The new indications were further characterized using a CTD (Crack Tip Deflection) technique
- The results of these inspections were evaluated by Carderock Facility
- On May 14 WHOI received a call from the Navy informing us that:
  1. three of the minor flaws were being considered one flaw because of their proximity to each other, making this flaw unacceptable at the present time;
  2. they require the original hull construction documentation to evaluate the welding technique; and
  3. they have directed that additional testing be done on the new flaws using a different standard and more sensitive equipment, which might lead to reclassifying the flaw as a minor defect.



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## **Current Actions:**

1. *Alvin* cannot dive until the hull issue is resolved
2. WHOI is investigating the earliest opportunity we can get an inspector onto the *Atlantis* for the additional testing requested – a Los Angeles port stop or in the Sacramento River?
3. Attempting to find additional documentation on original hull construction
4. Going to contact Southwest Research Institute for a “second opinion”
5. *Jason* is on standby to do the Cowen leg if needed

As of noon today (5/18) – no NAVSEA decision yet