

10 Things Techs Wish You Knew

Considerations for easing life at sea



WOODS HOLE
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1

Know how to
operate your
computers,
tablets, phones,
etc.

Pre-cruise, visit your home institution's IS/IT department for help.

Learn how to turn off all background apps (looking at you, Dropbox!).

You may need admin permissions to connect to printers, data drives, etc.

Government issued computers can be especially difficult at sea.

2

Understand your Marine Research Clearances

You may have reporting requirements while underway.

You may have geographical constraints you didn't know of.

You might not be allowed to sample or run ship systems (like multibeam or ADCPs) while transiting to station.

3

Incorporate the 'other' impacts of sampling stations

Too close to shore is problematic for discharging waste water tanks.

Some regions may not be suitable for making water.

Don't underestimate your required transit time.

4

Make plans,
share them
widely, and be
prepared to
pivot

During precruise, share a big picture sampling and deployment evolution, that covers the whole cruise.

Underway, make a daily “Plan of the Day” and post it everywhere.

In the PODs, include other major events like broadcasting outreach efforts and birthdays.

Always be prepared to pivot.

5
Customs can be
complicated, or
smooth,
regardless of
preparation
levels

Do not leave anything aboard the vessel without permission from shore support.

Customs cares about high value items & items with serial numbers.

Customs does not care about consumables, samples (except for F&W/CITES), office supplies etc.

Be physically present in US port of mob/demob to help if anything goes sideways.

6
You don't need
to do it all
yourself

Deputize and delegate.

Have someone helping you with the tiny logistics from the beginning. Make sure shore support knows who that person is, so they are kept in the loop during planning.

Create mentorship pairs between the new and experienced folks.

7

Staff according
to your
objectives and
maintaining
proper rest
periods

Make sure you have enough trained people to conduct your science safely.

Do not sacrifice sleep for the sake of one more sample or deployment. It is dangerous.

Make sure people are looking out for each other and offering help.

Discourage fatigue becoming a competition or a status symbol of hard work.

8

Know the ship's data policy

Do you need your non-vehicle data embargoed?

How many complete copies of the data will be provided at the end of the cruise?

How do I get *just* the files I want?

9

Long lead items are long lead items for a reason

Scheduling for pooled equipment happens well in advance. If you need to borrow any equipment that is not standard on the ship, you need to specifically reach out about it 6 months in advance. Being written in your SME is not a fail safe.

Getting a radioactive isotope authorization is a multi-month process. Get started as soon as you are able.

Broadcast-level bandwidth needs to be planned for.

10

Deck safety is most important

Safety is paramount. Our #1 objective is to keep everyone safe.

If you are given orders on deck by ship or vehicle staff, please follow them without hesitation.

If you ever feel like you have been addressed inappropriately, please do not hesitate to continue the conversation afterwards. Safety is #1, but civility should never be thrown out the window.

Bonus 5!
A few 'little'
things that go a
long way

Label everything!!!

Bring all your needed consumables -
ship supplies disappear rapidly.

Leave the flip flops & crocs in your bag
or in the shower.

Reefer compressors hate running 'warm'.
Running at 8+'C can be problematic.

Stress can be contagious and when
uncontrolled can become a safety hazard.

Questions?



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