

# AN INTRODUCTION TO DSV ALVIN

DeSSC New User Program - December 13, 2025

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# DSV ALVIN PROGRAM BRIEF

DSV/HOV Basics



Program history



Alvin specifications

R/V Atlantis

Science and data interfaces

Imaging

Operations



# DSV/HOV BASICS

DSV = Deep Submergence Vehicle

A special class of deep-diving submersible (>1000 meters)

A high-tech HOV - human occupied submersible

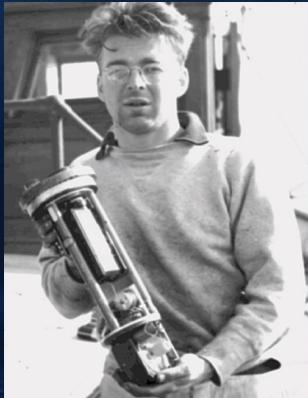
Untethered, no cable to the surface ship

Operated off of a “mothership”

Typically uses a spherical hull for passenger safety

Internal cabin atmosphere is the same as in this room

# IT ALL STARTED WITH ALLYN VINE



*Alvin* conceived by WHOI ocean engineer Allyn Vine and the US Navy

***"It is very difficult to design an instrument that can be surprised"***



# ALVIN'S INCREDIBLE RECORD

1964 to PRESENT DAY  
61 YEARS CONTINUING OPERATIONS

5340 DIVES

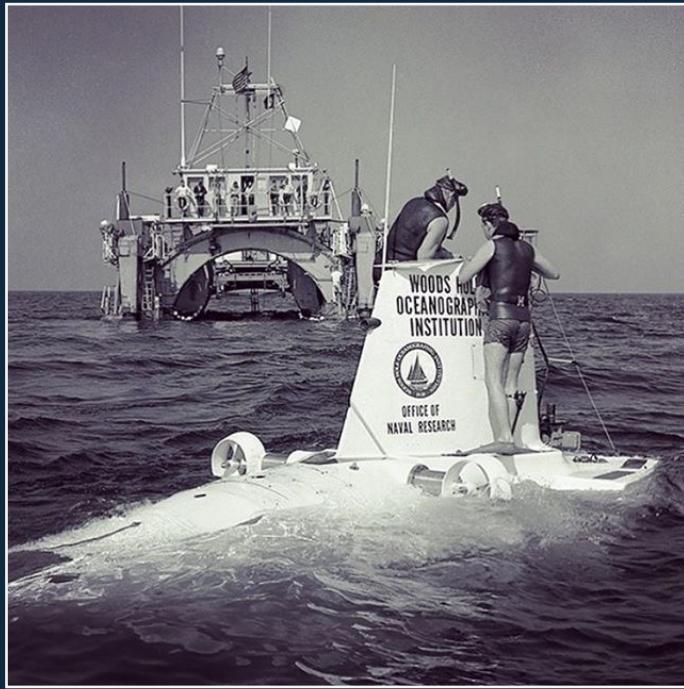
46 QUALIFIED DSV PILOTS

OVER 10,500 OBSERVERS

TOTAL VERTICAL (DESCENT/ASCENT) SINCE DIVE 1  
22,184,808 m      13,785 miles



# ALVIN IN THE EARLY DAYS



DIVE OPERATIONS OFF OF R/V "LULU"  
CIRCA 1968

# Alvin Specifications

## Crew:

1 Pilot, 2 Scientific Observers

## Depth:

6,500 meters, 21,325 feet  
4.1 miles

## Sunlight vanishes:

150m to 200m depth

## Pressure at 6,500m:

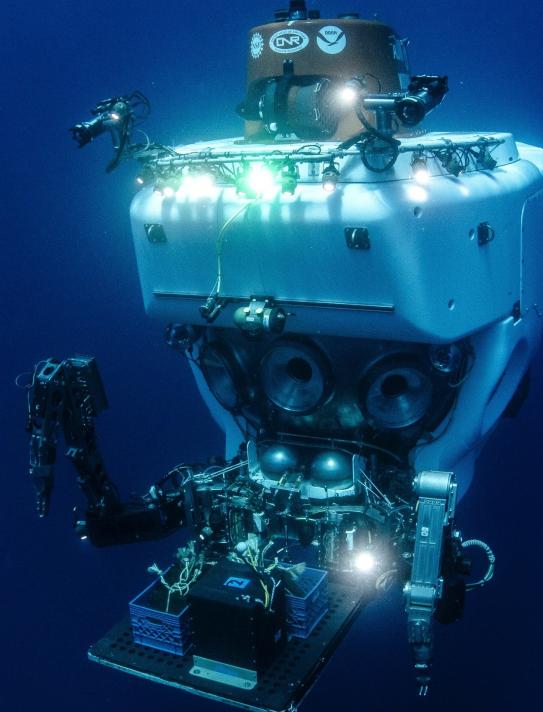
646 atmospheres  
9,678 psi

## Time submerged:

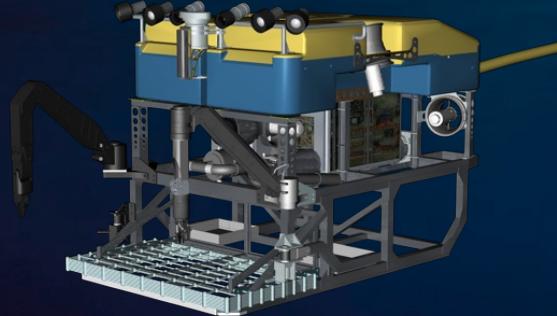
9 to 12 hours

## Available life support:

96 hours



# ND<sup>2</sup>S<sup>2</sup> NATIONAL DEEP SUBMERGENCE FACILITY



ROV JASON



DSV ALVIN



AUV SENTRY

# R/V ATLANTIS

**Length:**  
274 ft

**Beam:**  
51 ft

**Personnel:**  
20 Ship's Crew  
10 Alvin crew  
26 Visiting Scientists

**Duration:**  
Up to 60 Days



A Global-Class research vessel & flagship of U.S. Deep Submergence

# SCIENCE AND DATA INTERFACES

ALVIN'S DATA SYSTEM PROVIDES USERS WITH NUMEROUS OPTIONS TO INTERFACE NOVEL SENSORS, SAMPLERS, AND DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

- **FULLY INTEGRATED SCIENCE DATA NETWORK**

- Multiple Ethernet and RS232 serial data interfaces
- Multiple digitally controlled DC power channels
- Through-hull data over fiber-optics
- Multiple digitally controlled DC power channels
- In-hull WiFi

- **ALVIN IN-HULL COMPUTERS**

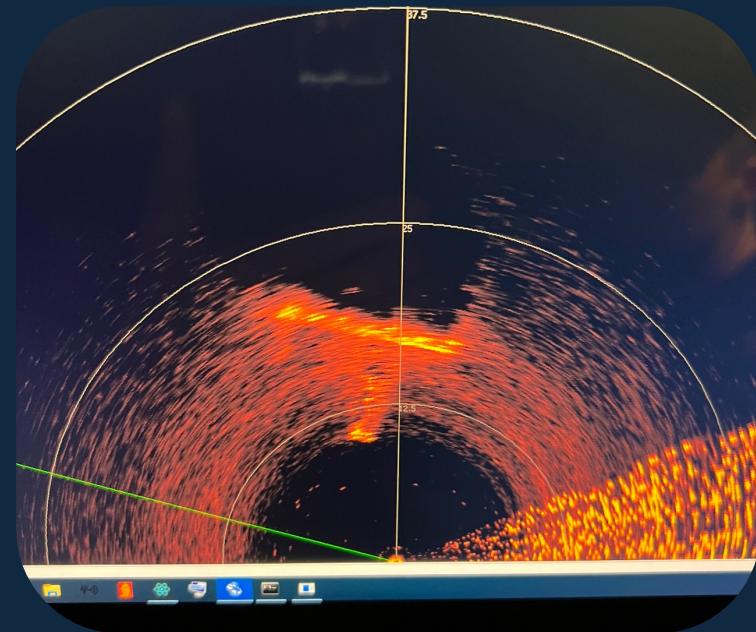
- Available for use with science supplied software
  - LINUX, WINDOWS

- **SCIENCE USER SUPPLIED COMPUTER LAPTOPS/TABLETS**

- Typically Interface with network via USB, RS232
- Requires toxicity/flammability testing in advance

- **ALVIN SUPPLIED LAPTOPS, TABLETS**

- Available for science use
- SEALOG Science user data interface on iPad/tablets



# ALVIN IMAGING CAPABILITIES

THE NEW ALVIN IMAGING SYSTEM PROVIDES ADVANCED IMAGING CAPABILITIES WITH PROFESSIONAL GRADE EQUIPMENT AND CONTROLS

- **MULTIPLE EXTERNAL CAMERAS**

- 2 x DSPL 4K Optim Cameras on P/T units
- 2 x PATZ (Pan and Tilt Zoom) HD cameras
- 3 x fixed-focus wide-angle DSPL Flexlink cameras
- Available interfaces for user-supplied cameras

- **IN-HULL INTERFACES**

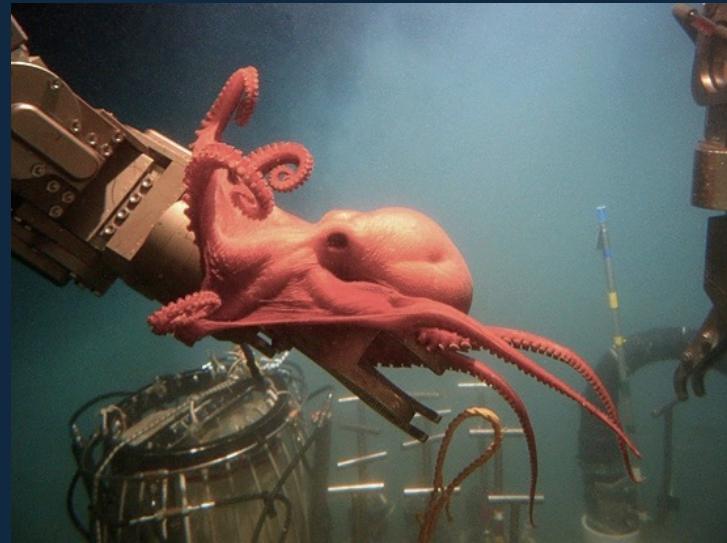
- Ipad Tablet camera/video control - with SEALOG
- Optional laptop/game-style controller w/tactile controls

- **IMAGE RECORDING**

- 2 x Pro-res recorders can access all primary video sources
- Real time proxy creation during the dives

- **MISO GOPRO CAMERAS**

- Up to 3 MISO GoPro cameras (still and 5K images)
- Mounted on front-end of sub, basket or landers
- 5k video or hi resolution still capability



A TYPICAL ALVIN DIVE RESULTS IN NEARLY 2 TERABYTES OF VIDEO AND STILL IMAGES

# ALVIN OPERATIONS

## RELIABLE DIVE OPERATIONS ENABLE SIGNIFICANT TIME FOR SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION AND SAMPLING

- **DIVES SCHEDULE**

- Daily dive operations for up to 30 days
- Typically 0800 in-water, 1700 return to surface
- Extended dive time option with prior planning and power

- **COLLABORATIVE SCIENCE FOR 24 HOUR SCIENCE ACTIVITIES**

- Evening science activities during Alvin post-dive and evening break
- Atlantis' resident capabilities
  - multi-beam mapping, dredging, coring, etc.

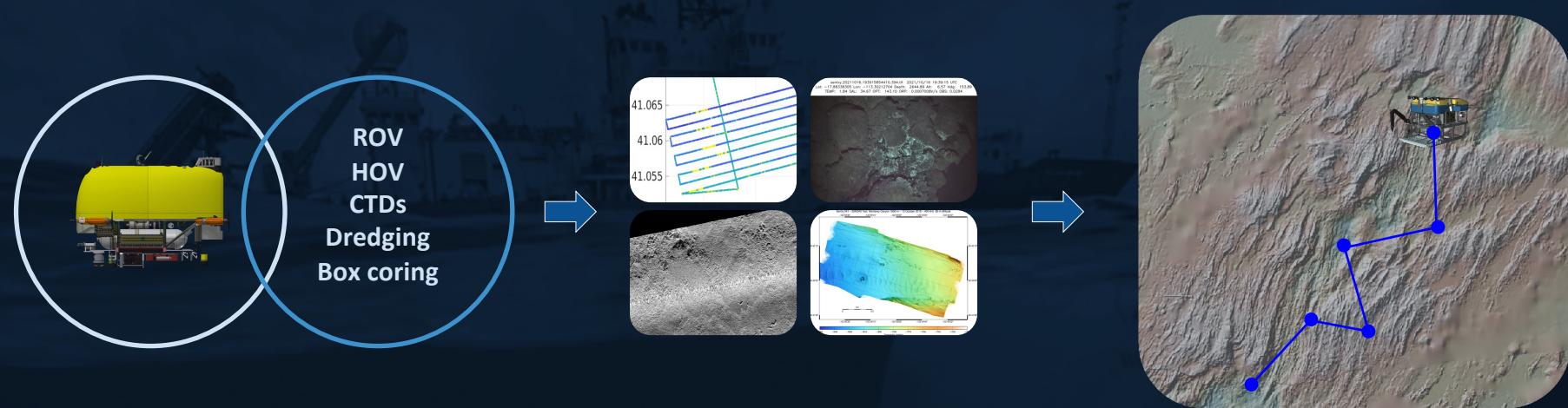
- **SUPERB NAVIGATION FOR EXACT SCIENCE**

- Alvin utilizes DVL, USBL, and INS for precise navigation during dives
- Hi-res bathymetric maps as underlays for navigation interface



Alvin is a high tech marvel for deep sea research

## COLLABORATIVE SENTRY & ALVIN OPERATIONS



## COMBINED OPS

**Sentry can be added to many programs to increase efficiency, add a high level view of the worksite, and create a better data product**

## DATA

**Data products are produced after each dive, photos, MB, Sidescan, sensor plots over navigation and available to the science user**

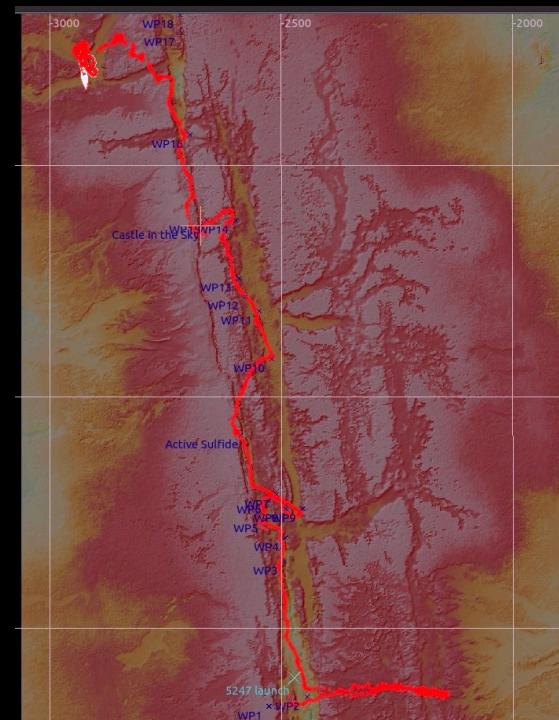
## DIVE PLANNING

## Better informed with high fidelity data about your worksite

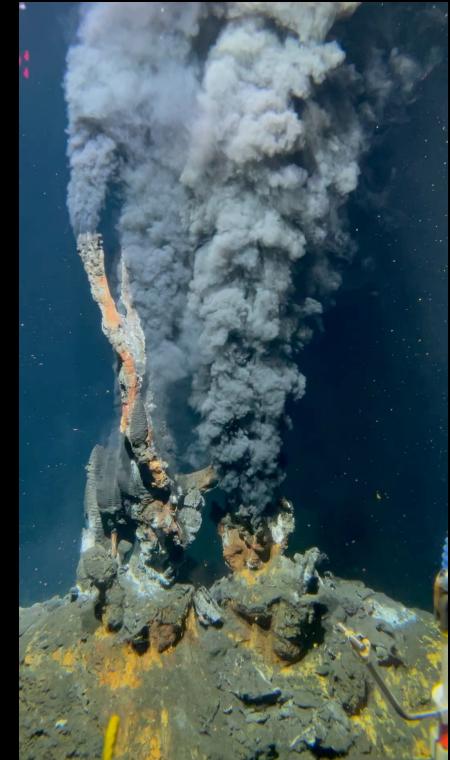
# 9N Axial Summit Caldera



Beehive Smoker



Typical dive profile in the ASC



Vent fluids ~380C

# MARCH 2025, US NAVY ARCHAEOLOGY DIVES

**Collaboration with Navy Historical and Heritage Command**  
**Grumman Avenger and US Submarine F1**



**Wreck of Grumman Avenger @ 520m**

# NHHC & ONR DIVE ON WRECK OF USS F1



**USS F1 LOST December 17, 1917  
WHOI Photogrammetry from Alvin Images**

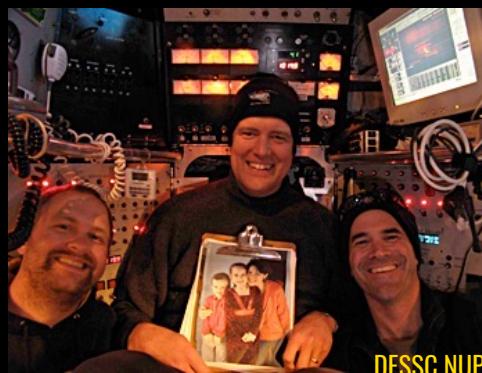
**ONR & NHHC IN ALVIN ON USS F1**

Rob Sparrock & Bradley Kruegar

DESSC NUP DEC 2025



A dive day in Alvin is a life changing experience



DESSC NUP DEC 2025

# ALVIN PROGRAM CONTINUING MISSION



Continue to provide superb, state-of-the-art access to the deep sea

Implement advanced methodologies and novel technologies

Increase community & public engagement and collaboration

Ensure Alvin's legacy of discoveries and operational excellence continue into the future

**THANKS FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE DESSC NEW USER PROGRAM!!!**