



September 18, 2015

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution is seeking participation from the US oceanographic science community to verify the scientific capabilities of the new AGOR 27, *RV NEIL ARMSTRONG*, during the spring and fall of 2016.

A critical part of the process of bringing a new oceanographic vessel online is to verify its suitability for all scientific operations and to groom the ship to fulfill its role as a general purpose oceanographic research vessel that meets the diverse needs of all our potential users and sponsors. The core of this process involves assistance from individuals from the US scientific community who have conducted science and have experience at sea on numerous platforms. WHOI's goal is to obtain direct, real time feedback and detailed reports from all participants.

A series of Science Verification Cruises (SVCs) will be conducted in the mid-Atlantic off of the U.S. east coast during the periods of March 1-April 22, June 1- July 1, and in November of 2016. The length of each cruise has not yet been determined and may range from 1-2 weeks; several cruises may be conducted during each period. We envision the participation of scientists from a range of disciplines and Institutions/Universities on disciplinary or integrated, multidisciplinary cruises. Activities can include the collection of samples and data using shipboard and over-the side sensors and the deployment or recovery of instruments and assets on an opportunistic basis. This opportunity is to provide ship time only and does not provide money for science or equipment. Travel and other logistical costs will be worked out in cruise planning.

If you are interested in participating in this process, please contact us directly with the following information:

- Details concerning the equipment you would plan to utilize
- Number of days you would require.
- Number of individuals you would bring.
- Dates you would be available (range).
- A description of potential multi-disciplinary efforts and the names of scientists in the other disciplines, if known (e.g., a biological oceanographer seeking collaboration with a physical oceanographer).

Please visit our vessels website for more detail and information at:  
<http://www.whoi.edu/main/ships/neil-armstrong/specifications>

We are currently in the preliminary planning stages for this SVC phase of the project. As the Science Verification scheduling moves forward we will work closely with you to see where you will fit best into the SVC process based on the disciplines and other participants or collaborators.

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<http://www.whoi.edu/main/cruise-planning>