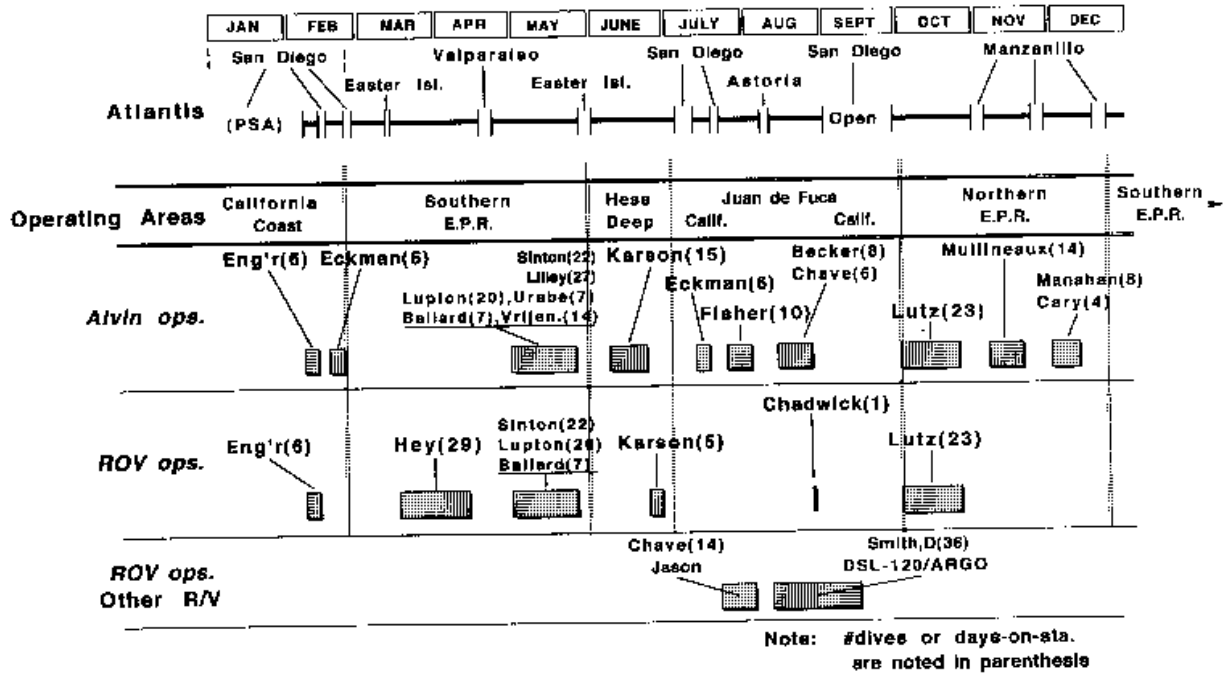


1998

R/V ATLANTIS

1998

## Proposed Ship Schedule



DAM-6/20/97

## Appendix IX

23 June 1997

## NURP Updates

## 1. ATV

The Navy has made it official with the letter from Admiral Krol dated 18 June 1998 that the Advanced Tethered Vehicle (ATV) will be inactivated on 1 October 1998. NOAA/NURP has sponsored most of the science dives performed by the ATV since 1992 and is very disappointed to learn that it will not be supported by the Navy on a long term basis. We had hoped that the ATV would, at least partially, cover the loss of the DSVs TURTLE and SEA CLIFF.

At this point, while other potential Navy recipients are being contacted, NOAA/NURP would like to hear an expression of interest from the science community including the projected use and the relative merits of the ATV.

Beth: As an action item for the agenda, it would be helpful if UNOLS would agree to provide a response to the funding agencies on this topic.

## 2. NURP Progress.

The reinvented NURP continues to progress. The six undersea research centers and Headquarters have are implementing the operational elements of the new program they have designed which includes new elements of competition and the addition of a national level advisory council. The Administration has shown its support for the new program by including it in the President's budget request for FY 1998 - the first time in 16 years. At the annual meeting of the NURP Directors, Under Secretary of Commerce Dr. Jim Baker congratulated NURP on the changes underway and expressed his support for efforts to raise future funding levels for the program.

## 3. ALVIN proposals.

Beginning this year all investigators seeking NURP support for ALVIN projects are to submit proposals through one of the six NURP centers. Proposals for NURP funded ALVIN dives will be competitively reviewed and dive time will be allocated on the basis of available funding and recommendations of a national level review panel.

Center Schedules: these were included in individual announcements sent out by the centers and are on their web sites.

Center	Preproposals	Proposals
North Atlantic and Great Lakes	N/A	N/A
Southeastern U.S., Gulf of Mexico	July 1	Aug 22
Mid-Atlantic	July 1	Sept 5
Caribbean	May 15	Aug 1
West Coast & Polar Regions	none	Sept 5
Hawaii and Pacific	July 1	Aug 22

The following is from the NURP research guidance to the centers.

## 2.0 RESEARCH GUIDANCE

### WHAT'S NEW FOR 1998

The FY 1998 NURP budget will be comprised primarily of Core funding to support center programs and a competitive fund to be allocated among centers based upon the advice of a national level panel that considers national, NOAA, and regional priorities. All proposals for research will be reviewed by each Center's review panel to ensure that proposals recommended for funding reflect high scientific standards. Proposals may be supported from Center core funding or from funds made available from the competitively-allocated fund.

Proposals for NURP support of research using DSV Alvin in 1999, the U.S. Navy deep submergence resources in 1998 and other areas of overall national interest such as research related to improving safety and diving operations, will be solicited by the Centers, where and if appropriate, in their annual announcements this year. These proposals will also be subject to competitive review.

The National Advisory Council will play an instrumental role in advising NURP regarding its commitments in future years to interagency agreements and national responsibilities for deep submergence support as well as other issues of national significance.

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## *Appendix X*