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Appendix III

From kbecker@rsmas.miami.edu Mon Nov 17 09:39:19 1997 Date: Mon, 17 Nov 1997 10:28:00 -0500
From: Keir Becker kbecker@rsmas.miami.edu
To: UNOLS Office unols@gsosun1.gso.uri.edu, perfit@geology.ufl.edu
Subject: Re: December DESSC Meeting - Science Presentation

Dear Mike,

Thanks for your invitation to present results/comments based on my recent Atlantis/ALVIN cruise, which was quite successful despite being scheduled later than normal weather window. At this point, I am not planning on being at AGU for the Sunday DESSC. (I am going to a NAUTILE pre-cruise meeting the week before AGU and co-convening a workshop at Scripps the Monday/Tuesday after AGU, so I am minimizing my time at AGU to cover only the Wednesday/Thursday session I am co-convening.)

I can make a couple of pertinent comments based on my cruise experience:

(1) First, I'd like to emphasize that our dive program to our 6 instrumented boreholes was fully successful, despite the weather loss of 2 of our 6 dives. This was due largely to the fine performance by the ALVIN crew, and flexibility of ALVIN and Atlantis crews as well as science party. In past dive programs, I've usually sailed with 2 or possibly 3 experienced pilots, and it was a great plus to have 4 really good pilots aboard. Another key factor in overcoming the weather hits was the great state of the new batteries, which allowed us to visit pairs of our installations during single dives, when we had programmed individual dives for individual installations.

(2) There was one unexpected "surprise" which caused some consternation, although Dudley and crew found effective ways to work around it: That was the sad state of the CTFM sonar, which I had planned on using to locate our reentry cones. These cones are very bright sonar reflectors, and nearly all our past ALVIN dives have not required transponders because we can locate the cones so well with the CTFM, at ranges as great as 500m. Thus, I had based all my dive planning on using the CTFM and not requiring transponders at our 6 CORK sites. I was completely unaware there were any problems with the CTFM, so I didn't even think to contact DSOG about it ahead of the cruise. (Obviously, that's a lesson for me!) I'll restate that Dudley and crew found effective ways to achieve our goals using transponders, so there were no problems on our cruise. Nevertheless, for future dive programs to CORKs and other borehole experiments (like the Carson and Becker programs scheduled next June), having a good CTFM or other

long-range sonar would be quite important. The available high-resolution sonars were absolutely no help -- although the CORKs show up at 300-500 m on the CTFM, they would appear on the high-resolution sonars only a few seconds before they became visible out the pilot's port hole. I understand that the CTFM is old and difficult and costly to maintain, but it seems to me having a good long-range sonar is generally important for future dive operations. If the DSOG plans on abandoning the CTFM for cost considerations, then perhaps they could compensate by adjusting the policies on "free" transponder deployments for multi-site cruises like mine.

Cheers, Keir

From csmith@soest.hawaii.edu Sun Nov 30 21:56:48 1997
Date: Fri, 28 Nov 1997 14:31:49 -1000 (HST)
From: Craig Smith <csmith@soest.hawaii.edu>
To: UNOLS Office <unols@gsosun1.gso.uri.edu>
Subject: Re: December DESSC Meeting - Science Presentations

Dear Mike,

I have been out of town and apologize for this late response. I will not be able to attend the DESSC meeting in San Francisco, so cannot make a short presentation. I could give you a short summary of the our work, if you wish (we are getting some very exciting results, we think). The ALVIN/Atlantis system worked well for this year, with one exception. The scanning sonar on ALVIN was not functional, so we were unable to locate experiments that we had dropped to the seafloor equipped with acoustic reflectors. Getting this piece of gear functional is very important; it is a basic system on the Navy's ATV, Scorpios, and Sea Cliff and is very useful when searching for targets in soft-sediment environments.

Aloha, Craig

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Appendix IV

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Appendix V

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Appendix VI

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