

Chief Scientist: Douglas Nowacek	Ph: 252.504.7566	MPC: [redacted] Jamee Johnson
Event #(s): [redacted] B249	E-mail: [redacted] dpn3@duke.edu	Cruise #: [redacted] LMG09-05



Required fields are highlighted in yellow. Click in the gray text box to enter comments.

Send completed outbrief form to marine.super@usap.gov







Planning Services	
[redacted]	<p>SIP process met expectations?</p> <p>Polar ice would be easier to use if it were divided into categories that made equipment easier to find. Perhaps by discipline: oceanography, geology...</p> <p>Conference calls between ourselves and the POC weren't followed up on, and issues seemed to be forgotten as soon as they were brought up.</p> <p>Some issues identified in the planning process languished without follow-up or resolution by the POC.</p>
Comments:	
[redacted]	<p>RSP helpful and timely?</p> <p>Our RSP was timely but incomplete. For example, the spreadsheet describing the gear available to us in PA was never provided to us by Patricia.</p>
Comments:	
[redacted]	<p>POC responsive?</p> <p>Responsive yes, she always returned calls/emails quickly – but she was only somewhat helpful and was ineffective in many ways. We had many problems with the POC, most of which can be summarized as her not following up on issues that were her responsibility to either actually complete or to coordinate. Case in point – we requested that a dodger be constructed for one of the zodiacs to protect electronic gear that were to be used for many hours at sea. In a planning call in about Sept or early Oct, and at that time it was decided that we (Duke) would construct the mounting hardware for the echosounders on the zodiac and the RPSC would construct the dodger. Well, conservatively, I estimate that I had to make 10 follow up contacts about the dodger, including being told in January (I believe) on a follow up call that I initiated that RPSC would not be fabricating the dodger because NSF needed justification. The problem would have been much larger had I not kept following up – on the issue of the dodger I was able to obtain permission from NSF in a matter of days, but without constant follow up with the POC I never would have known there was a problem. There are several other issues like this, again mostly related to coordination (or lack thereof) and oversight by the POC. With this evaluation, I would like to formally request that we are assigned a new POC for our cruise next year. I believe that this is already the case, but I have seen on some schedules that both John Evans as well as Patricia will be our POCs, so I would like to ensure that Patricia is not again assigned to our project.</p>
Comments:	

Medical Services	
[redacted]	Kits received on time?
Comments:	







Medical Services

	Questions answered? There was a bit of confusion when Medical switched the contracts from Labcorp to whomever they're using now. We were PQing just when this transition happened, and there wasn't any info in the kits mentioning the change. Medical was very responsive. PQ timing was good, PQs were processed quickly.
Comments: 	

Travel Services

	TRW available and understandable?
Comments: 	
	Ticketing completed easily?
Comments: 	
	Meet and assist service met requirements?
Comments: 	

Environmental Services

	Sample permits received okay?
Comments: 	
	ACA permits received okay? Getting our ACA permit was difficult. We were unsure what language needed to be included in the permitting. There was a lot of back and forth with NSF on this. We could have used a little extra guidance.
Comments: 	
	Waste handling needs met?
Comments: 	

Equipment Availability

Equipment Availability	
	<p>Reserved equipment (per RSP) available and operational?</p> <p>The major piece of equipment requested in the RSP was the dodger, and it was absolutely fantastic! It met all of our expectations. Whomever was responsible for its construction should be commended, and the MTs (Toby, Chance, Jullie and Dan) did a fabulous job adapting it to the zodiac, making the flooring more stable (a job Toby did at Palmer during a stopover). Knowing what we know now about the equipment available, we would have used more pieces, but Patricia never provided us with the list.</p> <p>The outboard engines need service. It seemed that the vessel's outboards were slow and unresponsive. The MT's seemed worried about how they were functioning, and put a lot of time into maintenance. The Palmer Station outboards worked much better.</p> <p>We needed to run SIMRAD laptop from the bridge. (This issue also languished in the planning process) ET Victor Shen did a great job engineering a work-around to make our equipment work. We would like to see more than one Ethernet connection on the bridge (outside of the captain's office.)</p>
Comments: [Redacted]	
[Redacted]	Damaged?
Comments: [Redacted]	
[Redacted]	Late?
Comments: [Redacted]	
[Redacted]	ECW gear in good condition?
Comments: [Redacted]	
[Redacted]	Lab space adequate?
Comments: [Redacted]	
[Redacted]	Remote sensing support needs met? (TeraScan, RadarSat)
<p>Comments:</p> <p>I would like to reserve comment on this until we return home and request all the imagery we need from UMN. Turns out that we were working on such small scale areas that the 'everyday' satellite imagery was too coarse.</p>	

Hotel Services	
[Redacted]	Cabins clean and neat?
Comments: [Redacted]	
[Redacted]	Linens clean and in good condition?
Comments: [Redacted]	

Hotel Services

	Food quality and variety was good?
	The food was adequate. We appreciated vegetarian offerings, but wish there had been more variety.
Comments:	

Research Objectives

	All accomplished? If not, please explain (weather, ice, equipment, personnel, etc.)
	We didn't get as much acoustic data as we would have liked. This doesn't have any implications for RPSC, the ice was simply too thick in many places we wanted to work.
Comments:	

Future Cruises

	If returning for another cruise, are there any additional equipment or support needs your group anticipates?
	We would like to add a third zodiac for the next cruise. Possibly the ROV. We'd like to see a ship mounted EK transducer system in the hull of the ship. I believe many science projects would benefit from this acoustic capability, including LTER. This would alleviate the need to tow a fish.
Comments:	
	Anything you would like to see changed?
	We'd like to see a clean power supply (on the UPS network) on either the AFT MT bulkhead near the pass-through, or in the Aquarium room.
Comments:	

Personnel Issues

	ECO
Comments:	
<p>I know already that I will exhaust my repertoire of superlative adjectives when describing the ECO as well as the RPSC staff on the ship. For the ECO personnel, we dealt primarily with the captain and mates, and they were spectacular. Our project was unusual in the sense that we did not have specific location(s), waypoints, etc to give to the bridge for most of our work. Instead, we have to operative in a very flexible, adaptive manner depending on where the whales are, where they go and what they are doing. The bridge crew honestly could not have been better in responding to our many and varied requests. Captain Joe set the tone saying that they would do everything within their safety concerns to get us where we needed to be, and then Chief Mate Rick Taylor, and mates Ernest and Gene executed those 'orders' better than I could have imagined. The bridge crew is to be commended with enthusiasm. We had little contact with the rest of the ECO crew, though in the interactions we did have they were professional, responsive and very helpful.</p>	
	RPSC

Personnel Issues

Comments:

I am not one to use superlatives, but I can say with confidence that this crew of MTs, ETs, MSTs, and our MPC were the best science support team I have ever worked with on board a cruise. For the MTs, they acted quickly and effectively to resolve problems and took the initiative, not waiting to be asked. Also, they executed laborious tasks (e.g., ‘babysitting’ our towfish through the ice) with a smile and dignity that was admirable – all while getting the job done effectively and professionally. I do not mean to lump them together, they all have individual strengths, but I would like to commend and thank each one of them – Toby, Chance, Julee, and Dan. For the MSTs, we were not a project that needed a lot of MST support (i.e., not many preserved samples), but whenever we did need them they were great – professional and helpful. The ETs were also excellent, and given some of our IT requests, specifically with respect to the Ethernet and our tracking antennas, they simply just made things happen and were pleasant and professional throughout. I would also offer thanks and commendation to George and Victor. Now, as for our MPC – she was awesome! We had lots of requests, questions, changes in plan, and Jamee was always responsive, pleasant, effective and offered ideas without being presumptuous. She obviously had a great rapport with her team, and she provided a fabulous interface with the OCS crew. I am not sure where/when is the correct time/place to make this request, but given their effectiveness, professional abilities, and now their knowledge of our operations – I would like to request that, if possible, we have as many members of the RPSC team assigned to our cruise next year. Particularly, all of the MTs, the ETs and MPC – I have no complaints at all about the MSTs, we just do not require as much of their support as do other projects.

Any Other Issues

■ Diving, Zodiac, email support, interaction with stations, etc.?

Comments:

Zodiac operations were fantastic, particularly Chance and Toby, but Julie and Dan learned quickly about driving us through the ice and they all took instruction and critique very well when it came to us teaching them how to drive around whales. Our interactions with Palmer were also great, I commend the Station personnel and ship’s crew for making our changeovers go so quickly and smoothly.