

Chief Scientist: Colm Sweeney	Ph: 303.497.4771	MPC: Jamee Johnson
Event #(s): O-214- L	E-mail: colm.sweeney@noaa.gov	Cruise #: LMG09-09

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]	SIP Process Met Expectations?
<p>Comments:</p> <p>It was OK. They had several issues with the planning stages. They requested to have more than one MST on this cruise, which would have eased the load on their small staff. Dr Sweeney (Colm) mentioned that he thinks if RPSC is going to own scientific equipment, like the O2 titrator, and the salinometer they should be providing the personnel with the expertise to run the equipment as well.</p> <p>(MPC note: We discussed that the RPSC budget has been tightened as well, and we couldn't afford to send more than one MST on this cruise. Colm notes that budgets should be increased to reflect the needs of the science cruises)</p>	
[Redacted]	RSP helpful and timely?
<p>Comments:</p> <p>Yes, but he was a bit disappointed in some aspects of the outcome of it. Again, he mentions that he really needed more help from RPSC to run his experiments. In the past he's been able to rely on having several MSTs to run equipment for him. His budget is so small that he has to rely on volunteers to do his work. His volunteers often aren't experienced with the equipment we have.</p> <p>He mentions that we didn't have a sufficient amount of O2 titration chems, or O2 flasks on the ship for his experiments. If several groups are using the O2 titrator, maybe RPSC should stock more chems and share them amongst cruises. We could have ordered more for him, for instance, and then used the rest on LTER. (Tim Newberger mentions that they did more stations than they expected to when they filled out the original SIP) (Sines mentioned that not all of the chems from the WH stockroom got loaded onto the ship.) (MPC note: we discussed that RPSC is trying to decrease spending by not overordering chems and lab supplies.)</p> <p>O2 chems were late to arrive at the ship. The science party needed to pre-weigh chems for the titrations, and they didn't arrive until the end of the portcall, neither did the MST, who was supposed to pre-weigh the chems for them. (MPC note: Colm and I talked about the fact that pre-weighing chems is usually the responsibility of the grantee, but Colm was promised in the planning process that the MST would do this for him. The MST did the pre-weighs in the Warehouse before the cruise.) Tim mentions that maybe we can get O2 chems already pre-weighed, or get them to PA early enough to have them preweighed long before a cruise starts? (MPC note: I think the schedule got changed sometime after the MST was ticketed, and therefore she wasn't at the ship at the beginning of the portcall.)</p> <p>In a phone call with the Vessel Labs Operations Supervisor, he assured Colm that the MST was very experienced in O2 titration, and could handle everything. It was agreed that the MST was amazingly helpful, and clearly very experienced, but there just wasn't enough of her to go around. Again, Colm mentions that he needed another MST.</p>	

Planning Services	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	POC Responsive?
Comments:	
<p>The cruise POC was responsive, though she didn't follow through on her promises. She promised that the MST would be waiting on the dock to get the O2 titrator and chems set up before their arrival, and this didn't happen. Many important details nearly slipped through the cracks. He sensed a certain reluctance to ask for clarification about the groups needs. For instance, when they asked for compressed air she assumed they meant "zero air," which isn't the same thing at all. Colm points out that nobody expects POCs to be experts at any given project that they're assigned- the POC just has to organize the details and keep asking questions and double checking orders with the science party to make sure their exact needs are met.</p> <p>Colm feels like there should have been better communication between all of the parties involved. There were several instances where the POC made promises (like telling Colm that that the MST would be there and have the O2 titrator set up before he arrived) that were later ignored or retracted.</p>	

Medical Services	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kits received on time?
Comments:	
[REDACTED]	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Questions answered?
Comments:	
NA	

Travel Services	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TRW available and understandable?
Comments:	
[REDACTED]	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ticketing completed easily?
Comments:	
<p>Not ticketing people until the last minute for NB flights was outrageous. Brigitta James wasted more time and caused extraordinary hassle by waiting to ticket people until several days before they were supposed to fly. (At the time of the eval, less than 24 hours before he was supposed to leave Colm was still not ticketed.)</p>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Meet and assist service met requirements?
Comments:	
[REDACTED]	

Environmental Services	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Sample permits received okay?
Comments: The POC didn't look into proper EEZ permitting for this cruise. It was only after the researchers arrived on the ship that permitting was examined. This somehow slipped through the cracks. One of the Electronics Techs was perceived as antagonistic on this topic, asking Colm about permitting before the cruise and quoting law of the sea. He seemed almost gleeful about permitting issues not being worked out.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	ACA permits received okay?
Comments: NA	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Waste handling needs met?
Comments: [Redacted]	

Equipment Availability	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Requested equipment available?
Comments: [Redacted]	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Damaged?
Comments: [Redacted]	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Late?
Comments: O2 Chems	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	ECW gear in good condition?
Comments: [Redacted]	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Lab space adequate?
Comments: [Redacted]	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Remote sensing support needs met? (TeraScan, RadarSat)
Comments: NA	

Hotel Services

Hotel Services	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Cabins clean and neat?
Comments: [REDACTED]	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Linens clean and in good condition?
Comments: [REDACTED]	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Food quality and variety was good?
Comments: The food was a bit too unhealthy- high cholesterol.	

Research Objectives	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	All accomplished? If not, please explain (weather, ice, equipment, personnel, etc.)
Comments: [REDACTED]	

Future Cruises	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	If returning for another cruise, are there any additional equipment or support needs your group anticipates?
Comments: The Drake Passage survey will continue.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Anything you would like to see changed?
Comments: Drake surveys seem to run like clockwork. Tim Newberger mentions that the data that come from the ship are some of the best he analyzes. He appreciates the attention that the RPSC staff pays to his equipment and keeping it well maintained. Tim mentions that the data files he gets from the ship aren't always sent at the most opportune times. For instance, sometimes he won't get a datafile for a month, if the ship happens to be somewhere else with instrumentation shut off. Would it be possible to write a script to send data files say, every time we're in the Drake, instead of on a calendar day? This data helps him know if his instrumentation is running properly.	

Personnel Issues/Concerns	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	ECO
Comments: [REDACTED]	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RPSC

Personnel Issues/Concerns

Comments:

The MST did a great job. Don't mistake remarks about wanting to have another MST for a reflection on the MST's work. She worked tirelessly on this cruise, and was essential to the project.

Colm really appreciated how quickly his air sampling project came together once he arrived on the ship. The MTs and MPC worked quickly and efficiently to manufacture brackets and set up the equipment on the bow.

They want to extend a special thanks to all of the Palmer Station folks who volunteered for the seven day Drake Survey, in particular Tracy Baldwin and George Ryan worked very hard.

Other Issues

Yellow box | Diving, Zodiac, E-mail support, interaction with stations, etc.?

Comments:

Communication was an issue on this cruise. Colm thinks that direction about what the priorities on this cruise were should have been laid out from the start. He would have liked to have had a conferenced phone call during the portcall or at the beginning of the cruise so that everyone could agree on scheduling. It was awkward at times hearing several scheduling priorities from the office, and having to go through the MPC to get clarification.

(MPC note: Colm didn't receive a chief scientist letter at the beginning of this cruise. He also wasn't cc'd on the sailing orders. I think Colm was at times frustrated by the circumlocutiveness of this cruise. If he had clearer information to start with, I think that it would have eased his mind.)

(MPC note: I think Colm was also vaguely dissatisfied with the way he was told that we were going to be supporting Hugo Island on the cruise. I think it's important to include the Chief Scientist in a discussion about scheduling rather than having him feel like he's being told what the schedule will be.)

Colm mentions that it would have been nice on this cruise to have outboard motors that worked when we left PA- that would have given us one more chance to get to Hugo Island.

Also, Colm mentions that it would have been nice to use our time waiting at Hugo Island more efficiently. We did a couple of CTDs for LTER, but it would have been nice if we could have used our spare time to help collaborate on some other science project.