

Chief Scientist: Ken Smith	Ph: [redacted]	MPC: Stian Alesandrini
Event #(s): B-050, B016, B-387, B-025, B-030, B-014	E-mail: ksmith@mbari.org	Cruise #: NBP09-02

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	
Yes	SIP Process Met Expectations?
Comments: This was fine. Not the smoothest process but no major issues	
Yes	RSP helpful and timely?
Comments: It was fine.	
Yes	POC Responsive?
Comments: Adam Jenkins was always very responsive and helpful. He gets high praises from the PIs.	

Medical Services	
No	Kits received on time?
Comments: Most folks PQed last year for a previous trip. There were some problems getting everyone's paperwork sorted out at that time, as well as bit this year for people who weren't on last year's cruise.	
No	Questions answered?
Comments: Medical was very poor at answering questions and helping with issues. They lost and misfiled lots of paperwork. The science group felt that they were very poorly organized. On many occasions people were told that their paperwork was never received, only to have it located later. The chief scientist felt like medical is "a black hole" where forms get sucked in and lost, and where if you ask something, you never hear an answer. The Chief scientist and other PIs felt that this department was not competent.	

Travel Services	
No	TRW available and understandable?

Comments:	
The chief scientist and PIs were all extremely displeased with travel. They felt that they were asked all sorts of questions about the TRWs and then it was all ignored. There was a general feeling that the travel department is "completely and utterly incompetent". Questions were not answered, promises were broken. Many of the grantees feel as if they were lied to by travel, being told what they wanted to hear to get them off the phone even though what they were told turned out later to be untrue.	
No	Ticketing completed easily?
Comments:	
Every dealing with travel was difficult and frustrating for these groups. TRWs were not followed, requests were ignored, paperwork was lost, emails and phone calls were not returned. The chief scientist and PIs were livid with how they've been treated by travel. They feel that there have been issues for years and can't understand why this hasn't been addressed by RPSC and NSF. They wished to convey their extreme dissatisfaction.	
Yes	Meet and assist service met requirements?
Comments:	
Meet and greet was great in both Santiago and Punta Arenas	

Environmental Services	
Yes	Sample permits received okay?
Comments:	
N/A	
Yes	ACA permits received okay?
Comments:	
N/A	
Yes	Waste handling needs met?
Comments:	
Handled smoothly	

Equipment Availability	
Yes	Requested equipment available?
Comments:	
Everything requested was available	
No	Damaged?
Comments:	
Everything was in good condition	
No	Late?

Equipment Availability	
Comments: Everything arrived on time	
Yes	ECW gear in good condition?
Comments: ECW is good but not great quality. Need more of the good seaboots. Gloves and some other items were missing for everyone. Need to do a reorder.	
Yes	Lab space adequate?
Comments: Lab space was good and in good condition. Would love to see more network drops in the Bio Lab.	
Yes	Remote sensing support needs met? (TeraScan, RadarSat)
Comments: Technicians were very good but the equipment and software is overdue for upgrades. This made the remote sensing challenging and they didn't quite get everything they would have liked. They also had trouble tracking ARGOS SOLO floats with the Terascan system due to the old software/hardware.	

Hotel Services	
Yes	Cabins clean and neat?
Comments: Some mildew in many of the cabins. Showers and mats need better cleaning	
No	Linens clean and in good condition?
Comments: Linens are old, thin and a bit grungy. Pillows and many of the mattresses are gross. Many of the shower curtains need replacing (mildew/mold) as do many of the mattresses. Showers need better, and more frequent (i.e every trip) cleaning.	
Yes	Food quality and variety was good?
Comments: Food was okay overall. Needed better accomodation of vegetarians. Fresh food and yoghurt ran out relatively quickly this trip. Better planning would be good.	

Research Objectives	
Yes	All accomplished? If not, please explain (weather, ice, equipment, personnel, etc.)
Comments: The science party was very happy, overall, with their accomplishments.	

Future Cruises

Future Cruises

Yes	If returning for another cruise, are there any additional equipment or support needs your group anticipates?
Comments: Everything was great. The one thing that they might use in the future that could use some looking into is the Simrad sonar.	
No	Anything you would like to see changed?
Comments: All in all, things were great.	

Personnel Issues/Concerns

No	ECO
Comments: The ECO crew was great. The Chief Scientist says, "It is always a pleasure to sail on the RVIB N.B. Palmer and this cruise has been no exception." The entire ship's company has been extremely supportive of our science goals and they have done their utmost to make this a very successful cruise. The response of the bridge staff to last minute changes in the schedule and for positioning the ship to facilitate our operations has been excellent."	
No	RPSC

Personnel Issues/Concerns

Comments:

The science party was very happy with the service from the MPC and RPSC Technicians. Below is a letter sent to the MPC from the chief scientist:

Date: 11 April 2009

To: Stian Alesandrini, MPC

From: Ken Smith, Chief Scientist, NBP09-02

Re: Performance of RPSC staff

This cruise has been very successful and the RPSC staff has contributed greatly to our productivity. Your ability to pick up the pieces from our previously appointed MPC at the eleventh hour, greatly contributed to the success of the cruise and the accomplishment of over 99% of our objectives.

The Marine Technician Group, led by Randy Sliester and Jeremy Lucke, was excellent, the best we have ever sailed with in the Antarctic over the past 16+ years. Randy and Jeremy along with Chance Miller and Mike Lewis were masterful at preparing and deploying all of our instrumentation ranging from tow fishes to the giant MOCNESS trawl. When necessary, they were able to fabricate missing parts, manage the science team on deck, and make each operation a success. This was no small feat given the diversity and large number of operations conducted on this cruise.

The Marine Science Technicians, Lindsey Ekern and Ethan Norris, were very attentive to all our requirements in the lab. Lindsey did an outstanding job of running the nutrient analyzer for all the water samples generated from the CTD/rosette casts, tow fish, ROV, and underway sampling systems.

The Electronics Technicians, Dan Elsberg and Sheldon Blackman, were instrumental in keeping the CTD and MOCNESS systems running throughout the cruise and giving us daily satellite updates. It is truly a monumental effort to keep the MOCNESS functional but they managed to do this for many successful deployments of both the 10 and one square meter systems. They, like the other RPSC technicians, were very generous in opening their shop and parts supplies to our MBARI engineers and thus contributed directly to the success of our varied operations

The Information Technician, Kris Merrill, kept the e-mail service up and running during the entire cruise which was a blessing. She was also instrumental in the packaging and transmission of numerous large files, containing multiple video clips and pictures to our home institution. Kris deserves a special thank you for taking on all the responsibilities of the IT group when Paul Huckins was unexpectedly sent home on a medical evacuation early in the cruise.

We all thank you and your excellent staff for making this a very successful cruise. We hope that we have the opportunity to sail with this same excellent group of RPSC staff in the future.

The Science Group of NBP09-02

Other Issues

No

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

Comments:

Email, boating and everything else was great.