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Event #(s): B-272-N	E-mail: ditullioj@cofc.edu	Cruise #: NBP06-08

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: RPSC POC was great, responsive. Good job with SIP and pre-cruise planning. Process seemed better this year, better on fulfilling requests and better tracking.	
No	RSP helpful and timely?
Comments: RSP: Not timely; ~two weeks before the cruise and at that point almost irrelevant. It is nice to know what you are getting and what not. [Cruise POC Comment: The RSP was sent out on time, i.e. six weeks before deployment (9/20/06), as required to meet the RPSC metric. An update was sent out four weeks prior.]	
Yes	POC responsive?
Comments: POC: Great POC, helpful and responsive.	

Medical Services	
Yes	Kits received on time?
Comments: The ability to download the medical forms is a great improvement over waiting for packages. Shipping of blood samples via FEDEX needs clarification.	
Yes	Questions answered?
Comments: Tracking process through POLARICE difficult, many expressed preference to email status updates as was done in the past.	

Travel Services	
Yes	TRW available and understandable?
Comments: Travel mostly okay	
Yes	Ticketing completed easily?
Comments: Self ticketing (esp. for foreign participants) reimbursement process difficult. Needs to be more flexibility in ticketing/routing ought to be better; for instance, participants from Stanford had to fly to LA, then south, rather than being able to fly direct from SFO which is available and less flying.	
Yes	Meet and assist service met requirements?

Comments:

Mostly good. Some self-ticketers were not met. (It was pointed out that they won't/can't be met if CHC personnel don't know their itineraries of arrival times). Marlene in CHC very helpful, assisting with weekend arrival carrying samples/standards from US.

Environmental Services

Yes Sample permits received okay?

Comments:

Yes ACA permits received okay?

Comments:

Yes Waste handling needs met?

Comments:

Equipment Availability

Yes Reserved equipment (per RSP) available and operational?

Comments:

Short two waterbaths. Apparently not loaded in PA.
The recent re-build of the salinometer really made a difference; functions much better.
Custom incubator for Tortell group was 'over-engineered' and overflowed whenever vessel experienced motion.
The customized van for light/chemostat work was very helpful and performed better than expected.
Spectrophotometer that was for 386 requested was buried in the hold; 'no one wanted to bring it up'. Instead, project shared use with another. Note: MPC was never approached with this issue, which could have been easily resolved.
New HEPA filter for garage van was wrong size. Old one was sufficient for cruise.

Yes Damaged?

Comments:

O2 titrator. Limited set of bottles. System is old. Bottles need to be recalibrated.
Leases USM van HVAC systems were out of service. Extra heaters had to be added to van.
Problems with production from the LN2 Plant resulted in insufficient LN2 and the consequent loss of 2-3 days analysis time.

No Late?

Comments:

Yes ECW gear in good condition?

Comments:

No problems

Equipment Availability	
Yes	Lab space adequate?
Comments: easier the 2 nd time around	
Yes	Remote sensing support needs met? (TeraScan, RadarSat)
Comments: Need better color imagery. Why does Terscan not have MODIS capability? Terscan not used to maximum potential.	

Hotel Services	
No	Cabins clean and neat?
Comments: Cabins are showing their age; carpets are worn, paint and cabinetry degraded. Vessel needs vacuums that work! Comment from one PI with considerable experience is that the lack of functioning vacuum cleaners has been a consistent problem throughout the life of the ship.	
No	Linens clean and in good condition?
Comments: Linens are terrible. Worn, pilled and thin. Comforters are worn out, leaking stuffing.	
No	Food quality and variety was good?
Comments: One person expressed that this was the worst food they have ever had on a cruise. All felt that the beef and fish seem substandard, menu repetitive. French fries at every meal. Dated food products. Capt. Did point out that ECO has no food services organization; each vessel essentially on its own. Ship's cook was a cook, not a chef. All recognize that position is difficult to fill and perform. Seemed to be little or no communication between galley shifts. It is suggested that an audit be conducted of food and hotel services, such as what percentage of NSF per diem is actually spent on groceries, whether there is any consistency or exists any actual food cost.	

Research Objectives	
Yes	All accomplished? If not, please explain (weather, ice, equipment, personnel, etc.)
Comments: Disembarking one member of science party cost two days loss of time. Weather and ice caused some delays. However, major research objectives were accomplished.	

Future Cruises	
Yes	If returning for another cruise, are there any additional equipment or support needs your group anticipates?
Comments: Vessel needs improved capability to access or receive imagery for scientific and navigational purposes. RADARSAT imagery may have provided better assessment of ice conditions for northbound transit. Vessel should have MODIS capability in Terascan. Seawifs would be nice, acknowledging that it is expensive.	

Future Cruises

Yes Anything you would like to see changed?

Comments:
See above

Personnel Issues

No ECO

Comments:

Yes RPSC

Comments:

Science party had requested the ability to have more people in science party vs. support personnel. One IT staff member would have been sufficient; one of them spent more time processing MB data that was not required for cruise; attitude of that individual sometimes rude, particularly to students; resistance to sending over-size messages for PIs who have to continue to deal with issues/papers/ correspondence unrelated to specific cruise requirements. Attitude [of that IT staff member] at times seemed punitive. Other IT was supportive and unfailingly supportive.

Number of MTs essential. ETs essential. All Helpful, supportive and responsive. May be that one MST would be sufficient as well.

Any Other Issues

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

Comments:

Morale phone is really nice.

Radioisotopes: CS institution would not ship isotopes because they felt that it was illegal or against NRC regulations since no one receiving them at RPSCNZ has license.

Paraformaldehyde for 386 that was supposed to be supplied from PA stocks was not loaded prior to departure from PA.

One PI felt that RPSC technicians should not occupy the larger cabins; and dismissed a previously conveyed argument that this was typically done for those technicians that were riding for multiple cruises. Other PIs either had no opinion or supported the concept.