

For the Week of September 17, 2017



Weekly Hydro Ship Activity Report

Welcome to NOAA's Weekly Hydrographic Ship Activity Report! We hope you enjoy this reader-friendly layout for our weekly report as we update you on the progress of our NOAA-ship and contractor-run surveys.

Highlights of this edition of Weekly Ship Report

- *Thomas Jefferson enroute to Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands to engage in hurricane response surveying. -- Additional images submitted by Thomas Jefferson showing their hurricane response efforts are included in [this week's attachments folder](#).*
- *Etrac begins surveying on OPR-H358-KR-17, Sarasota to Naples Florida.*
- *DEA, Leidos, Oceaneering, and OSI continue their survey efforts in the Gulf of Mexico.*



Thomas Jefferson lowers the jack to get underway for Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands on September 24. (Pictured: AST Josh Hiteshew, CST Allison Stone, SS Francine Grains, AB Randy Scott. Photo courtesy of PS Douglas Wood.)

NOAA Ships

BAY HYDRO II

Recap

BHII is not currently surveying.

Looking Forward

BHII is not currently surveying.



FAIRWEATHER

OPR-O346-FA-17 - Yakutat Bay, AK

Fairweather continued work on Yakutat Bay, taking advantage of a short shoreline window to investigate features on the most complex sheets. MBES survey was conducted as permitted by weather, opportunistically working Priority 1, H13069 when possible and more sheltered areas otherwise.



Recap

- Concluded mainscheme acquisition, crosslines and bottom samples for H13071 on Sept 18.
- Ship shifted to Monti Bay on Sept 18 to prepare for shoreline acquisition tidal window. Conducted early deployments of skiff and Ambar on Sept 19-21 for shoreline verification on H13070, H13075, and H13072.
- Crews from shoreline boats shifted to launches for MBES acquisition on H13069 on Sept 19-20.
- Ship departed for scheduled inport in Juneau, AK on Sept 21, arriving Sept 22.

- Began reviewing draft DRs for West Prince of Wales surveys and trackline survey from Port Clarence and Vicinity.
- Bid farewell to PS Janice Eisenberg from HSTB, who assisted with processing, VR surface visualization, and workflow documentation.

Looking Forward

- Ship departs Juneau on Sept 25, arriving to Yakutat Bay on Sept 26.
- Focus on H13070 for acquisition until lower swell states allow work on H13069, possibly around Sept 29.
- Continue reviews of data and DRs from West of Prince of Wales surveys, working toward final review; continue DR writing on Port Clarence and Vicinity surveys.

FERDINAND HASSLER

OPR-G343-FH-17 - Approaches to Jacksonville, FL

Recap

- The ship transited from MOC-A in Norfolk, VA to FLETC in North Charleston, SC.

Looking Forward

- The ship is standing by for hurricane response tasking. If hurricane response is deemed unnecessary, the ship will transit to Jacksonville and continue progress on OPR-G343-FH-17.



RAINIER

M-N908-RA-17-IOCM_OCNMS - Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, WA

Rainier is currently alongside in Seattle WA, after concluding acquisition on the OCNMS project, M-N908-RA-17-IOCM_OCNMS.

Recap

- Completed OCNMS project, M-N908-RA-17-IOCM_OCNMS.
- Transit to and docking in Seattle, WA.

Looking Forward

- Begin Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) project in California in October.



THOMAS JEFFERSON

S-I950-TJ-17 - Hurricane Maria Response Effort

Recap

- After completing emergency repairs to the propulsion system, *Thomas Jefferson*

received tasking to provide hurricane response surveys in major ports affected by Hurricane Maria in the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) and Puerto Rico (PR).

- *Thomas Jefferson* got underway on Thursday evening from Mayport Naval Station and moored at Port Everglades for repairs to her port side launch davit Saturday morning.
- While in Port Everglades, *Thomas Jefferson* loaded additional supplies for the National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office in San Juan as well as repair parts for damaged CO-OPS tide stations in the PR/USVI region.
- Following completion of davit repairs, *Thomas Jefferson* departed Port Everglades on Sunday morning to begin transit to PR/USVI.



Looking Forward

- *Thomas Jefferson* should arrive on station sometime Thursday morning (9/28) to deliver the NWS supplies to San Juan and commence region hurricane response surveys.

Contractors



DAVID EVANS
AND ASSOCIATES INC.
MARINE SERVICES

OPR-J348-KR-17 - Mississippi Sound and Vicinity, MS

Recap

S/V Blake and R/V Preston

- Last week the *Survey Vessel Blake* and *R/V Preston* continued operations in Mississippi Sound.
- Three Dangers to Navigation were observed during acquisition and submitted to AHB (H13064 DtoN 01, H13063 DtoN 01, and H13063 DtoN 02).
- The *R/V Preston* completed MS and XL in the western portion of the survey area and moved from Biloxi to Pascagoula for better access to the remaining Mississippi Sound survey area.
- In total, the *Blake* acquired 469 nm of MS, fill, and investigations and 41 nm of XLs and the *R/V Preston* acquired 82 nm of inshore MS and 9 nm of XLs.

Looking Forward

- The plan for the week includes the site visit in Gulfport tomorrow and continued operations in the project area.
- The *Blake* began survey on Sheet 7 today and we anticipate continuing mainscheme and crossline acquisition in sheets 7, 9, and 10 over the next week.
- We are currently evaluating sounding disprovals in the set line spacing sheets, shoal developments in several areas, and the potential to postprocess some acquisition days where RTK corrections came from a C4GNet mountpoint that did not include two offshore stations installed by DEA.



OPR-H358-KR-17 - Sarasota to Naples, FL

Recap

R/V Benthos, R/V Taku, R/V 505

- All vessels performed sonar testing and patch testing.
- *R/V Benthos* and *R/V Taku* commenced survey of H13079.
- *R/V 505* acquired crosslines and full survey in H13080 and 13081.

Looking Forward

- All vessels ball check and draft check.

R/V Benthos

- Finish middle corridor in H13079.

R/V Taku

- Finish western corridor in H13079.

R/V 505

- Continue survey in H13081 and investigate ATONS.
-



OPR-A366-KR-17 - East Penobscot Bay, ME

Recap

R/V Theory

- During the last week the *Theory* worked in Priority 2 (H13012) surveying main scheme lines.
- During times of low tide they took bottom samples in Priority 2 (H13012) and Priority 3 (H13013).
- Survey activities continued to be planned around times of high tides in order to maximize efforts in shallow areas.

R/V Westerly

- The *Westerly* continued survey operations in Priority 1 (H13011), Priority 3 (H13013) and Priority 4 (H13014) survey infills and tielines.
- Bottom samples were started on 4 (H13014).
- Survey activities continued to be planned around times of high tides in order to maximize efforts in shallow areas.

Looking Forward

R/V Theory

- The *Theory* will conduct operations in all areas to complete survey. Vessel will potentially be demobilized later in the week.

R/V Westerly

- The *Westerly* will conduct operations in all areas to complete survey and will be on standby until all Priorities have been reviewed.



OPR-K371-KR-17 - Sabine, LA

Recap

R/V Atlantic Surveyor

- The *R/V Atlantic Surveyor* continued survey operations on TO-03 H13054 and as of September 21 we are 39.72% complete on this Sheet 1, which is 10.04% of the total project.

Looking Forward

- No future plans were submitted by Leidos.



OPR-K371-KR2-17 - Approaches to Galveston, TX

Recap

R/V Sea Scout

- Monday 18th to Wednesday 20th~ performed multibeam only survey operations in fairway (Northern fairway).
- Wednesday 20th to Sunday 24th ~ performed multibeam only survey operations in fairway (Southern fairway).
- The evening of Sunday the 24th ~ Southern fairway was complete and survey operations moved to the East, back to subarea 3. Multibeam-only line plan commenced.
- 4 assigned investigations located outside the survey areas were completed this week.
- Tuesday it was decided that the prevailing seas and winds would not be ideal for good quality side scan sonar collection so a new line plan for Multibeam only was requested from the Oceaneering office for all remaining survey sheets and subareas.
- The COR, Jacklyn James, was informed of the change in field operations via e-mail. This change in the line plan is expected to add on approximately 14 days to field acquisition for the *Sea Scout*.
- Completed 13.507 square nautical miles and the sheet is approximately 41% complete, overall project is 31% complete.
- Some delays were experienced on a daily basis in the shipping channel (Fairway surveys).

Looking Forward

- Moving forward, Oceaneering will be switching to a multibeam-only acquisition mode.



OCEAN SURVEYS, INC.

OPR-K354-KR-17 - Louisiana Coast, LA

Recap

R/V Ocean Explorer and R/V Osprey

- For the period between September 18 through September 24, 2017 (DN 261 - DN 267), OSI continued acquisition of mainscheme survey data, i.e. side scan sonar with concurrent multibeam, for project OPR-K354-KR-17.
- The field crew conducted 24-hour operations aboard the survey vessel *R/V OCEAN EXPLORER* within Survey H13043 and 12-hour operations aboard the survey vessel *R/V OPSREY* within Survey H13040 and H13041, except for weather delays on September 23 and 24.
- Weather and site conditions have been mostly favorable for high production survey operations; forecast remains good.
- The *R/V OCEAN EXPLORER* field crew returned to port on September 23 for refueling and shipped a hard drive with all acquired data to the OSI home office for data processing.
- All *R/V OCEAN EXPLORER* data through September 17 has been converted and is in the data processing queue. Data through September 23 has yet to arrive.
- The *R/V OSPREY* field crew shipped a hard drive with all acquired data to the OSI home office for data processing on September 19. All *R/V OSPREY* data through September 19 has been converted and is in the data processing queue.
- Total approximate LNW through DN266: 5594.

Looking Forward

- We are planning to have both vessels continue survey operations in H13042 and H13043 this week.



OPR-P384-KR-17 - Pavlof Islands and Vicinity, AK

Recap

- Little project activity, however did commence bottom samples on site 9/25, aboard the *Q105*.

Looking Forward

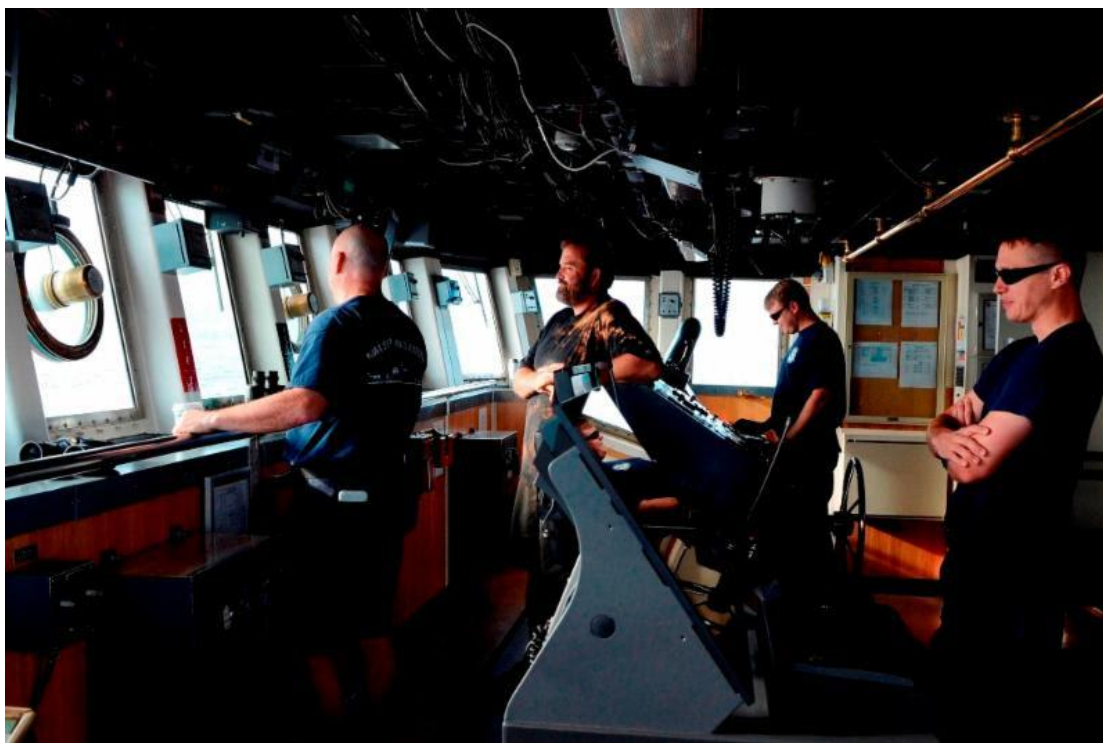
- Finish bottom sampling and therefore all field effort will be complete.
- *Q105* transits to Homer.
- Some office work.

[Link to Survey Figures](#)

[Link to Story Map](#)

NOAA's *Thomas Jefferson* plays a role in hurricane relief efforts

Thomas Jefferson is currently in transit to Puerto Rico and St. Croix (ETA 9/28) to survey key marine navigation routes and harbor areas in order to safely reopen them to commercial and recreational vessel traffic. The ports and passages are crucial to the import/export of supplies and energy resources that sustain the islands--not to mention their importance to the cruise ship trade. We thank TJ for doing her part!



The bridge of *Thomas Jefferson* as she transits to Puerto Rico to aid in Hurricane Maria relief efforts on 9/26. (From left to right: CDR James McEntee-US Public Health Service, RN, AB Randy Scott, CDR Christian VanWestendorp (CO), ENS Garrison Grant). Photo courtesy of PS Douglas Wood.

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