

For the Week of August 20, 2017



Weekly Hydro Ship Activity Report

Welcome to the new face of NOAA's Weekly Hydrographic Ship Activity Report! We hope you enjoy this more 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

- *Unsurprisingly, many surveys have faced weather challenges in the last week.*
- *The NRB monthly report for July 2017 is available through the [attachments link for this week](#).*
- *Our [Story Map](#) has been updated reflecting survey progress and new projects coming on line.*
- *Due to the upcoming Labor Day Holiday, distribution of Weekly Ship Activity Report for the week of August 27 will be delayed.*

NOAA Ships

BAY HYDRO II

Recap

BHII is not currently surveying.

Looking Forward

BHII is not currently surveying.



FAIRWEATHER

OPR-R351-FA-17-Port Clarence

Fairweather wrapped up acquisition on the full coverage surveys in Port Clarence, and began expanding into a secondary adjacent area in Grantley Harbor. In the next week we intend to complete the project and revisit the Yukon River.



Recap

- Completed final acquisition on assigned areas for H12798, H12799 and nearly completed H12799.
- Demobilized side scan sonar from launch 2807 to enable faster transits for final MBES acquisition.
- Conducted an investigation of nearshore areas in Grantley Harbor on Aug 23 with single beam sonar on the AMBAR jet boat.
- Conducted survey on D00206 corridor during poor weather on Aug 24.
- Arrived to Nome, AK on Aug 25 for a scheduled port visit.
- Bid farewell to LT Charles Wisotzkey and PS Rita Bowker who were of great assistance during a leg with reduced survey personnel.

Looking Forward

- Depart Nome on Aug 28, return to Port Clarence.
- Complete acquisition on H12799, wrap up additional Grantley Harbor area and demobilize GNSS base station by Aug 30.
- Transit to the Entrance to Yukon River area, surveying D00206 corridor along the way.
- Complete an additional day of acquisition on the Entrance to Yukon River sheet F00694.

FERDINAND HASSLER

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

Recap

- *Ferdinand Hassler* is alongside Charleston, SC.

Looking Forward

- FH is preparing for her Approaches to Jacksonville, FL survey.



RAINIER

OPR-P377-RA-17 -Cold Bay, AK

Recap

- Opened shoreline investigations, launch and ship hydro on sheet H13031 - East Deer Island.
- Finished shoreline investigations and all data acquisition on sheet H13024.
- Held/participated in conference calls for the upcoming Channel Islands NMS survey (October), the Kongsberg EM2040 installations for RA's HSLs (September), and the RA-2 system integration effort (on-going).
- Moored at King Cove on Tuesday evening (8/22) and conducted an open house for the public and local school district on Wednesday (8/23) for ~150 visitors, while concurrently operating two launches for acquisition.
- Conducted a hull dive on Wednesday (8/23) to clear marine growth from the ship's sound velocity profiler and other sonar equipment.
- Continued processing all OPR-P136-RA-17 (North Coast of Kodiak) and OPR-P377-RA-17 (Cold Bay) sheets.



Looking Forward

- Complete data acquisition on sheets H13027 and H13031.
- Close acquisition on OPR-P377-RA-17 Cold Bay, after completing acquisition on three sheets (H13024, H13027, H13031), take down RA-installed base station on Fox Island, and transit to Kodiak.
- Qualify two new Bridge Watch standers from the Deck Dept, one new OOD at anchor, one new Coxswain, and one new launch crewmember.
- Continue processing all OPR-P136-RA-17 (North Coast of Kodiak) and OPR-P377-RA-17 (Cold Bay) sheets.
- Hold Command Review for 1 or 2 OPR-P136-RA-17 (North Coast of Kodiak) sheets.
- Moor at USCG Base Kodiak on Friday, September 1, for a planned in-port.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

OPR-G329-TJ-17 -Approaches to Savannah, GA

Despite some weather delays due to a tropical cyclone forming over our project area, Thomas Jefferson continued toward completion of the Approaches to Savannah River project, completing ship mainscheme acquisition on H12961, with launch mainscheme close behind.



Recap

- Continued acquisition of 200% SSS with concurrent MBES on OPR-G329-TJ-17.
- Launch deployment was delayed and cut short due to weather on Aug 25, and deployments were cancelled on Aug 23-24 due to weather.
- Started crosslines on H12962 on Aug 26 until weather deteriorated beyond operational limits of the ship, at which time the ship diverted south away from the project area to avoid heavy weather.
- Visited by Representative Buddy Carter (GA-01) and Master Pilot Trey Thompson from the Savannah River Pilots on Aug 23.
- Continued processing on OPR-D304-TJ-17.
- Held a content review for final delivery of TJ_17_03 Gulf of Maine Fisheries project (OSD_AHB_17).

- Received substantial support from PS Bobby Short (AHB), PS Jacklyn James (HSD Ops), and PS John Doroba (HSTB).

Looking Forward

- The launch will continue acquisition on H12961 until completed (estimated 8/30/17).
- The ship will acquire holidays and developments to button up H12961.
- The ship will continue to acquire crosslines and mainscheme on H12962.
- In-port for annual fleet inspection on Aug 31st through Sep 9th in Charleston, SC.

Contractors



DAVID EVANS
AND ASSOCIATES INC.
MARINE SERVICES

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

Recap

S/V Blake

- We continued to make good progress on H13059 with mainscheme lines complete and part way through cross lines.
- We made an unscheduled brief port call on Wednesday, August 23 to meet with Jon Dasler and Jason Creech.
- In total 876.6 nm of acquisition occurred.
- We are currently using RTK corrections from the Gulf Coast Geospatial Center and C4GNet local real time networks to compute GPS water levels at the survey vessel reduced through the VDatum model. We are hoping that we can maintain a connection to these services to facilitate real time tide reduction to monitor the project's depth based inshore coverage requirements.
- We submitted H13059 Danger to Navigation 2 to AHB on 8/26. This DtoN reported an 11-foot uncharted obstruction that is the remains of a tower west of the spoil area on the west side of the Pascagoula channel and northern edge of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway

Looking Forward

- This coming week we plan to complete crosslines and investigations on H13059 survey area and will move to H13060 when crossline acquisition is complete.
- We plan to start acquisition with the *R/V Preston* on Monday, August 28, for shallow water surveys of H13060.



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

Recap

R/V Theory

- The Theory, based out of Bucks Harbor during the last week has completed all the main scheme lines in Priority 4 (H13014) and has started in Priority 3 (H13013).
- During high tides, survey operations were focused on shallow and nearshore areas, with the aim to achieve good overlap with the LIDAR data or reach the 3m contour.
- Vessel completed crosslines and infills in several more blocks of Priority 4.

- Reduced visibility due to heavy fog in the mornings occasionally caused delayed departures, slow transits, and diversion of survey operations to open areas away from shore.
- Vessel continued to conduct more frequent SVP casts in order to compensate for significant variations of sound speed in the area.

R/V Westerly

- The Westerly continued survey operations in the Western portion of Priority 2 (H13012).
- Survey activities were planned around times of high tides in order to maximize efforts in shallow areas and nearshore.
- Significant variability in sound speed was observed in Priority 2 (H13012), therefore SVP samples were recorded more frequently with attention to spatial distribution.
- During times of heavy fog and reduced visibility, survey activity took place in open areas.
- Large amounts of lobster fishing gear were encountered during the survey, with snags reported daily, however, no damage was caused by the vessel activities.

Looking Forward

R/V Theory

- The Theory, based out of Bucks Harbor, will move to Stonington and continue survey operations in Priority 3 (H13013), mainly within the Southeastern portion of the sheet.

R/V Westerly

- The Westerly will continue working in Priority 2 (H13012) and move into Priority 3 (H13013).



OCEAN SURVEYS, INC.

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

Recap

R/V Ocean Explorer

- For the period between August 21 through August 27, 2017 (DN 233 - DN 239), OSI continued acquisition of mainscheme survey data, i.e. side scan sonar with concurrent multibeam, for project OPR-K354-KR-17 as weather allowed.
- The field crew conducted 24-hour operations aboard the survey vessel R/V OCEAN EXPLORER within Survey H13040 and H13041.
- The weather and site conditions have been less than favorable for a significant portion of the week reported. Hurricane Harvey and its regional impact have prevented survey operations since the afternoon of August 24, 2017 (DN 236).
- R/V Ocean Explorer is presently docked at the Port of Vermillion up the Vermillion River while waiting for weather to improve. The local marine forecast remains unfavorable for several days. In addition to unfavorable wind and seas, weather concerns include: the risk of local flooding and storm surge, the risk of tornadoes (numerous watches and warnings have been issued) as well as the possibility that Harvey will re-enter the Gulf of Mexico and strengthen as suggested by the National Hurricane Center storm track.
- The field crew returned to port for food and fuel on August 21, and shipped a hard drive with all acquired data to the OSI home office for data processing. A second hard drive was shipped on the day the field crew returned to port for weather on August 24.

Looking Forward

- The *R/V Osprey* arrived onsite this week and began shallow water operations in H13041 before suspending operations due to weather.

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

Recap

- No field operations conducted.

Looking Forward

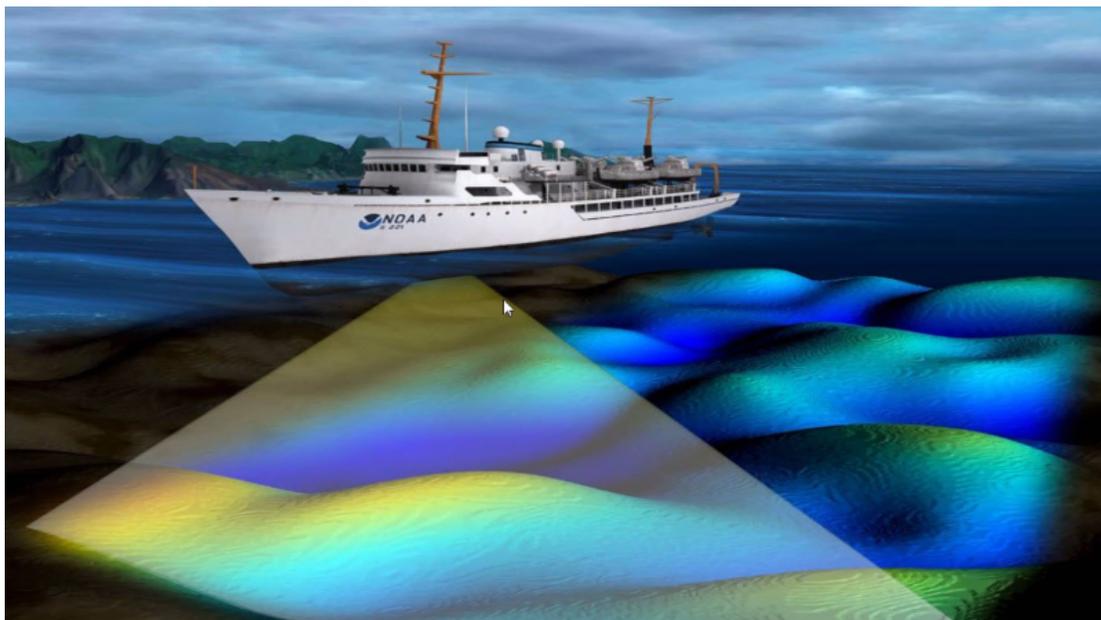
- No field operations scheduled.

[Link to Survey Figures](#)

[Link to Story Map](#)

What do you think?

Do you like our new format? Do you have suggestions? Continue to let us know (contact info below). Please bear with us as we refine our new format over the coming weeks, and also consider how you can frame your Weekly Reports to best showcase your hard work in the new format.



[\(240\)-533-0025](tel:(240)533-0025) | progress.sketches@noaa.gov | [Hydrographic Survey Projects StoryMap](#)

STAY CONNECTED:

