

Appendix 4: OBSIC At-Sea Operations Guidelines

The OBSIC sea-going team involves a combination of personnel of varying experience and expertise. Some members will be permanent OBSIC staff, while others may be temporary team members from the UNOLS Technician Pool. The OBS Expedition Leader and Deck Boss are the primary interfaces with the science party.

OBSIC Expedition Leader (EL)

- Has overall responsibility for the safety of OBSIC personnel and the OBS instrumentation. The EL may terminate OBS operations if conditions or schedule represent undue risk to OBSIC personnel or instrumentation.
- Throughout the cruise, the EL coordinates with the PI, science party, and ship's crew on all aspects of OBS operations to ensure the success of the OBS component of the cruise.
- Draws up and manages the watch schedule for the OBSIC team to ensure efficient and timely OBS operations including OBS programming, debriefing, and data offload and backup.
- Assigns an experienced OBSIC team member to be the OBSIC on-deck lead or deck boss.
- Ensures that science deliverables are provided to the PI in a timely fashion during the cruise and that any deliverables not completed by the end of a cruise due to extenuating circumstances have a clear plan for being completed that is also communicated to the operations manager onshore.
- Sends regular status updates to the OBSIC Management Office.

OBSIC Deck Boss

- In coordination with the ship's Bosun and officers, develops a plan for OBS deployments and recoveries that prioritizes the safety for all personnel involved in deck operations and ensures no damage to the OBS.
- Leads OBS deployment and recovery operations. Assigns tasks, such as tag-line duties, OBS snagging, to OBSIC personnel and science party personnel as necessary. Ensures all personnel wear hard-hats, appropriate footwear, and personal floatation devices. Ensures common hand signals are understood by all before commencing operations.
- In coordinating with the Expedition Leader delegates deck leadership to other OBSIC team members as appropriate if OBS operations are being conducted 24/7.

Other OBSIC Technician(s)

All OBSIC team members support OBS assembly/disassembly, OBS programming and debriefing, deck operations, record keeping, data offloading and data backup.

The OBSIC at-sea operations safety policy adheres 100% with the UNOLS Research Vessel Safety Manual (<https://www.unols.org/document/research-vessel-safety-standards-rvss>) regardless whether the cruise is supported on a UNOLS or non-UNOLS vessel. In addition, OBSIC personnel comply with the policies described in *Maintaining an Environment of Respect Aboard Ships* (<https://www.unols.org/what-unols/maintaining-environment-respect-aboard-ships>).