

JRFB/JRSO Update on the *JOIDES Resolution*

3 June 2020

Dear Scientific Ocean Drilling Community:

We are writing to update you about the current status of our scientific ocean drilling vessel, the *JOIDES Resolution*. This is a follow up to our 11 March 2020 letter.

Currently, the derrick repair is complete and the JR is in dry dock in the Netherlands to undergo repair of the seals to all thrusters. A lot of other work on the JR has also been completed, including the painting of the hull (below, with thanks to Operations Superintendent Steve Midgley for sharing images). When we start operations again, the JR



will be in good shape!
The not-so-good news is that implementing expeditions in this COVID-19 world has brought new challenges beyond the logistical issues associated with drilling in Brazilian waters that we described in our previous letter. After the postponement of Expeditions 387 and 388, the hope was to transit from Panama to dry dock in Amsterdam, initiate the repairs described above,

and then implement Expedition 395 (Reykjanes Mantle Convection and Climate). This project was chosen because it is located entirely within international waters, thus streamlining the logistics for implementation. However, travel restrictions to European Union countries were recently extended until mid-June, leaving an unacceptably short time window to determine whether we could get our crew, staff, and scientists to the vessel in time for the expedition. This made implementation of Expedition 395 impossible, and so regrettably it too has been postponed. The decision to postpone any expedition is never taken lightly, and this one was made in consultation with the co-chief scientists, NSF, and the JRFB Chair. The JRFB will consider rescheduling Expedition 395 as part of its overall consideration of North Atlantic operations at its meeting later this year.

Given the current pandemic, the JRSO is working with Siem and NSF to devise protocols for implementing the remaining expeditions on the schedule in 2020 and into 2021. These protocols will take time to develop and we will keep you informed of progress. The JRSO does intend to implement Expedition 384 (*JOIDES Resolution* Engineering Testing), but

that will depend on finding a port where the crew exchange can occur. While these times are uncertain, know that the JRSO, Siem, NSF, and the JRFB are working to do our very best to ensure scientific ocean drilling will continue.

We would like to end with some good news regarding proposal pressure—namely, the large number of expedition-ready proposals that are now with the JRFB for scheduling at their next meeting! The map below shows the locations of these proposals and Ancillary Project Letters (APLs), along with remaining sites from previous expeditions that still reside at the JRFB. Also included are the postponed expeditions. The call for proposals for the 1 October deadline will be announced soon and we ask you to keep up the proposal pressure as we look toward the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Sincerely yours,

Clive R. Neal

Brad Clement

Chair, *JOIDES Resolution* Facility Board Director, *JOIDES Resolution* Science Operator

