

Annual ROV Competition FACT SHEET

Focus on developing Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) skills has gained nationwide attention in K-12 education. The purpose is to excite and prepare students for majors and careers as scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians in order to meet the growing demands of the 21st century. Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) competitions are a way to engage and challenge students in these fields. Worldwide, these competitions provide a forum for exploring buoyancy, basic engineering principles, basic circuitry and deep sea oceanography as well as showcasing student ingenuity.



WHAT IS THE ROV COMPETITION?

This competition is the result of an annual teacher workshop conducted each summer at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL) in Alabama. There, teachers learn about the importance of ROVs during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill response; how they are used in marine industry and exploration; how to build, wire and operate ROVs; and how to integrate all they've learned into their own STEM education efforts. DISL is a regional competition center for the internationally renowned MATE (Marine Advanced Technology Education) ROV competition. These annual ROV workshops and competitions are sponsored by the Deep-C Consortium.



2014 EVENT

Students from 10 high schools in Alabama, panhandle and northern Florida will be vying for ROV domination during April 25-27, 2014. All year, students will have been studying the connection between the deep sea and the coast, and how scientists use ROVs to conduct research. The culmination of their work designing and building these technological vehicles will come to a head as they compete in missions analogous to the ways ROVs are used in the field – hover and look; retrieve items; and conduct surveys. The weekend will consist of more than just competition, however, as the participating students will visit the DISL Estuarium, deploy a professional ROV in the Gulf of Mexico, and learn about how ROVs are used in the field with presentations by scientists who use ROVs in their research.



ABOUT DISL

The DISL's mission encompasses marine science education, marine science research, coastal zone management policy and educating the general public. Located on a barrier island in the Gulf of Mexico surrounded by Mobile Bay, Mississippi Sound and the waters of the Gulf, making it perfectly situated for marine science activities.

ABOUT DEEP-C

The Deep-C Consortium is investigating the environmental consequences of petroleum hydrocarbon (oil) on living marine resources and ecosystem health in the northeastern Gulf of Mexico. Consortium members seek to increase understanding of the fundamental physical, chemical, and biological connections between the deep sea, continental slope, and coastal waters and their linkages to critical habitats and ecological functions. More than 100 scientists and students at 10 academic and research institutions in the United States and Norway are participating in Deep-C.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Tina Miller-Way, Chair of DISL's Discovery Hall Programs for Education and Outreach at tmiller-way@disl.org -- or -- Tracy Ippolito, Deep-C Coordinator at Tracy@Deep-C.org or 850-443-9086.

For more information about the ROV competition, visit the Deep-C website at <http://deep-c.org/education-and-outreach>

This project was made possible by a grant from BP/The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative to the Deep-C Consortium