

FLIP back in action after repairs

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FLIP is back in action in the Pacific - or will be shortly.

This unique oceanographic stable platform that is upended in the sea to conduct scientific investigations for the University of California, San Diego' Scripps Institution of Oceanography, leaves Honolulu February 18 to study internal wave patterns some 50 miles south of the Island of Oahu.

Dr. Fred N. Spiess, director of Scripps' Marine Physical Laboratory (MPL) , for which FLIP operates with support of the Office of Naval Research, said the vessel has been undergoing repairs to damage suffered during the early December storm that lashed the northeast coast of Oahu. Ten persons were evacuated safely and without injury from FLIP to the nearby USNS Sands during the storm. FLIP was then towed to Honolulu for damage survey and repairs that were made by Dillingham Corp. shipyard personnel.

Earl D. Squier, senior development engineer with MPL, will be scientist-in-charge of the studies during the week FLIP is in operation. She will put back into Honolulu for a week and then depart for a three-weeks' study of underwater acoustics in the Hawaiian area. William Whitney, also an MPL senior development engineer, will be scientist-in-charge during these operations, which will be conducted with another Scripps vessel, the Thomas Washington, that will be working in the area during the Seven-Tow Expedition.

Since the 355-foot FLIP has no motive power, she will be towed to her ocean work stations by tugs of the Dillingham fleet.

FLIP becomes vertical when water is let into her ballast tanks and returns to the horizontal when the water is forced out. In the vertical, 300 feet of the vessel are beneath the sea surface. The 55 feet that are visible above the ocean comprise four decks that accommodate the scientific party, crew members, and laboratory space.

Officer-in-charge of FLIP during the two operations will be Capt. Richard Silva.