

Ocean SAMP Team Conducting Research at Sea
September 30 – October 9, 2008

University of Rhode Island scientists, researchers, and students are aboard the R/V *Endeavor* gathering data for the Ocean Special Area Management Plan (SAMP). The research team will spend 10 days at sea mapping the **seafloor and underlying sediments**, conducting **bird observations** and **marine mammal surveys**, and deploying acoustic moorings within the **SAMP area**. This research will be incorporated into the SAMP, which will ultimately define use zones for Rhode Island's offshore waters.

The R/V *Endeavor* is a 185-foot research vessel owned by the National Science Foundation and operated by the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography. For this cruise, the crew includes University of Rhode Island scientists, graduate students and undergraduate students, members of the Ocean SAMP management team, and staff from the R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council.

During the cruise, *Endeavor* researchers will deploy a series of data-gathering instruments. A fully integrated Benthos C3D will collect both side scan sonar images and bathymetric data to produce a 3-dimensional view of the seafloor. A subbottom chirp profiler will be used to gather data on the underlying geology and sediment layers below the seafloor. A sensor will be used to gauge salinity, temperature, and oxygen at the sea surface and bottom.

Researchers will also conduct bird and marine mammal observation surveys to determine the distribution, density, and behaviors of these animals. See the **Research** section of the Ocean SAMP website for further information on these and other SAMP research projects.

This *Endeavor* cruise is made possible through a contribution of the state of Rhode Island to the Ocean SAMP project.