



ECORD's Headline #14 Expedition 389 Hawaiian Drowned Reefs is postponed!

Based on the **2019-2023 MSP operational plan** that has been approved by the ECORD Council at its last two meetings (see <http://www.ecord.org>), the ECORD Science Operator (ESO) has continued to plan Expedition 389 Hawaiian Drowned Reefs (389), including the issue of the drilling contract notice, evaluation of bids and holding contractual discussions with the preferred bidder.

In December, the preferred bidder pulled out of negotiations citing business reasons. An alternative, not wholly compliant bidder was immediately engaged.

Discussions with the alternative bidder led to the conclusion that, at this time, Expedition 389 would carry significant technical risks. These risks were presented to ECORD Council and to the ECORD Facility Board (EFB) in February, to inform a 'go/no-go' decision.

The ECORD Council has decided to postpone Expedition 389.

The EFB will discuss the rescheduling of Expedition 389 at its upcoming meeting that will be held in Bremen, Germany on 21-22 March 2019.

Preparation of permitting paperwork continued, and is now ready for submission. This is currently on hold, but the work invested will be applicable in the event of rescheduling. ESO contacted the scientists who have applied to be part of the Science Party (in response to the Call for Scientists that closed on 23 November 2018).

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