



AWSFL008-DS3

**NSF Award Abstract**  
**- #0002031**

**Collaborative Research: The Thermal State of  
20-25 Ma Lithosphere Subducting at  
the Costa Rica Margin, Implications for  
Hydrogeology, Fluxes, and the  
Seismogenic Zone**

**NSF Org** OCE

**Latest Amendment Date** September 11, 2000

**Award Number** 0002031

**Award Instrument** Standard Grant

**Program Manager** Bruce T. Malfait  
OCE DIVISION OF OCEAN  
SCIENCES  
GEO DIRECTORATE FOR  
GEOSCIENCES

**Start Date** October 1, 2000

**Expires** September 30, 2004 (Estimated)

**Expected Total Amount** \$300134 (Estimated)

**Investigator** C. Geoffrey Wheat  
wheat@mbari.org (Principal  
Investigator current)

**Sponsor** U of Alaska Fairbanks  
109 ASC  
Fairbanks, AK 99775  
907/474-7314

**NSF Program** 5720 OCEAN DRILLING

## PROGRAM

**Field Application** 0204000 Oceanography  
**Program Reference Code** 0000,OTHR,

### Abstract

Fisher 0001892 Wheat 0002031 Harris 0001944  
Stein 0001941

Recommended project is for a multidisciplinary investigation of the thermal state of the subducting lithosphere offshore of the Costa Rica margin. Heat flow measurements will be undertaken in two cruises covering oceanic lithosphere portions offshore of the Nicoya Peninsula that differ in makeup and tectonic style, with the northern portion formed at the East Pacific Rise and the southern portion, separated by an abrupt change in relief, formed at the Cocos-Nazca spreading center. These measurements will be accompanied by seismic and swath bathymetric study, as well as a coring program that will examine changes in porewater chemistry associated with fluid flow in the sediments overlying the crust. These field programs will be accompanied by two numerical modeling exercises that will examine the thermal state of the subduction zone as these two portions of lithosphere subduct. The goals will be to determine the comparative thermal state of the subducting lithosphere in these regions, the associated heat and fluid fluxes responsible for the subducting slab thermal states, and how these variable affect subduction zone processes, including chemical flux rates.

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