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Progress on Development of Low Pressure High Density Plasmas on the Helicon Plasma Experiment (HPX)<sup>1</sup> ROYCE JAMES, PHILLIP AZZARI, OMAR DUKE-TINSON, JOHN FRANK, JACKSON KARAMA, JOR-DAN HOPSON, RICHARD PAOLINO, EVA SANDRI, JUSTIN SHERMAN, ERIN WRIGHT, JEREMY TURK, U.S Coast Guard Academy — The small Helicon Plasma Experiment (HPX) at the Coast Guard Academy Plasma Lab (CGAPL), continues to progress toward utilizing the reputed high densities  $(10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-3} \text{ and})$ higher) at low pressure (.01 T) [1] of helicons, for eventual high temperature and density diagnostic development in future laboratory investigations. HPX is designed to create repeatedly stable plasmas ( $\sim 20$  - 30 ns) induced by an RF frequency in the 10 to 70 MHz range. HPX is constructing RF field corrected Langmuir probe raw data will be collected and used to measure the plasma's density, temperature, and potentially the structure and behavior during experiments. Our 2.5 J YAG laser Thomson Scattering system backed by a 32-channel Data Acquisition (DAQ) system is capable 12 bits of sampling precision at 2 MS/s for HPX plasma property investigations. Progress on the development of the RF coupling system, Helicon Mode development, magnetic coils, and observations from the Thomson Scattering, particle, and electromagnetic scattering diagnostics will be reported.

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