

UNOLS Fleet Improvement Committee Meeting
November 28-29, 1989; San Francisco, CA
Revised Agenda

Discussion and adoption of agenda

Discussion and approval of revised UNOLS Fleet Improvement Plan

Review of status of WHOI proposal for mid-life refits of OCEANUS-class ships (Nowlin)

Status of proposal for design of ice-capable ship for the western Arctic (Royer)

Status reports BERNIER conversion (Dinsmore)

Future funding and logistic support for the FIC

Presentation and discussion of modifications to intermediate SWATH general-purpose research vessel concept design (SEACO representatives)

Scientific Mission Requirements:

- * Establishment of subcommittee to formulate scientific mission requirements for submersible-support vessel (Nowlin)

- * Research subcommittee report (Robison)

- * Revised requirements for large SWATH ship (Dinsmore and Kaulum)

Compendium of small research vessels (Dinsmore)

Fleet Improvement Committee Activities for 1990-91

Improved Descriptions of Systems Required Aboard Research Vessels

Status of Manned Platforms Planned for the Gulf of Mexico

Future FIC meetings

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employed aboard different vessels. And it was thought that the sharing among institutions of information regarding the descriptions and capabilities of these systems would prove beneficial to the science and perhaps cost effective.

It was agreed that a list of and description of capabilities of the various systems presently aboard our vessels would provide a good start. Barbee volunteered to prepare such a description for the new THOMPSON (AGOR-23) and for the refitted MELVILLE and KNORR. This should be available by the spring meeting of the FIC, at which time further consideration will be given this activity.

Manned Ocean Bases in the Gulf of Mexico. The Navy (David Taylor Research Center) will refit two semisubmersible platforms for use as drug interdiction/surveillance platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. Navy policy will encourage use of the platforms for research on a not to interfere basis, and planning will consider research requirements. However, the Navy will not provide any scientific equipment. At present, there are no federal agency commitments to provide scientific outfitting of these platforms beyond the normal research proposal process. It seems reasonable for the FIC to maintain an awareness of actions regarding these platforms.

Future FIC Meetings. Tentative dates for 1990 FIC meetings were set as: March 29-30, San Antonio; July 9-10, Napa; during week of October 8-12, northeastern U.S.

1 January 1990

at least through June 1991 -- rather than only through December 1990 as originally estimated.

Concept Design of Intermediate four-strut SWATH Ship. Mark Rice presented the final report on the modification by SEACO to the concept design for a four-strut SWATH general-purpose research vessel. It was agreed that the report would be distributed as a UNOLS FIC document; Dinsmore offered to prepare an introduction summarizing the initial concept design and giving the rationale for the follow-up modification study.

Larry Bennen of SAIC discussed a lease/purchase option for an intermediate SWATH. He indicated that SAIC would be willing to build such a vessel to UNOLS specifications. The possibility of tank tests for the intermediate SWATH were discussed. The opinion of the FIC is that these tests should be carried out as soon as feasible in order to maintain interest and development of this design. Included should be seakeeping runs, resistance runs, and a wake survey.

Scientific Mission Requirements.

* Nowlin reported on the subcommittee being established, under the chairmanship of Roger Cook and with guidance from Feenan Jennings and the ALVIN Review Committee, to develop scientific mission requirements for a submersible-support vessel.

Kaulum asked that the charge to the subcommittee be broadened to include consideration of whether the new large vessels now coming into the UNOLS fleet could be utilized to handle ALVIN and the next generation of submersibles as well as provide general purpose capability. He acknowledged that a naval architect may be needed to carry out the weight calculations and indicated that ONR would be willing to share additional costs incurred.

* Robison reported on activities of the research submarine subcommittee. A draft report was tabled. Individual FIC members were asked to submit comments directly to Robison who will soon prepare a complete report to be sent by the FIC Office for community review. After review, those requirements may be added to the UNOLS Scientific Mission Requirements.

* A sub-group of the FIC revised the scientific mission requirements for the large SWATH general-purpose ship. Kaulum and Dinsmore agreed to approach Navsea with a request to return their design for a large research SWATH based on the new requirements. The request would be made to limit the displacement to 3500 tons maximum, with a 3000 ton desirable upper limit.

Compendium of Small Research Vessels. The Committee reviewed Dinsmore's plan to prepare a compendium of small (<100 ft LOA) research ships. This concept has been favorable received by a spectrum of small ship operators, and previously endorsed by the Committee. Dinsmore is now ready to begin work on the project and received approval for a revised work plan. Support will be provided to Dinsmore from the FIC Office out of existing 1989 funds.

FIC Activities for 1990 and 1991. A list of future FIC activities was prepared and approved. They are being circulated to FIC members and observers separately, but will be appended to the final version of these minutes.

Description of Shipboard Equipment Systems. Considered were the shipboard equipment systems employed for navigation; data acquisition, processing and reporting; water sampling; etc. It was noted that frequently distinct systems with distinct capabilities are

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Meeting Report
UNOLS Fleet Improvement Committee
November 28-29, 1989; San Francisco, CA

Present were committee members Robert Dinsmore, Donn Gorsline, Ken Johnson, James Murray, Worth Nowlin, Bruce Robison, and Thomas Royer. Observing were Keith Kaulum (ONR), Richard West (NSF), William Barbee (UNOLS Office), and Sheri Pappas (FIC Office).

Agenda. The tentative agenda was discussed and three additional items were added: discussion of manned sea bases planned for use in the Gulf of Mexico, consideration of the need for a revised UNOLS technical assistance committee to describe and share information on the various equipment systems carried aboard UNOLS vessels, and a review of the FIC goals for the next two years. The revised agenda is attached.

Fleet Improvement Plan. Comments on the 10 October 1989 version of the revised FIP had been received by Nowlin and incorporated into a 27 November 1989 draft. That draft was reviewed in detail by the Committee; changes from the October draft were noted. A revised Plan was approved by the Committee. It will be sent to the UNOLS Council with a request that it be approved on behalf of UNOLS at the February 1990 Council meeting.

Mid-life Refits of OCEANUS-Class Ships. The revised proposal from WHOI (on behalf of OSU, URI, and WHOI) to NSF for support of a study of designs and costs of renovations to the OCEANUS-Class ships at mid-life was endorsed by the FIC. This discussion lead to the conclusion that the UNOLS community needs informed opinion regarding the likely impact of the new Coast Guard admeasurement rules of the mid-life refits to fleet ships. Barbee agreed to send to the FIC copies of two recent papers on this subject completed by Ireland on behalf of the UNOLS Office.

Ice-capable Ship for the Western Arctic. Royer reviewed the present status of a proposal (in preparation by the University of Alaska for submission to NSF) for a concept design of an ice-capable, intermediate, general-purpose research vessel for operation in the western Arctic. This work to be carried out by The Glosten Associates, Inc. is estimated to cost between 50 and 80 thousand dollars. The FIC agreed to appoint an oversight committee to work with the contractor in this concept design. Recommended committee members are Dinsmore, Royer, Aagaard, Van Leer and Packard. Concern was expressed that this committee be appointed now in order to have real input to this design study. The FIC chairman (Gorsline) will appoint the committee.

Status of BERNIER Conversion. Dinsmore, the UNOLS representative on the national oversight committee for the BERNIER conversion, reported that bids ranging from 2.6 to 5.3 million dollars had been received for the conversion. A price of 2.1 million has been negotiated and a contract signed with the old Higgins yard in New Orleans. The ship is in the yard. Completion is hoped in March 1990. Perhaps the vessel will be ready for sea in May 1990.

Future Funding and Logistic Support for the FIC. A letter was tendered to Richard West requesting third year support for the activities of the FIC. Because the Committee has spent less than originally estimated when a successful proposal for three-year support was submitted, the allocation of the third year commitment should provide support for the FIC