

**Minutes of RVTEC Organization  
Meeting**

**18-19 October 1992**

**Omni Shoreham Hotel  
Washington, D.C.**



# Minutes of RVTEC Organization Meeting

## 18-19 October 92

Eighteen participants representing 15 of the 56 UNOLS member institutions (and 12 of the 19 UNOLS operator institutions) plus representatives from NSF-OCE, NSF-DPP, NOAA, ONR, the UNOLS Office, and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Inst met 18-19 October 92 in Washington DC for the organizational meeting of the Research Vessel Technical Enhancement Committee. **Appendix A** lists the attendees, the day(s) that each attended, and their institutional affiliation.

### Day One: Sunday 18 October

After roundtable introductions, the meeting was called to order at 8:45AM by Interim Chairman Rich Findley. Initial discussion centered on the adoption of a Statement of Purpose, and the criteria for institutional membership and representation.

#### Statement of Purpose

A motion was made by Rick Pieper and seconded by Tom Wilson to approve the following Statement of Purpose:

"The purpose of the Research Vessel Technical Enhancement Committee shall be to promote the scientific productivity of research programs that make use of research vessels and oceanographic facilities and to foster activities that will lead to enhanced technical support for sea-going scientific programs."

The motion passed unanimously.

#### Membership and Representation

After reviewing the Bylaws of the UNOLS RVOC, the following criteria for institutional membership and representation in RVTEC were drafted:

- 1) Membership in the RVTEC shall be extended to UNOLS member institutions, each institutional UNOLS representative may designate a representative to RVTEC, and each UNOLS member institution shall be entitled to one vote on matters at RVTEC meetings.
- 2) Participation shall be open to technical and scientific personnel at UNOLS and non-UNOLS organizations.

3) A simple majority of the UNOLS operator institutions must be represented to establish a quorum (i.e., at least 10 of the current 19 operator members).

These terms of reference for Membership and Representation, along with the Statement of Purpose and procedures for election of Officers, establishment of Working Groups and Panels, and for doing business at Meetings were combined into a set of Bylaws for the RVTEC.

The motion made by Tom Wilson and seconded by Rick Pieper to approve the Bylaws as discussed passed unanimously; **Appendix B** presents the Bylaws, as they were distributed to all attendees for final ratification the next day 19 November. Jack Bash pointed out that since RVTEC will operate under the UNOLS Charter, a summary Charter for RVTEC should be appended to the UNOLS Charter. This annex could be based on the principal elements of the RVTEC Bylaws just adopted. John Freitag then moved that the RVTEC Chairperson, who will be RVTEC's liaison to the UNOLS Council, draft this annex to the UNOLS Charter. Steve Rabalais seconded, and the motion passed by acclamation.

A motion was then made by Tim Pfeiffer and seconded by Harry Barnes that the present Interim Chair (Findley) and Interim Vice Chair (Biggs) be nominated to UNOLS serve as Chair and Vice Chair for RVTEC. Their terms of office were designated as 2 years for Chair and 1 year for Vice Chair, to provide for alternating terms of office as specified in the Bylaws. The motion passed unanimously.

The remainder of the first day of the organizational meeting was devoted to information exchange about schedules, federal funding for ships and technicians, and to a discussion of the general goals and objectives for RVTEC.

## **Schedules**

Next year 1993, it is anticipated that several UNOLS vessels may have light schedules (ENDEAVOR may be laid up; EWING, ISELIN, GYRE may each have less than 6 months of work; VICKERS may have 1-3 months of down time). This led to a consensus that a top priority issue which RVTEC should address is how best to conserve seagoing technical personnel. Clearly, RVTEC's purpose of promoting scientific productivity of research at sea will not be served by losing experienced Techs at institutions with light schedules. Discussion centered on the feasibility of short-term exchange of Techs among institutions and the possibility of contracting Techs from UNOLS institutions to support DPP sponsored programs. For example, Techs from UNOLS institutions might be hired for short-term (specific cruises of POLAR DUKE and/or PALMER) to augment the existing technician pool for DPP-sponsored research, which is currently under contract to EG&G via ITT Antarctic Services. In addition, several UNOLS member institutions may also need Techs to staff specific cruises in 1993. These include BBSR, WHOI, SIO, and U Del.

As an action item, participants agreed that posting a "Need for Tech Support" to the UNOLS.RVTEC bulletin board on Omnet 3-6 months in advance of specific cruises would allow interested member institutions to dialog efficiently.

### **Special Report: Oceanographic Cable**

Don Moller gave an overview of the type/amount of oceanographic cable that has been purchased during 1982-1992. The bulk has been 0.322" cable (69 reels were bought, at a cost of \$3.7M). Since 1986, the 0.322" cable has come from Rochester Cable Co., and Rochester is now UNOLS sole supplier of CTD cables. UNOLS seldom uses 0.375" (3/8") EM cable, although this is still used by NOAA and it was used recently for CTD ops on USCGC Polar Sea. UNOLS also uses 0.68" coax (i.e. for DeepTow work and for large MOCNESS work) and several groups within UNOLS are starting to use 0.68" fiber optic cable. Moller predicted that with the world-wide conversion of data transmission paths, copper would soon be replaced by fiber-optic.

### **Goals/Objectives**

After general discussion of the broad statement of Goals/Objectives was sent out as hand-out materials prior to the organizational meeting, participants broke into 3 working groups. These had goals to 1) Promote the exchange of information (and collaboration among member institutions!) about what is presently available (i.e., a cost/reliability type of "Consumer Reports" service, and suggestions on what to get); 2) Enhance technical skills of (and provide cost effective exchange of!) available technical support personnel; 3) Review new instrumentation development and application of new technologies. Each working group was tasked with presenting a summary of their recommendations, and identifying action items for the second day of the meeting.

The first day of the organizational meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.

### **Day Two: Monday 19 October**

The meeting reconvened at 8:35AM. The RVTEC Bylaws that were approved after yesterday's discussion were distributed for ratification. Tim Pfeiffer moved for their adoption, and John Freitag seconded. The adoption of the RVTEC Bylaws passed by acclamation.

### **Working Group Reports**

Tom Wilson reported for **Working Group #1**. The group had focused on Catalog Mailing Lists/Database services. The group recommended that mailing lists include pocket biographies of Techs, and lists of equipment. The group recommended that these databases be archived at Univ. Del., which curates the WOCE database and has a full-time data manager, so that they will be retrievable on line.

Examples of salient information for both databases were suggested, along with the following action items: a) send instrument lists and Tech capsule resumes to UNOLS.RVTEC bulletin board within 45 days (by 1 Dec 92); b) establish a (sub)subcommittee to talk about database structure (Tom Wilson, David Wirth, John Freitag, Mark Willis); c) contribute summary info to RVTEC Newsletter, by 1 Dec.

Doug Biggs reported for **Working Group #2**. The group had considered mechanisms for a) training/re-tooling of people; b) providing additional support at sea.

Mechanisms for training that were identified include: 1) short-term sabbaticals; 2) short-term support for specific cruises; 3) both short- and long-term "swaps" of personnel between member institutions (no net loss); 4) exchange of "specialists", particularly when one institution proposes to acquire instrumentation that is new to that institution, but which other institutions may already be operating (ADCP; autoanalyzer; MOCNESS). Several benefits of training were apparent: 1) makes job more attractive; 2) opportunity to have a highly trained specialist on site, for a particular length of time; 3) exchanges will be cost-effective, particularly in the long term: they should allow ship schedules to be put together more efficiently, and except for the time(s) that the tech on exchange is at sea, they will not incur SeaPay/OT.

Mechanisms for providing additional at-sea support, it was recognized, will have to be worked out in the next few months by institutions with reduced schedules. They will be the "test cases": those with techs available during mid-life ship lay-ups, and/or periods of reduced ship operating schedules. Some interim benefits were apparent: those institutions with techs available in 1993 will be able to accommodate the short-term needs of at least 2 NSF-sponsored programs that are people-intensive: i.e. WOCE Hydrographic Program (4 legs on Thompson, April-Nov 93, which require 8 Techs per leg), and the full schedule, rapid turn-around cruises of Weatherbird at BBSR.

Action item suggested by Working Group #2 was to compile listing of people (put on UNOLS.RVTEC bulletin board capsule listings of tech personnel at each member institution, to include education; years of tech experience; special training; principal duties; cruises on other vessels; list of PIs/Chief Scientists that can be contacted for reference).

Harold Rochat reported for **Working Group #3**. This group saw the need for a Newsletter, to be supplemented by videos that member institutions might produce (i.e., WHOI, with expertise in cable termination, might (re)produce "The Terminator"). Such videos could also include training seminars geared to the strengths of each institution, and/or user reports on items of gear like ADCP, CTDs, CESP, etc, etc. The need for common documentation was stressed, to remedy the existing situation where each institution operates in more or less its own vacuum. The working group also suggested that each institution publish port call schedules for its ship(s) when they are in ports away from home, to enhance the functional interaction with other tech groups.

The working group discussed the concept of group training on ODEC and IMET systems; there is a need for common-use software to retrieve data off optical disks, as well as for improved meteorological sampling.

Action items included needs to a) start an informational exchange on UNOLS.RVTEC; b) develop a list of speakers for RVTEC meetings; c) start (informal) interviews of PIs for newsletters.

After the Working Group reports, subcommittees were constituted to continue/extend study of the issues they raised. Tom Wilson was designated to chair the Subcommittee on Resource Data Base Development; Harold Rochat to chair the Subcommittee on Instrumentation Use; and Steve Rabalais to chair the Subcommittee on Tech Training/Exchange. A one year duration of task was specified for each subcommittee, though Chairmen were asked to provide summary information to RVTEC Chair Findley before Findley attends the next UNOLS Council Meeting (scheduled for 14-15 Jan 93, in San Diego). Each subcommittee Chair was also asked to report at the next annual meeting (or before that time, via telemail to UNOLS.RVTEC).

The next annual meeting of RVTEC was scheduled for September 1993, just prior to MTS-93. David Wirth moved, and Rick Pieper seconded, that the meeting begin 20-21 September at the Scripps Inst of Oceanography (Martin Johnson House) and be continued with an evening session at USC in Los Angeles during MTS. Agenda items for the next annual meeting will include a half day session on ADCPs, and another half day session on CTDs.

It is also planned to have an Information Exchange at the TOS meeting, which is scheduled for 13-16 April 93 in Seattle. Rick Pieper volunteered to coordinate this exchange.

Doug Biggs vouched that first issue of the RVTEC Newsletter will be forthcoming in Dec 92/Jan 93. Items of general interest (including but not limited to the WHOI "Terminator III" video and other items of especial note) should be submitted to Doug, ASAP!!

Institutions we know to have active seagoing Technicians groups that weren't represented at the organizational meeting need to be contacted ASAP. These include: Univ. Washington; Univ Hawaii; U Alaska; Univ. Texas; Harbor Branch Ocngr. Inst.; Skidaway; U Md (CEES Horn Point and Solomons); Fla. Inst. Technol.; Bigelow Lab Ocn Sci; Moss Landing Mar Lab; Monterey Bay Aquarium Res Inst; Va Inst Mar Sci; as well as Sea Education Association and Cape Fear Technical Institute (and/or other institutes that train Techs). International groups in Canada (BIO Halifax and IOS Pat Bay), UK (IOS and PML), and Mexico (UNAM, CICESE, Sedemar, IIE) also should be contacted.

Liaisons to other groups outside UNOLS were also identified: Mark Willis volunteered for JOI-CNet, Harry Barnes for RVOC, Rich Findley for NOAA-AOML; Rick Pieper for NOAA-PMEL; Jack Bash and Doug Biggs for Mexico (UNAM and CICESE; Sedemar and IIE); Harry Barnes for NERP/PML in the UK.

A motion to adjourn was made by Marc Willis, and seconded by BobLuke Wejinya. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully reported,  
Doug Biggs, Vice Chair

## Appendix A:

### Attendees at RVTEC Organizational Meeting (and their Omnet address)

Rich Findley	(R.Findley)	Univ. Miami	18 + 19 Oct
Doug Biggs	(D.Biggs)	Texas A&M Univ.	18 + 19 Oct
Tim Pfeiffer	(T.Pfeiffer)	Univ. Delaware	18 + 19 Oct
Harold Rochat	(c/o WHOI.CTD)	Woods Hole Oceanogr. Inst.	18 + 19 Oct
Don Moller	(c/o WHOI.SHIPS)	Woods Hold Oceanogr. Inst.	18 Oct
Marc Willis	(c/o D.Caldwell.OSU)	Oregon State Univ.	18 + 19 Oct
David Wirth	(c/o SCRIPPS.STS)	Scripps Inst. Oceanogr.	18 + 19 Oct
Barry Bjork	(B.Bjork)	Bda Biological Sta. Res.	18 + 19 Oct
Harry Barnes	(H.Barnes)	Bda Biological Sta. Res.	18 + 19 Oct
Steve Rabalais	(S.Rabalais.LUMCON)	LUMCON	18 + 19 Oct
Chris Riffe	(c/o S.Rabalais.LUMCON)	LUMCON	18 + 19 Oct
John Freitag	(J.Freitag)	URI/GSO	18 + 19 Oct
Tim Boynton	(c/o DUKE.UNC)	Duke/UNC Oceanogr. Consort.	18 + 19 Oct
Tom Wilson	(T.Wilson)	SUNY at Stony Brook	18 + 19 Oct
BobLuke Wejinya	(c/o T.Moore)	Univ. Michigan (CGLAS)	18 + 19 Oct
Rick Pieper	(R.Pieper)	Univ. Southern California	18 + 19 Oct
Mike Rawson	(M.Rawson.LDGO)	LDGO	19 Oct
Rose Petrecca	(R.Petrecca, or F.Grassle)	Rutgers	19 Oct

#### plus

Lisa Rom	(L.Rom)	NSF-OCE	18 + 19 Oct
Al Sutherland	(c/o NSF.DPP.OCEANOPS)	NSF-DPP	18 + 19 Oct
Martin Mulhern	(M.Mulhern)	NOAA (Rockport MD)	18 + 19 Oct
Annette DeSilva	(A.DeSilva)	ONR	18 + 19 Oct
Jack Bash	(c/o UNOLS.Office)	UNOLS	18 + 19 Oct
Dave West	(not on Omnet)	Smithsonian Trop. Res. Inst.	19 Oct



## **Appendix B**

### **Bylaws for RVTEC**

(this was distributed as a handout on 19 Oct 92)

# BYLAWS OF THE RESEARCH VESSEL TECHNICAL ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

## A. PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the Research Vessel Technical Enhancement Committee shall be to promote the scientific productivity of research programs that make use of research vessels and oceanographic facilities and to foster activities that will lead to enhanced technical support for sea-going scientific programs.

## B. MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership in the RVTEC shall be extended to UNOLS member institutions.
2. Participation shall be open to technical and scientific personnel at UNOLS and non-UNOLS organizations.

## C. REPRESENTATION

1. Each institutional UNOLS representative may designate a representative to RVTEC.
2. RVTEC will meet at least once per year.
3. The place and time of the next RVTEC annual meeting will be designated at the close of the previous RVTEC meeting.
4. Each member institution shall be notified of the next annual meeting by the Vice Chairperson of the Committee at least 90 days prior to the next annual meeting.
5. Each UNOLS member institution shall be entitled to one vote on matters at RVTEC meetings. However, matters may be submitted for vote by the Chairperson at other times. These matters will be voted on by mail or electronic mail, and votes will be collected for a period of two weeks.
6. A simple majority of the UNOLS operator institutions must be represented to establish a quorum.

## D. OFFICERS

1. The Research Vessel Technical Enhancement Committee shall have a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will be elected by majority vote at the Annual Meeting and subject to confirmation by the UNOLS Chair. Their terms of office shall be two years. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be elected in alternate years.
2. The Chairperson shall represent the Committee in all matters stipulated in the purpose of these bylaws and in all matters deemed necessary in the interest of the Committee. The Chairperson shall implement the programs enumerated by the Committee and shall conduct the Annual Meeting and whatever special meetings are deemed necessary by the Chairperson or the members.
3. The Vice Chairperson, who shall function as Chair in the absence of the Chair, shall be responsible for recording the business of the Committee and for dissemination of information through a newsletter or other media as stipulated in these bylaws to all members of the Committee.

4. If the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson are unable to fulfill their duties of office, the Chairperson shall appoint a successor to act with authority until the succeeding Annual Meeting.

#### E. WORKING GROUPS AND PANELS

1. Upon the recommendation of the Chairperson, and with a majority vote of the Committee, various working groups and panels, as necessary to the work of the Committee, may be constituted. The duration of action of such working groups and panels shall be stipulated at the time of inception.

#### F. MEETINGS

1. A general meeting of the Committee shall be held at least once yearly. The Chairperson shall preside over this Annual Meeting. The business of this meeting shall encompass reports of any active working groups and panels, and discussions of projects and actions of the Committee. Research Scientists and others from the marine community may also be included on the agenda. Workshops for projects of general concern are encouraged.

2. Passage of projects and actions shall be by vote, in accordance with the voting procedures set forth in Section C, REPRESENTATION, paragraph 5.

3. The various working groups and panels shall each meet at least once yearly.

#### G. FINANCES

1. UNOLS will provide limited funding for the Committee to include the following:

a. Travel expenses for the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for meetings once a year;

b. Travel expenses for the Chairperson to attend UNOLS Meetings;

c. Meeting facilities, when required;

d. Travel and meeting expenses for panels, workshops, or the Annual Meeting when appropriate.

Approved and adopted on 18 October 1992 at the RVTEC Organizational Meeting in Washington, DC.