

UNOLS Mission Statement

- *The University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS) is an organization of academic oceanographic institutions working in cooperation with agencies of the U.S. Federal Government to ensure broad access to modern, well operated, state of the art research vessels, submersibles and facilities required to support a healthy and vigorous research and education program in the ocean sciences.*
- *UNOLS is an advisory body that provides the mechanisms for coordinated scheduling and access to research vessels and facilities, cooperation and innovation by facility operators and broad community input to operators and federal agencies regarding current and future facility requirements for the ocean sciences.*

What the Charter Says

- **1. INTRODUCTION**

- Recognizing the need for coordinated use of federally supported oceanographic facilities, the community of academic oceanographic institutions which use and operate those facilities, by virtue of this Charter, do hereby establish an organization of academic oceanographic institutions. The organization shall be named the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS). UNOLS is solely an advisory body. Execution and enforcement of its recommendations are matters for member institutions and for agencies which fund the construction and operation of UNOLS facilities.

- **2. OBJECTIVES**

- An objective of UNOLS is to coordinate and review the access to and utilization of facilities for academic oceanographic research, and the current match of facilities to the needs of academic oceanographic programs. UNOLS makes appropriate recommendations of priorities for replacing, modifying or improving the numbers and mix of facilities for the community of users. Another objective is to foster federal and other support for academic oceanography, thereby continuing and enhancing the excellence of this nation's oceanographic program. Emphasis is placed on ships and other seagoing facilities.

Goals

- **Broad, coordinated access to oceanographic research facilities:**

Maintain a system that ensures broad access to research vessels and other facilities and provides for coordinated, efficient and effective scheduling of those research vessels and facilities.

- **Continuous quality improvement:** Foster co-operation between facility operators, funding agencies and research scientists with the goal of continuously improving the quality and capability of existing ocean science facilities and the quality, reliability and safety of their operation.

- **Plan for and foster support for the oceanographic facilities of the future:** Provide leadership and broad community input to the process of planning for and supporting the improvement, renewal and addition of facilities required to support the ocean sciences in the future.

Objectives and Priorities for 2002

Access and Scheduling

- Create effective and efficient schedules by mid September.
- Make improvements to the ship-time request and scheduling systems

Objectives and Priorities for 2002

Continuous Quality Improvement

- Quality of Service Improvement projects
- ISM implementation
- AICC to expand focus to improvement of all Coast Guard Icebreakers.

Objectives and Priorities for 2002

Plan for Future Facilities

- Fleet Renewal Process
- Monitor and stay engaged with the development of "Ocean Observatories" and other new uses of research vessels.
- Development of new facilities.

Create Schedules by September

- The ship scheduling committee will work with PI's and Agency program managers to identify scheduling issues and funding decisions as early as possible in an effort to solidify schedules by mid September, 2002 for CY 2003 operations

Create Schedules by September

- Every attempt will be made to meet the scientific objectives of all funded projects when creating schedules while at the same time minimizing the costs associated with dead-head transits and un-productive idle time.
- Idle periods will be utilized for maintenance and upgrade opportunities whenever possible.

Improve Ship Time and Scheduling System

- The UNOLS office will work with the Federal Agencies, PI's and ship schedulers to improve the systems that support ship-time requests and scheduling.
- The UNOLS Office will work with Federal Agencies to generate clear explanations to PIs of schedule compromises that may become necessary.

Quality of Service Improvement

- Update the Post Cruise Assessment process and forms to yield clear feedback. (formed working group).
- RVTEC to develop standards of service.
- Improve the scheduling system and process.
- Improve training and preparation for safe and secure operation of research vessels.

ISM Implementation

- Class I ship compliance required by July, 2002
- Create procedures that continue to enable flexible science operations within the constraints of ISM regulations.
- Ensure that scientists are aware of any new procedures and requirements.
- Work to clarify and promulgate safety-related responsibilities of scientific party members.
- Develop plans for voluntary compliance or other enhancement of R/V safety standards for smaller vessels.

Arctic Icebreaker Operations

- AICC will shift focus to science operations and outfitting of all USCG operated Arctic Icebreakers.

Fleet Renewal Process

- Stay engaged with the FOFC "Fleet Plan" process.
- Promote the budgeting of ship design and construction funds.
- Begin work on updating SMRs for Oceans, Regional and Global Class vessels.
- Promote concept design development for new vessels.

Monitor and stay engaged with the development of "Ocean Observatories" and other new uses of research vessels.

- Formally request UNOLS representation on the Observatories Steering Committee or other appropriate bodies as they are formed.
- Examine the long term impacts that Ocean Observatories and other new uses will have on the scheduling process, consider a new scheduling paradigm.
- Assess the impact of Observatories and other new uses on research vessel requirements.

Development of New Facilities

- Develop Science Mission Requirements and specifications for oceanographic wires, cables and ropes for the future.
- Provide community input on the development of new submersible assets and instrumentation.
- Improve shipboard scientific equipment utilizing group purchases and standard specifications to increase cost savings.

2000/2001 Accomplishments and Activities

Access and Scheduling

- Completed Scheduling of all UNOLS vessels by early October ensuring that scientific objectives were used as the primary consideration in making decisions whenever possible. Some projects were deferred to 2003 in order to provide the appropriate platform and facilities.

2000/2001 Accomplishments and Activities

Continuous Quality Improvement

- Planning for implementation of ISM Compliance on large UNOLS Vessels.
- HEALY science systems testing was conducted and the ship is now operating in the Arctic.
- Started work on improvements to Post Cruise Assessment system and considered other methods for implementing formal continuous quality improvement programs.

2000/2001 Accomplishments and Activities

Plan for Future Facilities

- The community was alerted to the need for fleet renewal.
- UNOLS provided a community response to the draft FOFC Long-range Fleet plan.
- New vessels are under construction or in the planning process: KILO MOANA, SAVANNAH, ALPHA HELIX replacement and CAPE HENLOPEN replacement.
- Upgrade and Overhaul of the National Deep Submergence Facility: ALVIN Overhaul, DSL120A, and Jason II.
- Development of standard specifications for shipboard vans including US Coast Guard approved specifications.