

UNOLS Fleet Improvement Committee

Report: UNOLS Annual Meeting, 08 NOV 2021

FIC Membership:

Austin, James A. (UT-Austin)	Non-Op Rep
Baird, Doug (UAF) or appointee	ex-officio; RVOC (oncoming)
Blomquist, Byron (CU-Boulder)	Non-Op Rep
Carbotte, Suzanne (LDEO)	at-Large Rep
D'Hondt, Stephen (URI)	Operator Rep (oncoming)
Keil, Rick (UW)	Operator Rep (departing)
Kelety, Zoltan (UCSD/SIO)	ex-officio; Chair, RVOC (departing)
Montoya, Joseph (GA Tech)	Non-Op Rep
Roth, Ethan (UAF)	ex-officio; RVTEC Liaison
Shearman, Kip (OSU)	Chair (oncoming)
Swift, Jim (UCSD/SIO)	Chair (departing)
Tominaga, Masako (WHOI)	at-Large Rep
White, Angelicque (U Hawaii)	Operator Rep

Last FIC meeting 13 MAY 2021*; next FIC meeting 17 NOV 2021

(*not including membership discussions)

Recent and Continuing FIC business

The Science Mission Requirements for the next generation of Global class research ships are nearly ready to be posted. Many thanks to Greg Cutter, the UNOLS Office, and the UNOLS Council.

The FIC will track RCRV sea trials and science verification exercises.

Mid-life Revelle and Atlantis refits may not need further FIC attention?

There is FIC representation in community discussions regarding provisions for marine seismic capabilities, and planning for US ships which may be used for research in polar regions.

The FIC is examining telepresence and cybersecurity/infrastructure recommendations, ARF recapitalization and relation to the coastal and local vessels, and complex operations from ships, e.g. combining small boats, airborne vehicles, AUVs, etc.

The UNOLS Office continues to adjust academic fleet projected service life end dates and optimal usage definitions.

Potential/Upcoming FIC Directions (courtesy of Kip Shearman, oncoming Chair)

- **Global Class Research Vessels**

Attention to the ‘consideration of means for acquiring new vessels’, and the socialization of this process with the oceanographic community.

- **Expanding Access to the Sea**

Fleet strength and directions depend critically on the next generation of observational oceanographers, and the FIC can help empower new ship-based research. Reinvigorate the Chief Scientist Workshop. Training provides an ideal platform for promoting an environment of respect and out-reach to groups historically ignored by our community.

Attention to smaller boats and coastal RVs (can also feature prominently in the above).

- **Integrating New Platforms**

Look for ways to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the existing fleet and new ships. How will the ARF ships interact with new technologies?