

# CY 2023 U.S. Academic Research Fleet Operations Agency Findings and Recommendations

Unpacking the Annual Agency Letter

Rose Dufour

NSF Program Director Ship Operations



# What is new in this year's Agency Letter?

- For NSF/OCE: With the exception of ChemOce most science submissions have gone to no-target date submission: Global or Ocean class ARF vessels and especially those needing National Deep Submergence Facility (NDSF) assets proposals should be submitted at least 18 months before the anticipated time of the first expedition.
- For ONR: No deadline submission and will be scheduled based on availability of assets.
- For Intermediate, Regional and Local-class vessels the proposal should be submitted with as much lead time as is practical, but at least 12 months before the anticipated time of the first cruise.
- CY 2023 dealing with deferred programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which includes supply chain issues, major increases in fuel prices and unprecedented mariner shortages. The largest challenge in the U.S.ARF is crewing shortages.



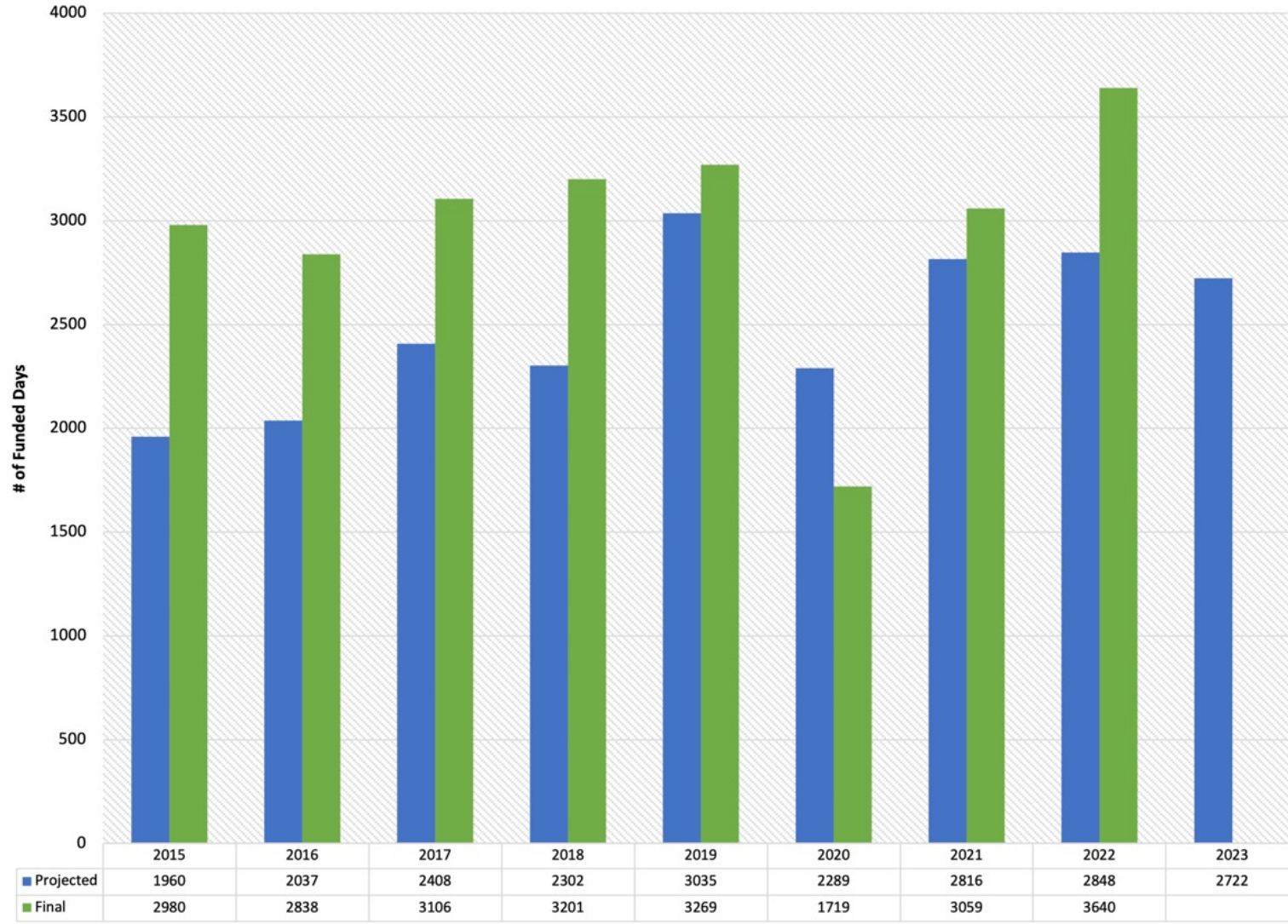
## No-Sails in 2022 due crew shortages

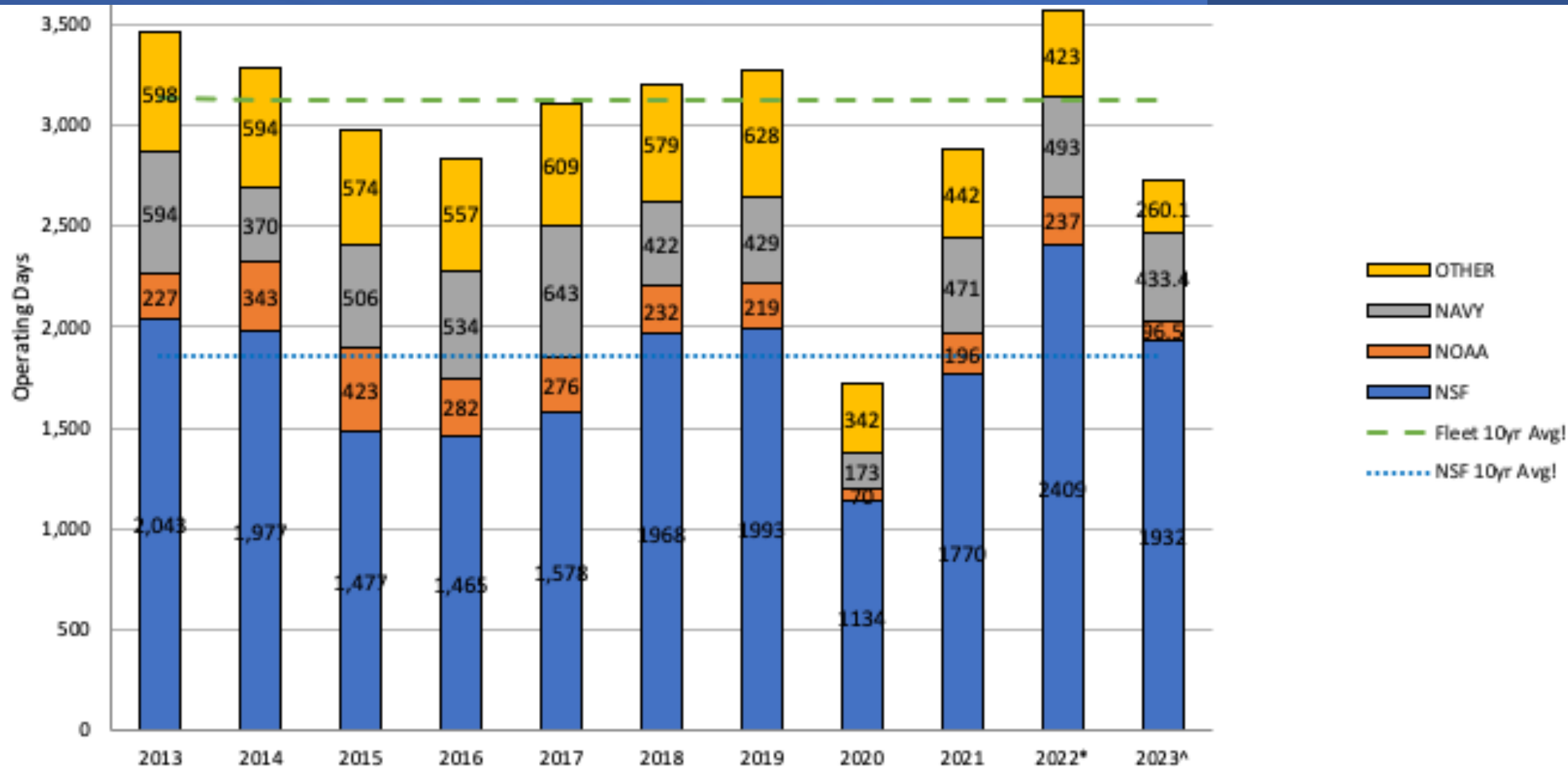
- Global and Ocean Class vessels operate under USCG 46 CFR subchapter U with a Certificate of Inspection (COI), which mandates licensed crewing regulations among many other safety provisions since all ships in the ARF are U.S. Flagged. The COI becomes the governing mechanism the USCG uses to issue what is known as CG-835s, or “no-sails” which prevents a ship from getting underway. The ARF has had several no-sails across the Fleet due to a shortage of licensed crew and attempts to quickly fill these positions has been difficult in the current labor market.
- There were direct and indirect impacts to scientists-projects were not necessarily canceled rather deferred and rescheduled often causing ripple effects to other scheduled projects due crew shortage

Example on  
*Sally Ride*- 95  
day Stand  
down in  
Operations  
April 1- 4  
July 2022

- R. King/UC Ship Funds & NOAA - Rescheduled on R/V *Robert Gordon Sproull* in 2022 and R/V *Sally Ride* in 2023
- B. Derosier/UC Ship Funds - Cancelled due to graduation date
- M. Ohman/NSF - Rescheduled on R/V *Marcus G. Langseth*
- H. Graber/ONR - Rescheduled on R/V *Sally Ride* in 2022, displacing Farrar/NASA & Jessup/NSF which were rescheduled on R/V *Bold Horizon*
- A. Marchetti/NSF - Rescheduled in 2023
- R. Harris/NSF - Rescheduled in 2023
- B. Van Mooy/NSF - Rescheduled in 2023

## Projected v. Final Funded Days By Year





\* Provisional Schedules as of 13Jul22

Question?



"TAKE HIM BACK TO THE BOAT.  
HE CAN STILL HOLD A WINCH HANDLE."