

UNOLS Council Meeting

NOAA Update, May 2023



LCDR Cherisa Friedlander, NOAA

NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

Marine Advisor



Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

Hello! I'm New Here!



- Just completed a 21 month tour in Washington D.C. serving as the flag aide to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator, Dr. Richard Spinrad.
- From 2019-2021, she was the Operations Officer aboard the NOAA Ship *Henry B. Bigelow*, a fisheries survey vessel out of Newport, RI.
- Served as station chief of the Atmospheric Research Observatory at the South Pole, Antarctica from Nov 2017- Nov 2018. The 13 month assignment on the ice involved 6 months of darkness and 9 months of station isolation!
- From 2014-2017 she served as the Operations Officer at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Fisheries Ecology Division in Santa Cruz, CA.
- Master's Degree in Applied Marine and Watershed Science from California State University Monterey Bay.



NOAA – UNOLS Partnership

- Moving forward with year 5 of our Cooperative Agreement
- COVID-19, Staffing Lessons Learned w/ Working Group
- Fisheries Survey Vessels (FSVs) will be shifting into midlife/ service life extension periods starting in 2025
 - Likely increased interest in UNOLS ship time

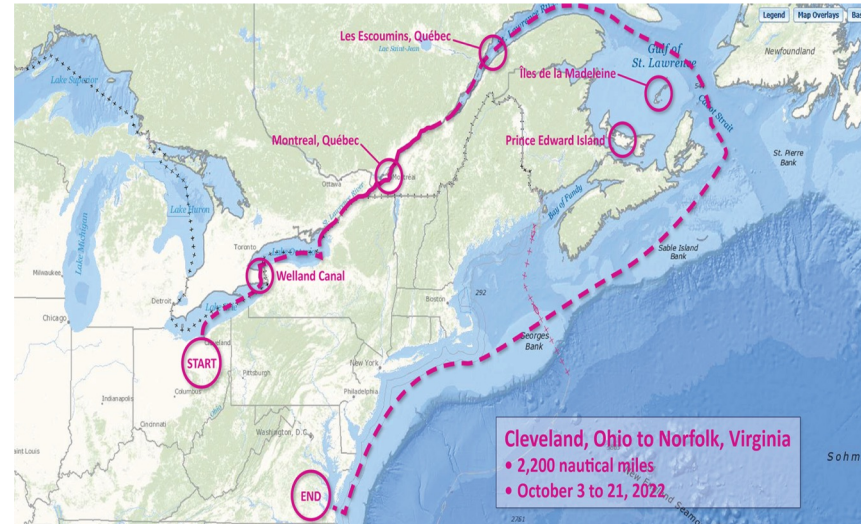


OMAO FY 2022 Accomplishments

NOAA Ship *Thomas Jefferson* completed productive field season

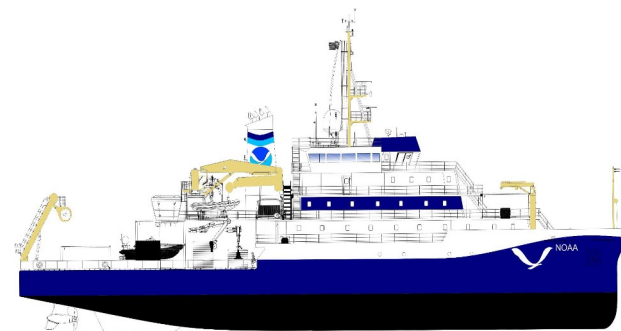
- First deployment in Great Lakes region since early 1990s
- Surveyed:
 - 450 Square Nautical Miles of Lake Erie
 - 274 Square Nautical Miles of Lake Ontario
- Identified:
 - 42 confirmed and new shipwrecks
 - 22 additional features
- Successfully deployed uncrewed system DriX

Established a Cadet Shipping Program with the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy



OMAO FY 2022 Accomplishments

- **Shipboard Energy Efficiency Management Policy Implemented**
- **NOAA Ship *Ronald H. Brown* service life extension awarded**
- **Fleet deferred maintenance reduced from \$35M to less than \$2M**
- **Construction of two new oceanographic research vessels**
 - *Oceanographer* and *Discoverer*
 - First planned vessel construction projects since the 2016 NOAA Fleet Plan was completed
- **Dive operations returned to pre-Covid levels in 2022.**
- **Brought online new recompression chambers for remote diving, increased dive safety training and partnered with the U.S. Army on a pilot Hyperbaric Medical Tech course.**




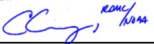
FY23 – In Progress

People

- Initiatives to address staffing issues
- Covid-19 protocol updated again
 - Stop surveillance testing
 - Recommended vs. Required booster

Metal

- Class A – construction underway
 - *Oceanographer* has 86% steel cut overall with 67% structural assembly.
 - *Discoverer* has 40% steel cut overall and 19% structural assembly.
- Class B (charting+mapping vessels)- Anticipated Q3 Award
- *Ronald H. Brown* service life extension June 2023
- 2 Successful Machinery Control System installations on *Pisces* and *Bell M. Shimada*
- New stern thruster installation on *Okeanos Explorer*
- 13 of 16 Ship Repair Packages Completed
- Starlink rollout to fleet

	OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS	POLICY	VERSION
		COVIDM01	5.0
	AUTHORIZED BY:	EFFECTIVE DATE	
	 RDML Chad Cary, NOAA Deputy Director, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations	March 3, 2023	REVIEW DATE
		RESPONSIBLE POSITION	Director, Office of Health Services

Marine Operations COVID-19 Protocols

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This document defines the COVID-19 pandemic protocols for ship personnel who are working alongside, underway, and assigned sleeping quarters during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.2 This version
 - (A) Removes the COVID-19 booster requirement for clearance to sail.
 - (B) Clarifies the ability to remain underway with a COVID positive case.
 - (C) Removes the option for ON/OFF toggles for surveillance testing and pre-live aboard testing.
 - (D) Adds the option for ON/OFF toggles for pre-sail testing requirements.
 - (E) Updates CDC guidance for coming out of isolation.



FY23 Continued: Mission



- *Rainier* working in American Samoa
- *Oscar Dyson* DriX operations out of Kodiak
- *Gordon Gunter* working AMMAPS for the first time in 3 years
- *Ronald H. Brown* GO-SHIP project (high profile worldwide initiative since 2018)
- MOC-P support to UNOLS and Coast Guard vessels (CGC Elm support / CGC Halibut / R/V Sikuliaq). R/V Sally Ride / R/V Thomas G. Thompson on the schedule.



OMAO FY 2024 Priorities

The FY 2024 Budget Request provides **\$460.6 million for OMAO** in discretionary accounts, \$2.1 million decrease from the FY 2023 Enacted.

Increase NOAA Corps



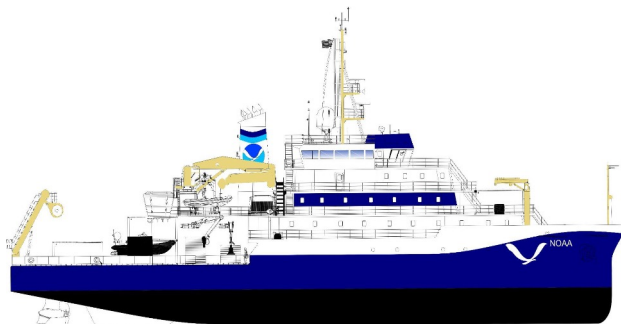
Adopt New UxS Technology



Invest in Hurricane Hunters



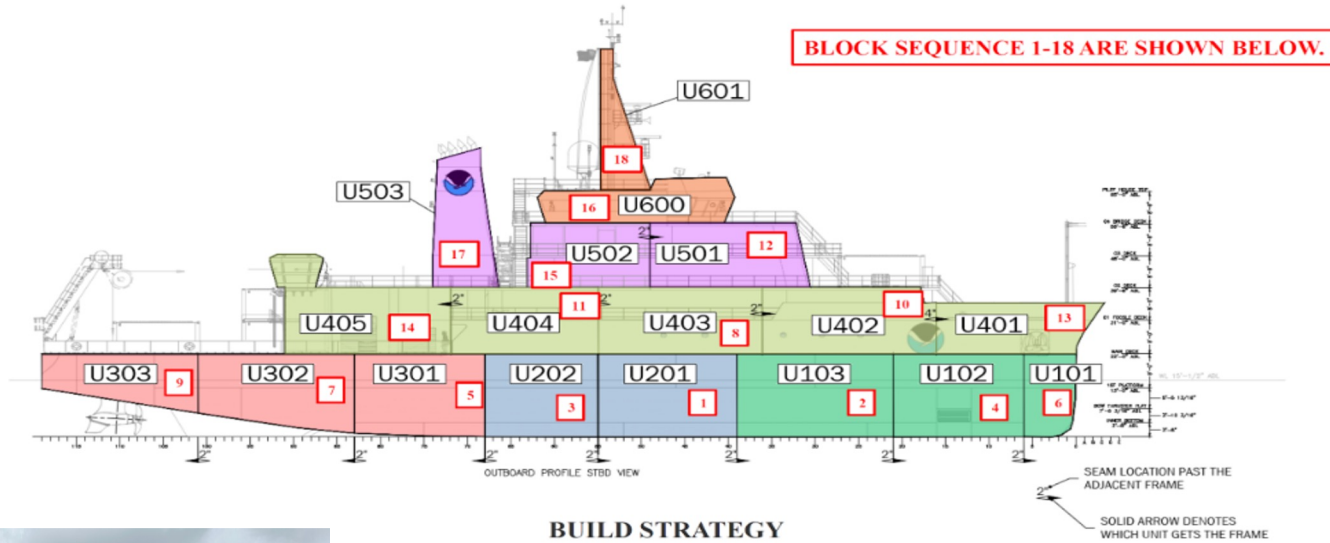
Introduction of *Oceanographer*



Introduction of 3rd King Air



Ship Construction Updates: Oceanographer



6 of 18 modules erected
15 of 18 modules in process



FSV Ship Life Extension Program (SLEP)

Primary Goals

- Extend Service Life 20 Years
- Reduce Carbon Footprint
- Increase Reliability

Secondary Goals

- Standardization
- Serviceability
- Regulatory Requirements



Mid Life Repair: Ronald H. Brown

- The overhaul is expected to extend the life of the vessel, first launched in 1996 (27 years old), by an additional 15 years to its originally expected 30 year service life.
- Work is scheduled to be complete by summer 2024.
- During the refit modification, the propulsion system will largely be replaced with new more environmentally friendly diesel generators, renewal of the bow thruster and propulsion motors, new switchboards, control systems, and alarms.
- Additional ship systems that are scheduled to be upgraded include:
 - the potable water plants
 - sewage plant
 - uncontaminated seawater sampling system
 - HVAC systems
 - tank level indicators
 - navigational components
 - radar renewals
 - overhead lighting
 - ballast and exterior fuel tank vent renewals.
- Bollinger will replace much of the ship's piping, along with steel as identified by the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS).



OMAO Facility Projects

Northeast and Mid Atlantic/ NAVSTA Newport

- NOAA continues to support the NAVY project team in answering contractor questions.
- 100% Design completed. RFP for construction contract released January 2023. Contractor proposals are due on June 2023.

Southeast and Gulf Coast:

- North Charleston, SC - Currently involved in the source selection process that will occur over the next few weeks.
- Gulfport, MS - Short-term UMS facility established. Evaluating long-term facility lease proposal.

Northwest, Alaska, and Pacific:

- Ketchikan, AK – Bull rail and bollards around the main pier are complete and ready to support vessel loading. The pier utility work is expected to continue through April and into May. Project completion at 90%. Size of waterfront ~300ft and can accommodate vessels roughly to that size.
- Ford Island, Hawaii - Navy Piers used by NOAA require upgrades to support new vessels power, water, and sewer requirements. Piers are load restricted due to their condition. BCA study started in FY23 to determine best path forward.



NOAA Fleet Recapitalization

NOAA Fleet Plan released to Congress October 2016

- Updating the 2016 Fleet Plan
- Working with the U.S. Navy to acquire 2 NOAA research vessels for the oceanographic mission
- Will issue the contract for the next two charting and mapping ships in 2023
- Working on requirements for the replacements of the smaller, trawl capable fisheries survey vessels

