



## Research Vessel Operators Committee

### Safety Committee Terms of Reference *(Updated 06 June 2023)*

#### Charge to the Safety Committee

The Research Vessel Operators Committee (RVOC) Safety Committee provides a continuing forum for:

- Maintaining the UNOLS Research Vessel Safety Standards (RVSS) for the Academic Research Fleet (ARF), through updates and revisions as required. Changes to the RVSS will be forwarded to the RVOC for approval, and to the UNOLS Council for concurrence.
- Considering requests for waivers of RVSS requirements, with approval or disapproval by the Committee as appropriate.
- Discussion of mishaps, near misses, and other current safety issues relevant to the ARF.
- Providing advice to U.S Federal Funding agencies on safety issues.

#### Membership

Voting Members. The committee will normally consist of ten members, with the objective of wide representation of the various classes ARF vessels, operating institutions, the Research Vessel Technical Committee (RVTEC), and other oceanographic research and maritime expertise. The Committee will select new and renewing members

Safety Committee Subject Matter Experts. Non-voting advisors, who are invited to Committee meetings and can advise the Committee as appropriate.

Other interested persons. Representatives from UNOLS members, Federal agencies and other interested persons are welcome to attend Safety Committee meetings and to observe as non-voting participants.

**Term limits** – Three years with renewal as needed.

**Reporting** – The Safety Committee will report to the Chair of RVOC.

**Meetings** – Annually, usually in conjunction with annual RVOC meetings, with additional meetings as needed.