



Community Updates

UNOLS Annual Meeting

The UNOLS Annual Meeting is coming soon! Please join us on 15 November at Arizona State University (ASU) in Tempe, AZ. This is an open meeting and a great opportunity to community members to learn the current "Hot Topics" for the US Academic Research Fleet as well as hear about 2023 updates. The meeting will be followed by a Reception where the participants can talk with fellow sea-going scientists, operators and committee members. Please [RSVP here](#) and find meeting information [here](#).



Photo Credit: MATE Internship program

2024 MATE Internship Application now open!

The UNOLS-MATE Marine Technical Internship Program is accepting applications for the 2024 program! Interns have the opportunity to work onboard research vessels at-sea and in the shipyard, and be exposed to a wide range of marine technologies, equipment and marine technical professionals. Visit the [MATE Website](#) for a list of requirements and to access the application form. Please share this [Announcement](#) with students and graduates you think would be interested and qualified. Contact maria@unols.org for more information.

Read about all the 2023 intern experiences, at the UNOLS-MATE Marine Technical Internship Program [Blog](#). This includes [Mari Figueroa's](#) journey onboard the R/V SIKULIAQ "We've officially set sail, leaving port behind as we make our way toward the icy waters of the Arctic [...] as we head further north, the darkness of the Arctic winter settles in [...] farewell to our last day of real sunshine [...] we won't see a clear blue sky and sunlight like that again until we complete our mission objectives and depart from the Arctic Circle." As well as [Claire Mayorga's](#) internship onboard the R/V LANGSETH. Claire helped prepare seismic equipment for deployment (watch her [Video](#)): "The seismic equipment is made up of airguns, streamers, and Digibirds. The 36 airguns create a loud sound that then travels through different layers of the seabed before bouncing back to be heard by the 12km of streamer. The streamer has thousands of hydrophones (precise underwater

Featured Photo



A view from the bridge of the R/V NEIL ARMSTRONG as it makes its way through the Arctic. Photo Credit: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Upcoming Events

[2023 Annual OBSIC-OS Meeting](#)

31 Oct - 1 Nov 2023
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Woods Hole, MA

[2023 Annual SCOAR Meeting](#)

31 Oct - 1 Nov 2023
TAMU Corpus Christi
Corpus Christi, TX

[UNOLS Annual Meeting](#)

15 Nov 2023
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ

[2023 Fall Council Meeting](#)

16 Nov 2023
Arizona State University
Tempe AZ

[2023 MSROC Early Career Workshop](#)

9-10 Dec 2023
San Francisco, CA

[2023 Annual MSROC Community Meeting](#)

10 Dec 2023
San Francisco, CA

[2024 Winter AICC Meeting](#)

10-11 Jan 2024
USCG Base
Seattle, WA

Did you know...

You can find UNOLS related videos, including MFP tutorials, at [YouTube.com/UNOLS](https://www.youtube.com/UNOLS)

Check out the RCRV Ship Progress Update, at [Youtube.com/OregonStateUniv](https://www.youtube.com/OregonStateUniv)



From the Editor

Thank you to all who contributed information and articles for this issue of UNOLS News. Articles are always welcome and encouraged. Copy, links, or images and questions can be submitted by e-mail to media@unols.org.

microphones) along it that receive the sound signal and create a high-precision map."

FLIP retires after 50 years of service

After 50-plus years of service, the Research Platform FLIP (Floating Instrument Platform) was decommissioned on August 3, 2023. R/P FLIP was open ocean research platform owned by the U.S. Office of Naval Research (ONR) and operated by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. The platform is 108 meters (355 ft) long and is designed to partially flood and pitch backward 90°, resulting in only the front 17 meters (55 ft) of the platform pointing up out of the water.

R/P FLIP was originally built to support research into the fine-scale phase and amplitude fluctuations in undersea sound waves. It was subsequently used on a number of research expeditions at Scripps, often towed off shore of California. Pictures of the R/P FLIP can be found [here](#) while more information about the decommissioning is available [here](#).

SPONSORS



Committee News

UNOLS Council Elections are underway

The annual Council election process is underway. There are two Council seats open - one Operator and one At-Large. Voting is open to UNOLS Representatives and voting information was sent to each representative via email (11Oct23). Each UNOLS Member Institution has 1 vote (via the UNOLS Representative). Your vote is important! **Please take a few minutes to complete the ballot** or assign a proxy.

If you are not a representative, **please encourage your representative to vote.**

New Committee Members

All of our committees are staffed by volunteers and we are grateful for their contributions of time and experience. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest committee members:

- Nicole Raineault / USF / DeSSC
- Jason Sylvan / TAMU / DeSSC
- Ashley Burkett / OKS / DeSSC

Thank You to Outgoing Committee Members

Thank you so much to the following individuals for their contributions to the UNOLS community:

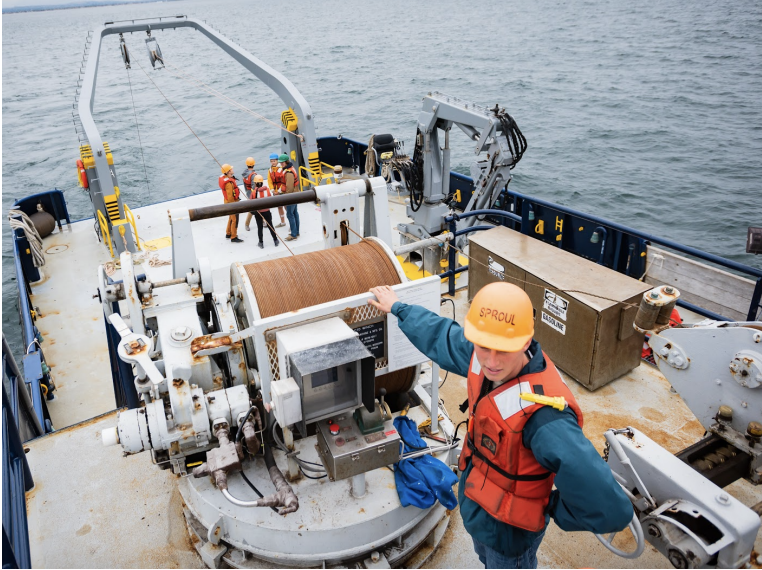
- Rosa Leon-Zayas / Willamette U / DeSSC
- Dorsey Wanless / Boise State / DeSSC

2023 UNOLS RVTEC Meeting - Biggest Turnout ever!

Another year and another record breaking RVTEC Meeting. Registration included 119 in-person participants as well as 48 virtual participants. This year's meeting took place in Honolulu, hosted by the University of Hawaii over the week of October 23rd - 27th, 2023. The three day meeting included the traditional optional training session on Friday, hosted by Tom Wilson/SUNY Stonybrook with an introduction to Serial Communications and Electronic Design, as well as an additional day

dedicated to cybersecurity and infrastructure ("Cyber-Monday"). Dr. Angelique White/UH, provided an exceptional keynote presentation on the HOTS program, the importance of a time series, and the role of technology in the process. The committee also bid farewell and following seas to the last original RVTEC Member, Tom Wilson/SUNY Stonybrook and the long time NSF/OCE Technical Service Program Manager Jim Holik.

The meeting utilized the event platform Whova enabling remote participation, surveys, announcements and a virtual poster session. In the coming weeks, presentations will be uploaded to the [2023 RVTEC Meeting webpage](#) and recordings of the meeting will be edited and uploaded to the [UNOLS YouTube channel](#).



A winch operator onboard the R/V SPROUL. Photo Credit: Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Appendix A & B Training to be held at WHOI

The UNOLS Office and the Safety Committee are facilitating training on the Research Vessel Safety Standards Appendices A & B at WHOI 17-18 January 2024. Appendix A covers safety requirements for wires while Appendix B covers safety requirements for over the side handling systems. **These appendices apply to both ship-based systems as well as wires and winches brought onboard by the science party.**

It is the winch and wire owner's responsibility to make sure that the winch/wire meet App. A & B specifications. If you plan to bring a science owned winch/wire onboard, this training is for you. It will greatly help you understand the requirements and prevent headaches during cruise preparation.

If you are interested in this training, please contact Meegan Corcoran/UNOLS office - meegan@unols.org.

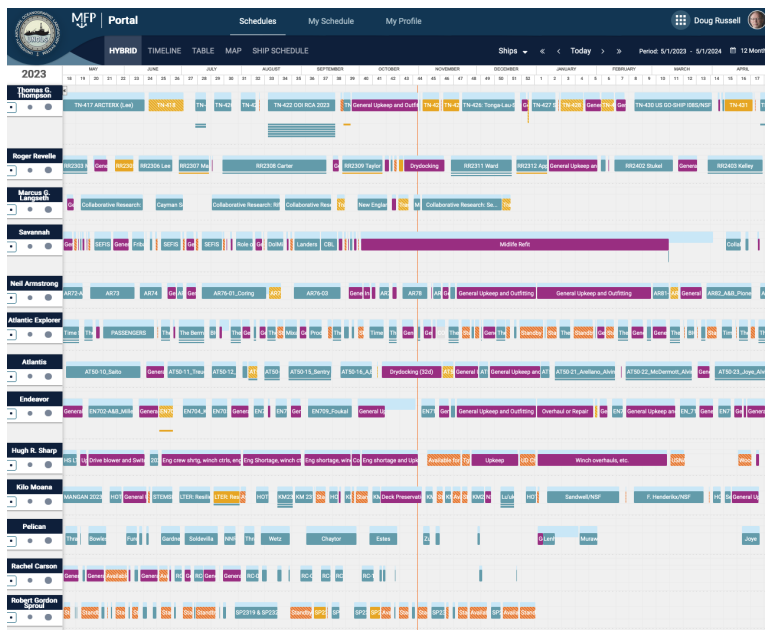
Upcoming MSROC Events

December will be an exciting time for the Marine Seismic Research Operations Committee (MSROC). On Saturday, 9 December, a MSROC Early Career Program workshop will be held at Golden Gate University in San Francisco. A Fall MSROC Community Meeting will follow on Sunday, 10 December also at GGU.

MSROC has developed the new users program to: 1) expose students, early career scientists and other new users to MSROC, marine seismic and geophysical facilities supported through UNOLS and NSF; 2) increase familiarity with funding agencies and Federal Agency Representatives; 3) engage participants in MSROC advisory activities; 4) offer participants training and mentoring in the process of developing

and 5) enable participants to network with scientists actively involved in seismic facility-supported research. The workshop will bring more experienced geophysical/geological scientists, technicians, and federal representatives to share their expertise in marine geophysical research, program funding, technology, and data management, and also include directly involving participants in the annual MSROC Fall Community Meeting.

For more information please see [MSROC Early Career Program](#) and [MSROC Fall Community Meeting](#).



Example schedule for the U.S. Academic Research Fleet from Marine Facilities Planner

Ship Scheduling for 2025

The UNOLS Ship Schedulers will begin developing the 2025 Academic Research Fleet ship schedules in early CY 2024. The process starts with their review of funded ship time and marine equipment requests (SMEs) in the UNOLS Marine Facilities Planning (MFP) system to determine the demand for ship time, the geographic distribution of the requests, the need for additional facilities (i.e. JASON, SENTRY, OBS), seasonal scientific drivers, etc. to understand the complete picture. From that point, the schedulers begin developing many different scenarios in their efforts to best accommodate all the needs for accomplishing funded science. Schedulers also must account for other complicating factors such as mandatory inspections, maintenance schedules, crewing, and marine science clearance processes. It is a complicated process to say the least!

The Global and Ocean Class schedulers meet biweekly to present alternatives, discuss challenges, work out coordination of activities, instruments, and facilities. Quite often there is more demand for the ships than there is available ship time. Then prioritization of projects has to come in to play including considerations such as: when projects were funded, are they major infrastructure projects (i.e. OOI), are they major agency commitments (i.e. GO-SHIP) are they multi-year programs, coordination of critical assets (i.e. OBS), do they require long dedicated transits. Schedulers review developing schedules periodically with the funding agencies to ensure alignment on science objectives and priorities and eventually to obtain approval of the proposed schedules.

By springtime, the schedules are usually starting to firm up into a likely framework for the coming year. Schedulers communicate with the PIs to review developing schedule details to ensure the proposed schedules

work for them. During the summertime the schedulers strive to finalize schedule details with the PIs and supporting facilities so that the schedules can be published no later than the end of September. For early year cruises that require science clearances to be processed, the schedule will be finalized earlier in the scheduling process, at least for those cruises, to facilitate MSR clearance processing per State Department guidance for a foreign country's particular requirements.

To facilitate the scheduling of your cruise, **PIs need to update the funding status of their project in MFP as soon as they are notified about their funding.** Once they are funded, PIs should also communicate directly with schedulers for the ship(s) they propose in their SME to understand how their project fits into the developing ship scheduling picture. Ship scheduling contacts can be found at [UNOLS Vessels and Contacts](#). For questions about the ship scheduling process, please contact doug@unols.org.

Fleet Highlights



R/V KILO MOANA crew off-load generators at Kahului pier. Credit: University of Hawaii

R/V Kilo Moana Assists Lahaina Emergency

R/V KILO MOANA, owned by the Office of Naval Research and operated by the University of Hawaii Marine Center, was able to divert into Kahului from an already planned NSF funded STEMSEAS cruise, to deliver much needed generators and other critical equipment to Lahaina. The NSF also supported additional satellite bandwidth for this cruise in order to allow communications since cell phone towers had been destroyed during the fire.

The employees at the Marine Center organized this effort, from reaching out to local suppliers with offers to help, to coordinating the delivery of the equipment. This was also a great experience for the STEMSEAS students to be a part of (<https://www.facebook.com/stemseas/>).

Updates to MFP.us

New Multi-Cruise SME Instructions

In order to streamline the submittal of multi-cruise projects into MFP, starting immediately only 1 SME is required for both single cruise and multi-cruise projects *in the proposal phase*. For multi-cruise projects, the single SME must outline each cruise's requirements (ship days, equipment, time frame, number of personnel). It is understood that it may be cumbersome to capture all of this data into one SME but the ease of submitting one SME will outweigh the difficulties. This SME must have enough information to enable a reviewer to understand the whole project's requirements. **When the project is funded**, SMEs

Crewing Corner

New Tool implemented

The UNOLS Office has created a weekly "Open Crew Positions" email which lists the current open positions within the fleet. The email is sent to hundreds of mariners and that number increases daily as potential crew apply to the fleet and/or sign up to be on the mailing list. So far, this effort has proven to be quite fruitful for hiring managers and mariners alike matching qualified crew with vessel needs.

On another note, the fall career fairs at the nation's seven maritime academies are just wrapping up. UNOLS was present at five of the fairs while UNOLS operators participated in the other two. These visits mark a huge change in the way the Academic Research Fleet is promoted compared to pre-Covid operations. The change has been felt with the increased number of graduating academy officers being placed aboard our vessels.

There has been a marked increase in the number of maritime academy cadets sailing aboard the vessels of the ARF. These cadets have become an integral part of advocating for and endorsing the fleet through the sharing of their experiences with their fellow cadets. Their experiences have proven to be a significant part of continued progress in solving the fleet crewing issues. We hope to provide more cadet billets in 2024.

Featured Ship



Photo credit: Matt Leaman, UW.

R/V THOMAS G THOMPSON

Year Built: 1991

Place Built: Halter Marine Inc.

Midlife Refit: 2017

Science Berthing: 37 (includes 2 marine techs)

Crew Berthing: 22

Owner: Office of Naval Research

Operator: University of Washington

Class of Vessel: Global Class

R/V THOMAS G. THOMPSON is named in honor of Dr. Thomas Gordon Thompson – an American chemist and oceanographer. Dr. Thompson was the first American chemist to devote his major efforts to investigating the chemistry of sea water. He founded the University of Washington's oceanographic laboratories in 1930 which eventually to

the establishment of the UW School of Oceanography. Dr. Thompson served twice in the Army, during both World War I and II, rising the rank of Colonel. Over his long distinguished career, Dr. Thompson developed methods for the quantitative determination of many elements and ions in sea water. His main interest lay in determining the relationship between the chemical and physical properties of sea water — notably the specific gravity, refractivity and electrical conductivity. Thompson participated actively in international geographic and oceanographic ventures, serving on or chairing committees and co-authoring studies of specific oceanographic matters. Today's R/V THOMAS G THOMPSON is the second research ship operated by UW named in his honor.



PDF versions of the Newsletter can be found [here](#). To unsubscribe from UNOLS News, please reply to this email with the word "unsubscribe" in the body. Thank you!