

***Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee (AICC) Meeting
Tele-Conference - Tuesday April 16, 2019
Meeting Minutes***

Summary

The January 2019 AICC meeting was cancelled due to the federal government shutdown. To replace this meeting a teleconference was held via webex with the UNOLS Office facilitating. The agenda below covers the topics discussed with meeting minutes to follow. The presentations have been posted on the AICC committee web site.

<https://www.unols.org/committee/arctic-icebreaker-coordinating-committee-aicc>

Welcome and Introductions AICC Chair – Sam Laney/WHOI

General business & reports

- Review and approve minutes of last meeting if a quorum is present
- Chair Transition Report – Sam Laney/WHOI for Bob Campbell/URI
- UNOLS News and UNOLS Transition- Jon Alberts/UNOLS

Main Topics for Discussion

- *Healy* 2019 funded cruise schedule and 2020 outlook - LCDR James Toomey//USCG- U.S Coast Guard Headquarters Report- CDR William Woityra & Capt. Mike Davanzo
- *R/V Sikuliaq* Update- Doug Baird/UAF and Steve Hartz/UAF
- Foreign Research Vessels and other vessels in matrix for US EEZ/ Dave Forcucci
- STARC Support Report- Lee Ellett/SIO & Brett Hembrough/SIO
- C4IT Polar IT report, science data net – Sarah Kaye/USCG
- Arctic Waterways Safety Committee/ Standard of Care Document, Jenny Evans/ Wildlife Conservation Society
- Update on University of Alaska Community and Environmental Compliance Standard Operating Procedures, (CECSOP) for the *R/V Sikuliaq* Research Operations- Doug Baird/UAF and Steven Hartz/UAF

Minutes

Sam Laney/WHOI and AICC Chair called the meeting to order and introductions were made. The minutes from the last AICC meeting, held on June 13, 2018, were unanimously approved.

Sam Laney became the new AICC Chair in January 2019 and Sam extended his appreciation and recognition to Bob Campbell/URI for his service to the AICC.

Membership

Sam announced that our newest AICC member is Laurie Juranek/OSU. She was elected to the AICC in April 2019. Jim Swift/SIO has been added as ex-officio representative from the Fleet Improvement Committee. With Doug Russell/UW, becoming the UNOLS Executive Secretary on May 1, 2019, a new RVOC representative on the AICC is needed. Doug Baird/UAF has been added to the AICC as RVOC representative in an ex-officio capacity.

AICC Chair Report

Sam Laney gave the Chair report. Sam commented that in the next few years we would have a significant number of AICC members whose terms will expire. This will need to be effectively managed to prevent a loss of committee memory.

The winter meeting was cancelled and this teleconference today was scheduled to cover some important topics. The committee will continue to engage with ongoing coordination of 2019 Arctic icebreaker research. Some organizational changes are taking place includes the transfer of the UNOLS Office from

University of Rhode Island to University of Washington, reconstituting the full AICC membership and to reopen the discussion on a possible AICC vice chair. Another task is the review of the AICC Annex VI of the UNOLS Charter, which is due in December 2019.

In looking ahead the AICC will continue to stay engaged with *Healy* and *Sikuliaq* operations, keeping apprised of foreign research vessels working in US EEZ, supporting other US research on other vessels such as the Swedish Icebreaker *Oden*, and working with other non-NSF funded work by ONR and NOAA, etc..

Ola Persson/Univ. of CO asked the question on what the AICC role would be in defining the scientific instrumentation on the new U.S. Coast Guard heavy icebreakers. Bill Woityra/USCG reminded us that NSF stated they would not be supporting scientific instrumentation on these ships. The Coast Guard will make accommodations for sonars, bottom mapping capability and CTDs, but nothing beyond this.

Renee Crain/formerly, NSF/OPP/ARC, and now on assignment to NOAA/Arctic, added the historical background to this discussion. In short, NSF cannot commit to financially supporting science capabilities on these new ships.

Jim Swift/ SIO and Chair of the UNOLS Fleet Improvement Committee is serving as Chair of a committee to develop science mission requirements for new Polar Research vessels. The report will be available soon and will be available to the U.S. Coast Guard if requested.

UNOLS News and UNOLS Transition

Jon Alberts/UNOLS reported on the transition of the UNOLS Office from the University of Rhode Island to the University of Washington. URI will complete the UNOLS ten-year term on April 30, 2019. As per the UNOLS Charter, the UNOLS Office was re-competed. The University of Washington's School of Oceanography was chosen with Doug Russell as UNOLS Executive Secretary. Doug has a long history with the AICC and will support this committee's work as UNOLS Executive Secretary when Jon Alberts/UNOLS steps down. Details on the new office were presented.

U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters Report

CDR Bill Woityra/USCG provided an update from USCG Headquarters, Washington DC.

Captain Maryellen Durley/USCG is being considered for the *Healy* CO. CDR Chris Tuckey/USCG will replace Bill Woityra at headquarters.

The USCG is working with NSF's Tim McGovern and Frank Rack on updating the Memorandum of Understanding between NSF and USCG. It is expected this new agreement will be signed in June 2019. Renee Crain reemphasized that the former MOU included language on an annual conference between funding agencies to discuss ship schedules. It would be helpful to bring these meetings back. The past few years there may not have been a need with limited programs. Frank Rack/NSF mentioned it would be helpful to get the Coast Guard and UNOLS scheduling process more into alignment.

The award for the detailed design and construction of the new U.S. Coast Guard heavy icebreakers, now labelled Polar Security Cutters, will be awarded soon. (Note: since this meeting, the award has been made public. Please see this announcement at:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/2406c70>

Healy 2019 Cruise Schedule

LCDR James Toomey/USCG presented the outlook for the schedule of cruises in 2019. In 2019, there are two requests in the UNOLS Ship Time Request System for the *Healy*.

NOAA- DBO/NCIS project requested for 2 August 2019 to 23 August 2019

ONR- SODA project requested for 3 September 2019 to 18 October 2019

In 2020, there are three requests for NSF, NOAA, and ONR.

James Toomey also reported on recent enhancement capabilities on the *Healy*.

- TSE Mooring Spooler for mooring work is in procurement.
- Stern Deployment for CTD Rosette cast when working in ice.
- Overhaul of the ship's dynamic positioning system is underway.

Carolyn Ruppel/USGS asked if there were plans to service the multibeam. The STARC report later in the meeting will cover this.

James also reported that the *Healy* would not be involved in Antarctic Treaty Compliance requirements in 2020 as had been discussed as earlier meetings.

Other news

The 2018 operating year on the *Healy* was very successful. Some lessons learned include the benefits of the new policy to mobilize and demobilize in Seattle versus out ports was realized. This allows more time to do science when working in the Arctic and the Coast Guard would like to continue this policy.

The *Healy* is looking for later season requests. Request for late studies in November is an opportunity for Arctic researchers.

The debrief forms for 2018 have not been submitted. Sam Laney will contact the PI's and request they submit them without further delays.

***R/V Sikuliaq* Update**

Doug Baird/UAF provided the report on the *Sikuliaq*. In a recent shipyard maintenance period, the ice windows on the transducers were replaced and resealed. Preventative maintenance was performed on the centerboard. In addition, a new Surface and Under Ice Trawl (SUIT) was tested with good results.

The 2019 ship schedule operating areas are:

- Spring- U.S. West Coast
- Summer- Gulf of Alaska
- Autumn- North Pacific and U.S. West Coast
- Early Winter- Chukchi Sea and Gulf of Alaska

This represents a full year at 277 operating days.

Foreign Research Vessels and Other Vessels in Matrix

Dave Forcucci/USCG continues to collect and track research vessels operating in the Arctic. The Research Vessel matrix is hosted on the public side of this web site at IARPC.

<https://www.iarpcollaborations.org>

Examples of two research vessel 2019 cruise tracks were shown for the *R/V Araon* and *R/V Mirai*.

The matrix continues to be an excellent resource for the Coast Guard, State Department and Arctic researchers. It also helps to inform the Alaskan communities whom visiting ships impact, especially during the subsistence-hunting season.

STARC Report

Brett Hembrough/SIO and Lee Ellett/SIO provided an extensive STARC report. The slides are posted in the meeting files. These areas were covered in detail.

- Healy Dry-Docking
- Science System Improvements
- Science Planning to support science missions
- Shakedown se trials post maintenance period
- Icefloe web site
- GIS mapping including Mapserver
- IT Network Improvements

Additional details

The Icefloe hosting server suffered an unexpected crash due to old unsupported versions of Drupal software, which caused the errors. STARC is working on a new web site. The new web site will provide a fresh, modern look and make it easier for the user to find important cruise planning sections. In 2018, the use of QINSY for mapserver had its pros and cons. STARC is continuing to evaluate other systems. These include a program by Werum in Germany called “Drift & Noise” and a U.S. based company, Earth Analytics, with a software package called “Ocean Smart”. There are no “off the shelf” solutions.

C4IT Polar IT Report

Sarah Kaye/USCG gave this report. With the recent retirement of Dave Cohoe, Rajendra (Raj) Patel is acting branch chief. The C4IT team is now is:

- Sarah Kaye
- Jeff Hardwick
- Adam Stenseth
- Danyelle De Mars

Sarah reported they recently received their official “Authority to Operate” and that there would be increased security in place. In addition, Iridium Satellite hardware upgrades will be tested this year.

Arctic Waterways Safety Committee Report-

Jenny Evans/Wildlife Conservation Society presented an update on recent activities of this group, which has been developing a standard of care document for working in the Arctic. They met in March 2019 and are working to complete the document with an anticipated final version to be published in October 2019. It will always be a work in progress. The focus will be on research vessels and avoidance of subsistence hunters. The protocol is all built around good communication channels. Jenny has been working with Dave Forcucci to gain access to the matrix as this helps to identify potential conflicts, which can then be corrected.

Community and Environmental Compliance Standard Operating Procedures (CECSOP)

Doug Baird/UAF brought us up to date on the UAF’s standards of care document that is used aboard the *R/V Sikuliaq* and the greater maritime community. This document details roles and responsibilities when conducting research in the Arctic. They work closely with the Arctic Waterways Safety Committee, (AWSC) and the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC) to help build a strong document and program.

The map of communities was shown and the procedures for contacting individual village contacts was discussed. Daily e-mail correspondence from the ship to/from the coastal communities is working well.

Closing Remarks & Action Items

Sam Laney expressed appreciation for everyone who joined the call. It was unfortunate that the winter meeting had to be cancelled and we had to compress a two-day meeting into two hours.

Action Items:

- Continue discussion on scientific instrumentation on the new polar security cutters
- How to get greater compliance with the cruise debriefs
- Encourage the use of the new UNOLS video on Harassment Prevention, and perhaps download a copy onto Icefloe
- Set a date for a summer telecom and the winter in-person meeting in Seattle.

Meeting Adjourned- The meeting was adjourned at 4pm Eastern.