

OBSIC Operations Subcommittee Virtual Meeting July 23, 2020

Agenda

- A) Welcome, brief acknowledgment of the approved minutes and Terms of Reference, and our establishment within UNOLS and MSROC (5 min)

- B) Update from WHOI and associated discussion — 1 hour
 - 1) 2020 schedule update — current activities and issues associated with covid
 - 2) Staffing update
 - a) In-house — hiring, activities happening now in the lab, issues with whoi/covid
 - b) cruise staffing — in-house, tech pool, subawards to other groups
 - 3) cruise support issues wrt covid — quarantine, shipping
 - 4) Update on data support
 - 5) Update on new build, new instrument considerations (nodes, dataloggers)
 - 6) Tentative schedule for 2021 and beyond.

- C) Committee work (please evaluate existing documents prior to meeting)
 - 1) Evaluation and possible revisions to policies and procedures document (15 min)
 - 2) Website discussion — suggestions for additions, modification, getting community input for content (15 min)
 - 3) Future stimulus funding — how to prepare something that would be “shovel ready” (30 min)

- D) Other issues (10 min)

Discussion Notes

WHOI Update:

OBSIC up and running despite covid

Operations:

Staffing at WHOI is still building – two new additions (engineer and tech) working out well, searching for additional tech and a staff scientist.

At WHOI (and LDEO/SIO, via subawards): campuses closed for much of spring, but OBS activities were deemed “essential”

active albeit with severe restrictions – one person at a time, evolving to one or two persons per lab space

Employees given wide latitude for deciding if they feel safe, both in lab and in terms of going to sea

Two-week precruise quarantine provides confidence, but also severe stress on manpower (both for labs and personally)

Supply chain disruptions (equipment return from Chile, battery purchases, etc.)

Despite stresses, two upcoming cruises involving WHOI, LDEO, and SIO personnel are staffed and planning to sail in the next 6 weeks. December cruise at risk, discussions underway. 2021 schedule looks very tight, especially if quarantines are still required.

Committee work:

Equipment:

Committee will be taking an active role in working with WHOI to develop prioritized framework for refurbishing the fleet – balancing active source, long-duration short period (e.g. seismicity), and broad-band needs – existing and future technologies.

WHOI BB sensors are aging and expensive to keep operating, so actively evaluating replacement scenarios (both equipment and funding mechanism)

Datalogger replacements are also envisioned, a couple of options becoming clear.

New SP sensor developed and being built in collaboration with USGS, may provide framework for new SP fleet (both longer and short duration?)

Policies and procedures

clarify process for getting informational budget

clarify responsibilities for dealing with unusual or “high risk” deployments – shallow water, fishing, ship access. Delineate specific responsibilities for doing groundwork (preparation, planning, followup) and costs associated with risk migration.