



Community Updates

Updated COVID-19 Guidelines

UNOLS released [updated COVID-19 guidance](#) for consideration in conducting oceanographic research on 4 June 2021. The guidelines were updated to reflect the success of vaccinations in reducing the impacts of COVID-19. The UNOLS Office continues to re-evaluate and update the guidance consulting with the UNOLS telemedicine provider, George Washington Medical Faculty Associates regularly as the pandemic continues to evolve.

Marine Facilities Planning Intro for Scientists

The UNOLS Office hosted a webinar to introduce the Science Community to the new Marine Facilities Planner (MFP) application ([mfp.us](#)). MFP is the new integrated ship time request, scheduling and cruise planning software. The webinar covered

- System navigation
- Research Planner module - a powerful interactive map tool to help plan for cruises.
- Science Portal module - where PIs can submit new Ship-time and Marine Equipment (SME) applications (the old STR)
- Schedule Module - which has a map of the current location of the fleet and, coming this fall, will host the vessel schedules.

A recording of the one hour webinar is available on [YouTube](#) and is recommended viewing for anyone who requests ship time or plans for cruises.

As part of the MFP, the PI can now update their project's funding status. Written instructions can be found on page 11 in the User Manual [here](#).

This is a new system for the entire community. Feedback is welcomed! Please send any comments or questions to mfp@unols.org.

DSV ALVIN Motion Picture Preservation Project Underway by WHOI Data Library and Archive

For over 50 years, the deep submergence vehicle ALVIN has been allowing researchers to explore the depths of the ocean and discover life on Earth in unimaginable areas. Many of these expeditions embraced the evolving motion picture technology to document ALVIN's creation, evolution, and contributions to science. These formats - from 16mm film reels up to born-digital video - are housed in the Data Library and Archive (DLA) at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), ALVIN's operational home, and many are beginning to experience loss due to time and format degradation. These original recordings are, in many cases, the only copy of the research performed on that dive. To prevent the permanent loss of this important scientific, historic, and culturally-important work the WHOI DLA is undertaking a project to preserve and digitize the existing motion picture holdings for the DSV ALVIN.

Beginning in the Fall of 2020, the Institution Archivist began to compile a list of at risk media in the collection after several requests showed severe degradation to original video for ALVIN construction, test dives, and research. With this evidence, the DLA was able to successfully apply and receive a grant for \$48,000 from the Council on Library and Information Resources through their Recordings at Risk program. This grant will allow the preservation and digitization of ALVIN film from approximately 1963 to 1980 and cover the original construction, early test dives, the hunt for the H-Bomb, and the discovery of hydrothermal vent communities. The aim is to use this initial funding to gain momentum for a long range project to preserve, digitize, and make easily accessible ALVIN dive video.

To learn more about the project or how to support the effort, contact Brett Freiburger, WHOI Institution Archivist, at bfreiburger@whoi.edu.

NOAA Bathymetry Gap Analysis is Now Included in Marine Facilities Planner

NOAA and its sister federal mapping agencies, are seeking new partners in order to make significant progress on the June 2020 U.S. National Strategy Ocean Mapping, Exploration and Characterization Strategy (NOMECS), the [Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#), and the global [Seabed 2030](#) initiative. All efforts underscore our collective dependence on collaborative acquisition and sharing of ocean mapping data.

As part of this effort, NOAA undertook an analysis of publicly accessible bathymetric data holdings within U.S. coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes waters to the outer limit of the U.S. exclusive economic zone (referred to as "U.S. waters").

To increase awareness of these gaps, the UNOLS MFP Research Planner Module now includes a data layer called the Bathymetric Gap Analysis which shows gaps in the bathymetric data records within the US EEZ. This layer is derived from a product prepared by NOAA to inform the implementation plan for NOMECS.

Users of the MFP may find the layer useful when planning expeditions as it will enable them to view and describe how their research activity could also benefit the NOMECS effort. Although there is no specific funding associated with implementing the NOMECS strategy, MFP users may wish to contact their Federal Agency sponsors to enquire about opportunities to "fill in the gaps."

Details of these efforts, including strategies, data gap analysis and how you can contribute your data can be found on the NOAA Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping [Seabed 2030](#) website.

National Interest Exception (NIE) for Certain Foreign Participants

Per Presidential Proclamation 10143 individuals traveling from certain countries must obtain both a visa and an NIE to enter the United States. The latest information is on the State Department's website [here](#).

Any foreign national participants should first obtain any necessary visas per the [travel.state.gov](#) guidelines and ask about the NIE at that time. If the participant already has a visa, they must still review the local U.S. embassy or consulate's website for guidance on how to apply for an NIE. Applicants should apply for NIEs at least 1 month prior to travel although 2 months is recommended as long as the participant already has the visa. NIEs are valid for 12 months. As part of the NIE application process, the chief scientist should write a letter to accompany the applications clearly stating the reason why this person is of national interest to the U.S. If the applicant applied more than a month prior to the travel date and has not heard anything within 2 weeks of travel, the chief scientist and/or platform operator can contact marinescience@state.gov to see if they can be of assistance. The UNOLS office does not handle anything related to consular affairs, but sometimes can be of help.

Committee News

UNOLS Council Call for Nominations

The [UNOLS Council](#) is looking for 3 positions:

- One Non-Operator Position - affiliation with a non-operator UNOLS institution
- One Operator Position – affiliation with a UNOLS operator institution
- One At-Large Position – affiliation with any UNOLS institution (operator OR non-operator)

The deadline for nominations is 12 August 2021. For more information, please see the [Council Call for Nominations](#).

FIC Call for Nominations

The [Fleet Improvement Committee](#) is looking for a new Chair and a new member from a UNOLS Operator institution. The deadline for nominations is 20 August 21. For more information, please see the [FIC Call for Nominations](#).

SCOAR Call for Nominations

The [Scientific Committee for Oceanographic Aircraft Research](#) is looking for a new member. The deadline for nominations is 1 September 21. For more information, please see the [SCOAR Call for Nominations](#).

AICC Chair Call for Nominations

The [Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee](#) is looking for a new Chair. The deadline for nominations is 1 September 21. For more information, please see the [AICC Chair Call for Nominations](#).

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.

- Dr. Chris Zappa/ LDEO - SCOAR Chair

THANK YOU to Outgoing Committee Members

MANY THANKS to the following individuals' contributions to the UNOLS community.

- Dr. Luc Lenain / SJO - SCOAR. Many thanks to Luc for his 10 years of service to SCOAR.

2022 Ship Scheduling Committee Meetings

The Ship Scheduling Committee started meetings for development of the 2022 ARF ship schedules on 15 April, 2021 with the first 2022 Global and Ocean Class scheduling meeting. A similar kick-off meeting occurred on 20 April, 2021 for the Intermediate, Regional, Coastal and Local Class ships. Virtual meetings will continue as necessary through the summer to further development of the 2022 schedules. The goal, as it is every year, is to publish schedules for the upcoming year in September. For the first time, the UNOLS Ship Schedulers are using the UNOLS MFP application to develop the 2022 ship schedules.

Fleet Highlights

URI to Name RCFRV #2 NARRAGANSETT DAWN

The national Science Center's new Regional Class Research Vessel that will soon call the University of Rhode Island's Narragansett Bay Campus home has a name: *Narragansett Dawn*.

"*Narragansett Dawn* acknowledges the Indigenous peoples' histories, ancestors, and perseverance in our communities today," said URI President David Dooley. "It honors their stewardship of the land, sea, and resources that they hold sacred, and that we strive to protect with our research and management strategies, together."

More can be found at URI's website [here](#).

R/V ATLANTIS Completes Mid-life Refit

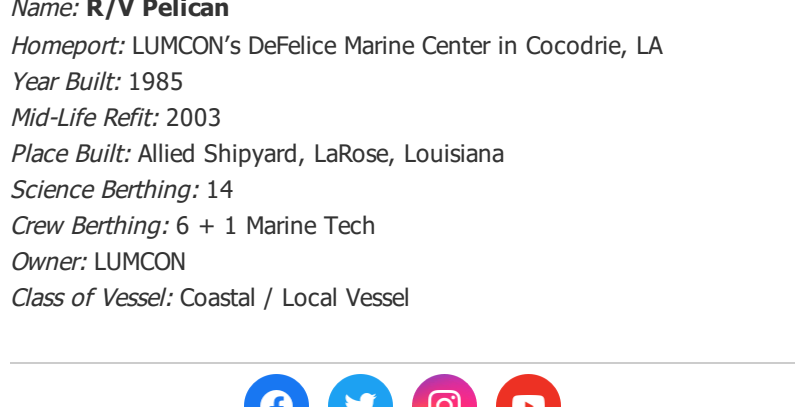


Photo by Tim Twomey (WHOI)

The mid-life refit of R/V ATLANTIS was recently finished up and the ship departed Anacortes, WA on 16 July for its return to Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution via the Panama Canal. The extensive refit included repowering the ship, installing quieter and more effective bow thruster, replacement and upgrade of many legacy hull, mechanical, electrical and installed science systems, replacement of the ship's data backbone, new satellite communication antennas, and significant habitability improvements. The mid-life refit extends the service life of R/V ATLANTIS at least 20 more years.

The recently upgraded HOV ALVIN will be reloaded on R/V ATLANTIS after its return home. Testing and Science Verification Cruises for R/V ATLANTIS and ALVIN will follow. Welcome back to the fleet!

R/V LANGSETH Completes CASCADIA project

RV MARCUS G LANGSETH recently completed the extensive 41-day NSF-funded Cascadia seismic research cruise in the NE Pacific. This was a complex project, led by Chief Scientist Suzanne Carbotte of LDEO that included support from R/Vs OCEANUS (OBS recovery & deployment) and RACHEL CARSON (protected species observer support). The successful cruise culminates several years of extensive planning, permitting, and deferral due to COVID-19 and will undoubtedly serve as the foundation for more important science initiatives to further explore all that was discovered during this cruise. There were 4 other studies that leveraged the Langseth CASCADIA study including the Pablo Canales (WHOI) and Nathan Miller (USGS) study with OBS deployed along 10 of the 18 seismic lines in a 2 cruise program; OBS Trehu (OSU) deployment of land seismometers in southern Washington and Oregon states, a fish tagging study led by Sarah Henkel (OSU) and an ONR/DOE funded whale stress study led by Leigh Torres (OSU).

More information can be found courtesy of the [Corvallis Advocate](#) and [OPB](#).

UC San Diego Receives \$35M in State Funding for New California Coastal Research Vessel

California legislators have allocated UC San Diego \$35 million to design and build a new coastal research vessel with a first-of-its-kind hydrogen-hybrid propulsion system.

The new vessel, which will be operated by Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego, will serve as a platform for essential education and research dedicated to understanding the California coast and climate change impacts to the coastal ecosystem.

Please see [UCSD's website](#) for more details.

Featured Ship - R/V PELICAN

Name: **R/V Pelican**
 Homeport: LUMCON's DeFelixe Marine Center in Cocodrie, LA
 Year Built: 1985
 Mid-Life Refit: 2003
 Place Built: Allied Shipyard, LaRose, Louisiana
 Science Berthing: 14
 Crew Berthing: 6 + 1 Marine Tech
 Owner: LUMCON
 Class of Vessel: Coastal / Local Vessel

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Featured Photo
Polar Bears seen from the R/V SIKULIAQ during Dr. Rob Merson's "Mercury Cycling in the Arctic" cruise. More information on his project can be found [here](#). Photo courtesy of Stephen Shigenetsky.

Upcoming Events

[SCOAR Meeting - 23 August 21 1330 Eastern](#)

[RVTEC Meeting - October 26 - 28, 2021](#)

Please continue to check your email or the UNOLS website regarding the status of committee meetings.

Did you know...



UNOLS has a YouTube page where you can access any and all videos! Visit it [here!](#)

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