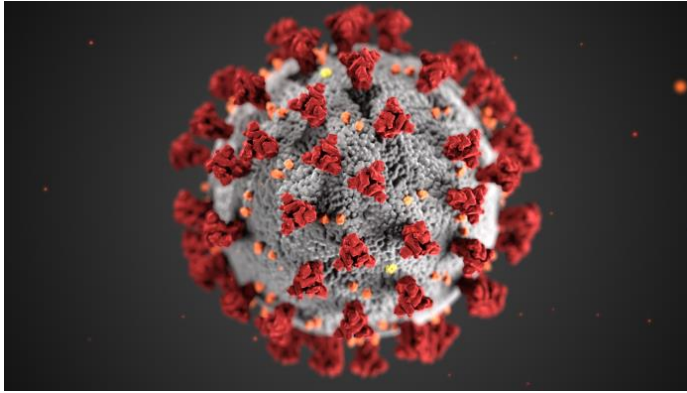




## Community Updates



*This illustration, created at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), reveals ultrastructural morphology exhibited by coronaviruses. Alissa Eckert, MS; Dan Higgins, MAMS | CDC*

### U.S. ARF Revised Operations Plan Extended Through June To Manage Risks Associated With Covid-19

On 17 March, the UNOLS office, in collaboration with the funding agencies, operators and UNOLS Council released [Guidance Regarding Rescheduling of Cruises Due to Coronavirus Impacts](#) to the UNOLS community in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. That guidance indicated operational plans would be revised for at least 30 days, essentially tying up research vessels until there was a better understanding of the impacts of the outbreak. The rate of increase in the number of COVID-19 cases lead the funding agencies, operators and UNOLS Council to issue an [Extended Guidance Plan](#) for the U.S. Academic Research Fleet. The updated guidance released on 30 March recommends an extension of the stand-down until 1 July 2020.

The operators, funding agencies, and UNOLS office are working diligently with the affected PIs to prioritize 2020 sea-going research. The safety of crew and science party is paramount, therefore restarting science operations must follow a carefully developed, risk-based assessment of all factors in determining when at-sea work can start again. What works for one vessel and/or project may not work for another. To help the operators and PIs navigate the process of restarting operations [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Considerations for Making Decisions Regarding Conducting Science Onboard U.S. Academic Research Fleet Vessels](#) was developed. This document outlines considerations, risks and mitigation for both the operators and the shipboard scientists. These considerations will be updated as more information about the virus and the pandemic becomes available.

Please continue to check the UNOLS website [Updated - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Considerations for Scientists and Operators](#) for the most current information regarding the pandemic and its impacts on the U.S. Academic Research Fleet.



### Featured Photo

Ms. Aria Mason provides the keynote speech at the Keel Laying Ceremony for R/V GILBERT R. MASON.



### Upcoming Events

[2020 RVOC Meeting](#)- Cancelled  
April 28-30, 2020  
RSMAS  
Miami, FL

[2020 Spring DeSSC Meeting](#)  
June 24-25, 2020  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Falmouth, MA

[2020 RVTEC Meeting](#)  
October 27- 29, 2020  
University of New Hampshire  
Durham, NH

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

### Did you know...

A webpage dedicated to COVID-19 and it's effects on the U.S. Academic Research Fleet is available on the UNOLS website. You can find it [here](#).



## Pre Cruise Considerations for Successful

### Dredging Operations

After a series of research projects experienced complications with dredging operations, an expert panel consisting of NSF representatives, technical personnel and PIs convened a teleconference to discuss the issues and improve future operations. The panel of experts drafted a list of considerations to cover in the pre-cruise planning process to ensure operators, technicians and PIs share goals, plans and expectations before getting underway.

The checklist can be found on the UNOLS Cruise Planning Information website: [Pre Cruise Considerations for Successful Dredging Operations](#)

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## Committee News

### 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.

- FIC - Dr. Angelique White / UH

### Big Thank You to Outgoing Committee Members

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

- FIC - Dr. Nancy Rabalais / LUMCON
- Council - Dr. Tammy Richardson / U of SoCarolina

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## Fleet Highlights



*Ms. Aria Mason & Governor Bel Edwards watch as her initials are welded in a plate that will be affixed to the keel of R/V GILBERT R. MASON.*

### R/V Gilbert R. Mason Keel Laying

On 3 March 2020 a keel laying ceremony was held at the Municipal Auditorium in Houma, LA for the 3rd Regional Class Research Vessel, R/V GILBERT R. MASON. The R/V MASON will be operated by the Gulf - Caribbean Oceanographic Consortium led by the University of Southern

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Mississippi and the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON). Many of Dr. Gilbert Mason's family members, as well as a number of dignitaries from both Mississippi and Louisiana, attended the event. Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards attended and was one of the speakers. Dr. Mason's granddaughter, Aria Mason, the ship's sponsor, provided an inspirational keynote speech. In her speech Ms. Mason talked of how her grandfather inspired her through his passion for oceanographic research as well as his work to secure equal access to the Mississippi coast and the sea for all residents. The ceremony concluded with a Gulf Island Shipyard welder welding Ms. Mason's initials in a plate that will be affixed to the keel of R/V GILBERT R. MASON.

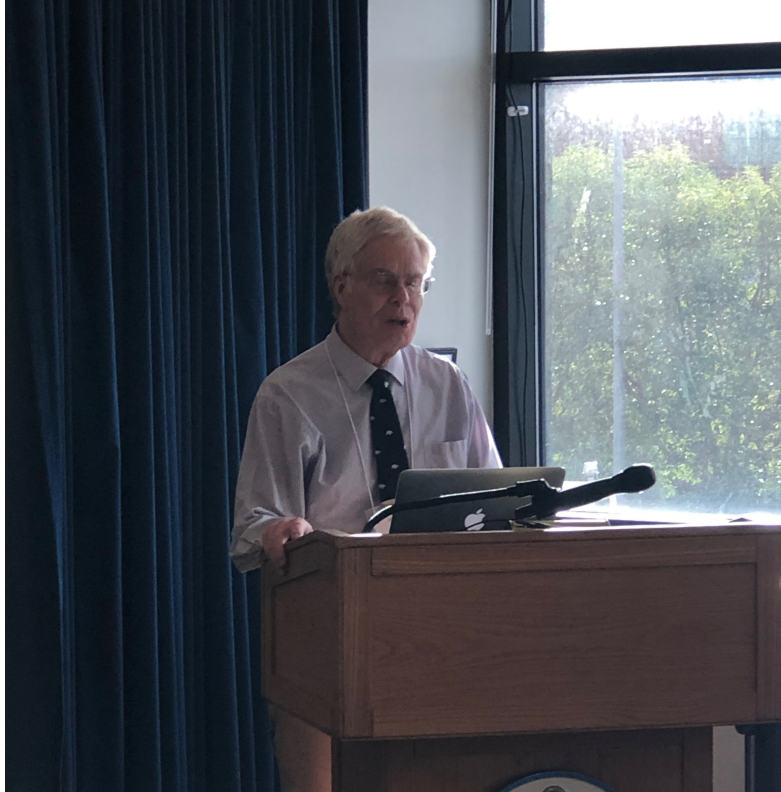
See [USM News](#) for more information about the vessel and its namesake.



*UNOLS Chair Craig Lee addresses the AICC and guests recognizing USCGC HEALY's 20 years of conducting Arctic science operations.*

## **UNOLS Recognizes 20 Years of USCGC HEALY Support to Arctic Science**

USCGC HEALY was commissioned on 10 November 1999. Over the next twenty years HEALY completed 63 science missions to the Arctic. On 16 January 2020 UNOLS formally recognized this major milestone as part of the AICC Winter Meeting held at U.S. Coast Guard Base Seattle. AICC Chair Craig Lee (UW APL) and Fleet Improvement Committee Chair Jim Swift (SIO) spoke of HEALY's accomplishments and significant contributions to Arctic science during the ceremony. A UNOLS plaque, a large photo of HEALY in the ice from a recent expedition, and a formal letter to the Commandant of the USCG recognizing the milestone were presented to the ship's Commanding Officer, CAPT Mary Ellen Durley. Five previous HEALY Commanding Officers were present for the event.



*FIC Chair Jim Swift provides historical and scientific highlights of USCGC HEALY's 20 years of Arctic Science operations.*

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## Updates to UNOLS.org

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### **The UNOLS office will be moving to G-suite!**

The UNOLS office will be migrating its mail server to Gmail on April 16th. Included in the migration will be moving our listserves from Smartermail to Google Groups. This operation should occur invisibly to the UNOLS community, however, if you experience any issues with email or listservs, don't hesitate to write us at [webadmin@unols.org](mailto:webadmin@unols.org).



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