

# UNIVERSITY-NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC LABORATORY SYSTEM

An association of Institutions  
for the coordination and support  
of university oceanographic facilities

UNOLS Office  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Woods Hole, Massachusetts 02543

URGENT

December 7, 1973

Memorandum to UNOLS Members

Subject: Ship Inspection Program

1. As you know, the NAVY/NSF Panel on Ship Operations, Conversion and Construction, has proposed that the ship inspection program be revitalized and expanded. The (draft) plan for this is enclosed.
2. This was carefully discussed by RVOC at its recent meeting and a position was set forth. The attached report was prepared as a UNOLS position on the SOCC plan. Will you please review this and advise me of any comments you can offer. The SOCC Panel has requested an early response.
3. A copy of this is being distributed to RVOC members so that they may be prepared to consult with you.

  
R. P. Dinsmore  
Executive Secretary, UNOLS

RPD/lee

Encl.

Plans & Procedures for Inspection  
of the Academic Fleet

I. List of Vessels to be Inspected in CY 1974

<u>Name</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>Acona</u> (N)	Alaska	February
<u>Washington</u> (N)	Scripps	March
<u>Knorr</u> (N)	WHOI	April 5 - 7
<u>Thompson</u> (N)	Washington	April 2nd or 3rd wk.
<u>Melville</u> (N)	Scripps	June
<u>Cayuse</u>	OSU	July 1st wk.
<u>Velero</u>	USC	August, last wk.
<u>Atlantis II</u>	WHOI	August, last wk.
<u>Yaquina</u>	OSU	September, 1st 2 wks.
<u>Gilliss</u> (N)	Miami	October, end
<u>Agassiz</u>	Scripps	November or December

Dates were taken from spring UNOLS schedule

(N) is Navy owned

## II. Requirements of Inspection Team

1. Inspection proceedings will require two working days to complete.
2. Meet with institutional representatives and review file which will include, at least, last USCG inspection report (if an inspected vessel), "Ship Characteristics Form", last ABS inspection report, and last audiogaging report.
3. Inspect vessel to include:
  - a. hull and superstructure
  - b. hull machinery
  - c. main propulsion machinery
  - d. auxillary machinery
  - e. electrical system
  - f. ventilation system
  - g. electronics including nav aids
  - h. waste (chemicals, radioisotopes, sewage, etc.) handling systems
  - i. cleanliness of vessel with emphasis on quarters and galley
  - j. scientific equipment
  - k. habitability
  - l. medical facilities
4. Hold a critique with the marine superintendent and lab director to discuss results of the inspection.
5. An evaluation of the operating staff.
6. Shortly after the inspection a general letter of findings will be sent to the lab director. This letter should include the strong as well as the weak points. He will be requested to submit a "follow-up" letter indicating corrective action taken.
7. Inspectors will be required to make recommendations for upgrading, modernization or replacement. Cost estimates and time required will be "worked-up" for submission to the inspection subcommittee before leaving the site.

III. Institution Records Requirements

1. Reports of previous material inspections.
2. USCG inspection reports
3. ABS inspection records.
4. Completed current "Ship Characteristics Form" (UNOLS)
5. Report of "follow-up" on previous recommendations for correction of deficiencies, modifications, etc.

IV. Inspection Timetable

(After list of ships to be inspected is approved by SOCC)

1. List of proposed ships to be inspected will be sent to institutions involved.
2. Ship inspection subcommittee select specific dates, where possible, for each institution.
3. Select team and settle on who will accompany from NSF, Navy & NOAA.
4. Notify institution by phone and follow by a letter which lists details.
  - a. "Ship Characteristics Form" (UNOLS)
  - b. record of most recent USCG inspection
  - c. last audiogage readings and ABS inspection reports.

Note: Question institution whether or not vessel is "kept in class."

5. Arrival at site (see "Requirements of Inspection Team").
6. Send "follow-up" letter to institution.

V. SOCC Periodic Reports

1. Same kind of clear rating and narrative of overall inspection to include an assessment of material condition (condition of hull, machinery, etc.) and maintenance of the ship and equipment will be submitted to SOCC. The report will indicate unusual costs which might be incurred in preserving or attaining a full mission capability for the next three years, or to reach compliance with any new mandatory modifications/improvements.

2. An evaluation of the research capability. Is it suitable for biological, geological, geophysical, deep trawling, coring etc.?
3. If a replacement is required--why?
4. Annual Summary Report
  - a. recommendations regarding overall priorities for renovation, conversion or replacement.
  - b. probable costs.
  - c. effects of the recommended actions.
  - d. priority list of equipment.

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## UNOLS - RVOC REPORT ON SHIP INSPECTION PROGRAM FOR THE ACADEMIC FLEET

The proposed ship inspection program was examined by RVOC on November 28, 1973 and reported to UNOLS. This subject had also been considered by the UNOLS Advisory Council on November 1, 1973. Available for inspection was a four page plan entitled, "Plans and Procedures for Inspection of the Academic Fleet" (undated - ca. 11/10/73) and the existing ship inspection format - as amended about 6/28/73. The following comments are based on the foregoing:

### 1. General

In general UNOLS (of which RVOC is a part) fully agrees with an inspection program provided that the purpose of the inspection is clearly stated and the scope of the inspection is rigidly defined. UNOLS recommends that a document setting forth the inspection program be promulgated which includes the two elements above. A suggested statement of purpose is attached which shows several objectives including benefits to the ship operator. In order to capture the full cooperation and participation of ship operators, the program might be termed "UNOLS Ship Inspection Program".

### 2. Scope of Inspection

The "plan" now includes a list of inspection items now labeled a-1. This appears to be a shopping list which lends itself to further additions for which inspection capability may be lacking. For example: "1 - medical facilities" is getting beyond the scope of the inspectors envisioned here. As a means of defining the scope of the examination there should be some safeguard to prevent the inspection from overwhelming the operator and inspector alike. This is best accomplished by making the inspection form or check-off sheet an integral part of the document setting forth the program. The existing inspection form as amended by Mr. Silverman on June 28, 1973 appears satisfactory at this time.



3. Evaluation of the Operating Staff

It is understood that this requirement has been deleted. If not, it is strongly recommended it be eliminated. Such an evaluation is beyond the scope of a material inspection and probably beyond the capability of the inspecting team. Its inclusion changes the entire character of the inspection program.

4. Inspection Procedures

The duration of the inspection ought not to be fixed at two days. Two days might not be sufficient for a large ship with problems. On the other hand, one day might be entirely adequate for a 65-ft. boat. A subject of concern has been the possibility of duplicative efforts between this inspection and similar inspections by the USCG, ABS, and insurance inspections where the ship is so inspected. This should be no problem so long as the inspection team is directed to take cognizance of previous inspections and a clearcut distinction is made between "Inspected" and "Uninspected" vessels (46USC441). The inspection form might ultimately be modified to reflect this as well as the difference between large and small vessels which it does not now do.

5. Composition of the Inspection Team

There should be set forth a policy for composition of the inspection teams and roles of official observers. UNOLS now understands that each team will include at least one qualified RVOC participant.

6. Inspection Reports

The draft "plan" now provides for: "letters of finding" and "follow-up letters" as required procedures. These do not appear necessary except in extraordinary cases. A properly executed inspection report deposited with the laboratory director should suffice. A laboratory director should be allowed to respond if he feels it necessary but should not ordinarily be required to do so.

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7. SOCC Periodic Reports

The plan calls for reports to and by SOCC to include recommendations, costs, priorities, etc. These appear highly desirable as a means of planning, evaluating, and justifying maintenance and equipment requests both by operators and Federal Program Managers. It is suggested that UNOLS be provided with copies of these reports.

8. Timetable

The proposed dates for ships shown on the current plan appear to be compatible with the latest ship schedules. It is recommended that this timetable be approved as soon as possible.

UNOLS and RVOC will be pleased to assist in any way possible to proceed with the program such as promulgating notices, preparation of the inspection sheets, etc.

Attachment: Proposed statement of purpose



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UNOLS  
12/5/73

Attachment: RECOMMENDED STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FOR  
ACADEMIC SHIP INSPECTION PROGRAM

The purpose of the Academic Ship Inspection Program is:

- (1) To assess the material condition of Federally owned and funded ships and equipment in order to protect the interests of the Federal Government.
- (2) To evaluate and update the condition and suitability of ships to meet their intended missions in order to provide Federal program managers, laboratory directors, and UNOLS with planning information for ship repairs, conversions, and replacements.
- (3) To assist operating institutions in the maintenance of ship and equipment through the expert consultation services afforded by the inspection personnel and processes.

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