

UNOLS Fleet Improvement Committee – Report UNOLS Annual Meeting, NOV 2019

FIC Membership:

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Austin, James A. (UT-Austin) | Non-Op Rep |
| Blomquist, Byron (CU-Boulder) | Non-Op Rep |
| Carbotte, Suzanne (LDEO) | at-Large Rep |
| Keil, Rick (UW) | Operator Rep |
| Kelety, Zoltan (UCSD/SIO) | ex-officio; Chair, RVOC |
| Montoya, Joseph (GA Tech) | Non-Op Rep |
| Rabalais, Nancy (LUMCON) | Operator Rep |
| Roth, Ethan (UAF) | ex-officio; RVTEC Liaison |
| Swift, Jim (UCSD/SIO) | Chair |
| Tominaga, Masako (WHOI) | at-Large Rep |
| Cutter, Greg (ODU) | Global class SMR chair |

**FIC 2019 meetings: 26-27 MAR 2019, Narragansett, RI
20 NOV 2019, Alexandria, VA**

Recent and Continuing FIC business

A FIC member is on the RCRV Oversight Committee. The FIC will track sea trials and science verification exercises.

The FIC keeps in touch with plans and progress on the mid-life refits of the global class ships. The FIC will track user experiences (via PCARs).

There is FIC representation in community discussions regarding provisions for marine seismic capabilities.

The FIC is keeping updated on planning for US ships which may be used for research in polar regions, e.g. the NSF/OPP polar RV SMR report.

The UNOLS Office continues to adjust fleet projected service life end dates and optimal usage definitions.

UNOLS Fleet Improvement Plan

A major revision to the UNOLS Fleet Improvement Plan was completed, approved by Council, and is now widely available:

<https://www.unols.org/document/unols-fleet-improvement-plan-2019-draft>

To plan for the future, the plan specifically recommends:

Determine a course for building future global vessels capable of supporting large (>30) interdisciplinary or discipline-focused science parties.

Developing plans to renew and utilize the capability of coastal/local class vessels as components of the UNOLS Fleet.

Support the acquisition of new ice-breaking capabilities for science community access to high latitude oceans.

Development of Science Mission Requirements for the Next Generation of Global Class Research Ships

FIC Subcommittee, chair G. Cutter (ODU)

Tasks Completed

- Examine existing/previous SMR reports (Global and Ocean classes, polar)
- Gather information on international Global-class-like fleet
- Survey community plus Global class users, operators, captains, & techs
- Draft preliminary SMR document

Tasks to be Completed

- Refine and complete the draft document
- Circulate the SMR document to the UNOLS Council
- On approval, distribute and post the SMR document

Future Tasks

- Revisit the SMR document as needed, treating it as a "living" document

New FIC Initiatives

The FIC is improving its engagement in planning & needs for small RVs.

There is a sustained need for RVs that operate in shallow, close-to-the-coast waters.

The FIC is beginning by listening to the operators of the smaller RVs, and will reach out to users.

The FIC is contributing to a UNOLS study of the evolving role of RVs in US oceanographic research.

How are changes in the nature of science, technological advances, and resource constraints reflected in science at sea?

The FIC will begin by assisting with a UNOLS examination of ship-time requests over recent years.