

UNOLS Fleet Improvement Committee – Report UNOLS Council Meeting, JUL 2020

FIC Membership:

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
Roth, Ethan (UAF)	ex-officio; RVTEC Liaison
Swift, Jim (UCSD/SIO)	Chair
Tominaga, Masako (WHOI)	at-Large Rep
White, Angelicque (U Hawaii)	Operator Rep
[Cutter, Greg (ODU)	Global class SMR chair]

Last FIC meeting: 20 NOV 2019, Alexandria, VA (a FIC meeting is now being planned)

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.

Telepresence recommendations

Changes have been afoot in the internet-on-research-ships business. The FIC is interested in seeing that future capabilities in the telepresence arena are reflected in its SMRs and fleet utilization discussions.

Academic Research Fleet Recapitalization and Relation to the Coastal and Local Ships

There has been a major recapitalization: Sikuliaq, the two new Ocean-class ships, the mid-life refits of the big AGORs, and now the three new Regional-class ships. The FIC is interested in seeing recapitalization, balance, and improved capabilities extend to the coastal and local members of the ARF, but how do we proceed?

Small Boat Operations

Small boat operations (from the larger ships) is an area of increased concern and impact. The FIC may wish to work with RVTEC and the RVOC to see that our recommendations for small boat operations in support of research at sea are appropriate and forward looking.

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 [presently at this stage]
- 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