

UNOLS Annual Meeting – NOAA Update, November 2022



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NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

Marine Advisor



Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

NOAA – UNOLS Partnership

- Council, RVOC, FIC, and Ship Scheduling Meetings
- NOAA/UNOLS project ship time
- MRP Planning, COVID-19, Staffing Lessons Learned



FY22 – In review

People

- Initiatives to address staffing issues
- Covid-19 protocol leverages vaccine/booster

Metal

- Class A – *Oceanographer* and *Discoverer* construction underway
- Class B Requests for Proposal out
- *Ron Brown* Mid-life repair May 2022

Mission

- *Thomas Jefferson* – Lake Erie Mapping
- *Rainier* – Guam/Pacific Island coral reef Mapping
- *Nancy Foster* – Valor in the Atlantic project
- DAS lost due to Covid/staffing
- MAAS – NOAA MFP pilot
- Budget shortfall challenges: fuel, maintenance, labor, Covid

FY23 –looking forward

- 2607 Days at Sea planned
- *Ron Brown* Go-Ship North ~75 Days



On 28 October, Thoma-Sea Marine Constructors, LLC (TMC) held a keel-laying ceremony in Houma, Louisiana, for NOAA's newest oceanographic research ship, *Discoverer*. During the ceremony, the initials of the ship's sponsor, Second Gentleman Douglas C. Emhoff, were welded onto a steel plate that will be incorporated into the ship during construction. *Discoverer* will be homeported in Newport, Rhode Island, and is expected to join the NOAA fleet in 2026

