

UNOLS Update

2023 Summer AICC Meeting

Doug Russell UNOLS Executive Secretary





UNOLS Update

- Meetings: most are now hybrid
 - ✓ Council – Portland, ME 4-5 May
 - ✓ DeSSC – Woods Hole, 10-11 May
 - ✓ RVOC & Safety – Duluth, 16-18 May
 - ✓ FIC (virtual) meetings – dates tbd
 - AICC – Alexandria, 19-20 July
 - RVTEC – Honolulu, 23-27 Oct
 - Annual & Council – Tempe, AZ 15-16 Nov
 - MSROC – San Francisco, CA 10 Dec
- 2024 Ship Scheduling process proceeding towards goal of publishing schedules in September
 - Still a substantial backlog in cruises from COVID-19, crewing, & mechanical issues.
 - NOAA Ship Ron Brown will undergo a mid-life refit in 2024 further increasing the demand
 - We have also engaged with international r/v schedulers to see where we may help each other out



Where will the ships be in 2024?

- **Atlantic**

- Neil Armstrong (Ocean) – North Atlantic
- Roger Revelle (Global) – East Pacific, Gulf of Mx, North Atlantic
- Marcus G. Langseth (Global / Seismic) – A16S, Atlantic Basin
- Atlantic Explorer (Intermediate) – Bermuda, Florida/Bahamas

- **Pacific**

- Sikuliaq (Global / ice capable) – Arctic & NE Pacific
- Sally Ride (Ocean) – U.S. West Coast
- Kilo Moana (Ocean) – Hawaii, Fr. Polynesia, Galapagos

- **Indian**

- Thomas G. Thompson (Global) – West Pacific & Indian - I09N followed by I08S in early 2025 (depends on USCG - pending decision reg. ARC01 on USCGC HEALY in 2024), other major projects

Tentative Schedule Plans – Schedules Still Being Developed



More UNOLS Updates

- R/V Marcus G. Langseth (seismic ship) – 2024 last year of operations?
 - LDEO has discussed with NSF to determine whether MGL can continue to operated for another two years after completing a regulatory drydock in 2024. Submitting proposal to NSF for 2 more years in Academic Research Fleet
 - More time needed to acquire and refit a ship to support seismic operations and general oceanography
- Crewing – significant progress but challenges remain.
 - Crewing Support Manager in place & making strong impact.
 - Developing marketing video for working on ARF research vessels.
- MATE Internship Program – has successfully shifted from the previous host, the MATE Center at Monterey Peninsula College to the UNOLS Office.
 - Maria Osiadacz continues to run the program – now a UW employee
 - 18 interns in 2023!
- RVSS 11th Ed – Appendix A revision released in June
- UNOLS Office 5-year Review



COVID-19 Guidance Update

- COVID-19 guidance updated 25 June 2023
 - Much simpler
- Addresses & is consistent with latest CDC guidelines incl. incorporation of bivalent (“up to date”) boosters.
 - Latest boosters are deemed up to date because they protect against **both** the original virus that causes COVID-19 **and** the Omicron variant BA.4 and BA.5. Two COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers, Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, have developed updated COVID-19 vaccines
- Give operators the flexibility they need to operate successfully while supporting their needs to maintain appropriate protocols for their operations