

Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee (AICC)
Summer Telcon- 9 June 2015
Draft Minutes- (ver17june2015)

Executive Summary

The AICC held their summer meeting via teleconference on June 9, 2015. Our last meeting was held in Seattle on November 13-14, 2014. The meeting was well attended by members of the US Coast Guard, federal agency representatives, although there were not enough members of the AICC in attendance to constitute a quorum.

Minutes

Lee Cooper/UMCES and AICC Chair opened the meeting with introductions and a welcome to all in attendance. He provided a chair's report which focused on the several topics of importance to the AICC and Coast Guard members present. Due to a lack of a quorum, the meeting minutes from the November 2014 meeting could not be approved but will be approved by e-mail.

Topics reviewed in the Chair Report included preparations for the GEOTRACES cruise, habitability aboard the CGC *Healy*, community relations with native communities, use of the Icebreaker *Oden*, STARC, and the AICC membership. Details on each topic are listed below.

GEOTRACES

The planning for the GEOTRACES cruise is continuing along well. Lee contacted Chief Scientist, David Kadko to request input on how the pre-cruise planning was progressing and if there were any issues that required AICC assistance. The GEOTRACES cruise will be aboard the CGC *Healy* from early August to October 2015. The *Healy* will be working with the *Amundsen* and the *Polarstern* on this project. There has been a recent effort on the part of Canada to make the *Amundsen* more available for international participation and Lee Cooper recently joined their Board of Directors, which is oriented towards sustainable science use. The ship operation is managed by the Canadian Coast Guard, which is part of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. They are working to keep the *Amundsen* running and available for science. They met in February 2015 in Montreal.

Swedish Planning Workshop

On March 30-April 1, 2015 the US/Swedish Planning Workshop on Joint Arctic Research for using the *I/B Oden* was held in Sigtuna, Sweden.

The workshop was supported in collaboration between the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat (SPRS), the Swedish Research Council Vetenskapsrådet (VR), and the Swedish Research Council Formas. AICC members, Bob Campbell/URI and Larry Mayer/UNH attended the workshop and provided a short summary for the AICC. A workshop report will be published.

The goal of the workshop was to bring together those with research and operational/logistical interests in the Arctic to discuss a baseline for establishing a new, longer-term collaborative relationship among US and Swedish scientists for *Oden*-based research in the Arctic Ocean. In addition, a pilot program for

2017/2018 with an interdisciplinary ocean-atmosphere focus was discussed, which is already a part of the SPRS agenda.

An additional cruise planning meeting was also conducted by participants on the 2015 NSF funded cruise using the *Oden* at the Petermann Glacier (Alan Mix, Oregon State, lead PI).

United States Coast Guard Change of Command Ceremony

On June 5, 2015 a Coast Guard tradition of Change of Command Ceremony was held in Seattle to recognize Capt. John Reeves's retirement as the commanding officer of the CGC *Healy*. Capt. Jason Hamilton is the new commanding officer. The event was well attended and AICC was represented by AICC member, Luc Rainville/UW. Of the many achievements that were highlighted, the close cooperation among agencies and the outstanding advances in oceanographic research which were realized under the command of Capt. John Reeves were of particular note.

Foreign Research Vessels

This coming season there will be several foreign research vessels working in the US Arctic, including the Korean *R/V Araon* and the Japanese *R/V Mirai*. The 2015 report is not yet posted, when it is, can be found at the following web site.

<http://pag.arcticportal.org/documents/section/3-pag-cruise-plans>

Alaska Maritime Response Network- (www.ak-mprn.org)

Lee Cooper shared an update on a requirement for vessels working within Alaskan waters as it affects research vessels. The requirements of the Alaska Maritime Response Network include a USCG regulation that requires vessels over 400 gross tons to have spill response approvals in their Vessel Response Plan for all U.S. Captain of The Port Zones that the vessel will transit, operate in or make a port call. The Port Zone extends to the 200 nautical mile limit of the US Exclusive Economic Zone, but there are also risk reduction requirements that require ships to stay further offshore from Alaska than required for some planned sampling efforts. Vessels are required to join a network and have funds in place to cover the cost of a clean-up in the event of an oil spill or some other environmental issue. There is a waiver process and NSF has been working with the Coast Guard on this. It may be determined that this regulation wasn't intended to apply to research vessels. The Japanese *R/V Mirai* will be working in this area in the summer of 2015 and they are applying for a waiver.

NSF Report

Renee Crain/NSF provided an update on the recent discussion to us the *I/B Oden*. NSF/POLAR has a proposal deadline of October 19, 2015. Proposals for *Oden* and other vessels can be submitted to this solicitation to allow time to plan and budget for ship time.

NSF is working to have an agreement in place to use the Canadian Icebreaker CCGS *Louis S. St-Laurent* and both sides are working on some issues involving risk management.

NSF's decisions on which cruises will be supported in 2016 on board the *Healy* are still pending. BOEM, ONR, and NOAA all have funded programs which will use the *Healy* in 2016.

USCG Report

Eric Peace/USCG provided the report on recent activities within the Coast Guard of interest to the AICC. The *Polar Star* is in a shipyard in Mare Island. The maintenance period will finish in July, followed by training, and then preparations for Operation Deep Freeze will begin in November.

For the *Polar Sea*, there are funds in the budget for a preservation dry-docking before the end of the fiscal year. A material condition assessment will be conducted.

The *Healy* will depart Seattle on/about 24 June 2015 and proceed to the Arctic. The 2015 season will continue to October when the *Healy* returns to Seattle. Discussions are underway within the Coast Guard for a midlife refit. It may begin in 2020 and will be a four-year phased project. This will allow for science operations in the summer and then dry-docking and maintenance in the winter. Windows of opportunity to use the ship will be shared with the AICC and posted on the Icefloe web site.

The Coast Guard is working on power requirements for both the *Healy* and *Polar Star* and AICC was recently asked to provide input. The power distribution and potential science van locations are currently being discussed. There currently is one science proposal to use the *Polar Star* on a Deep Freeze Operation cruise. The STARC group will continue to follow this development and will keep the AICC informed.

***Healy* 2015 Cruise Schedule-**

Dave Forcucci/USCG provided an overview of the 2015 season plans for the *Healy*. There are two science cruises planned for this summer. The USCG Research and Development Center (RDC) cruise will include participants from NOAA and Univ. of Alaska/Fairbanks and will conduct mooring and wave glider deployments in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas.

The second research cruise is the GEOTRACES program and Dave Forcucci reported on the planning for this cruise. Some of the issues in working with several PI's on this program include handling of hazardous materials, waste storage and disposal, and scientific gas cylinder storage while at sea. Healy and the STARC group are working on these issues to find suitable solutions. Dave is also working with each group's environmental, safety & health office to develop safe and acceptable plans for disposal of chemical waste over the side.

Dave Forcucci is also assisting the *IB Oden* in the processing of a research clearance application to work in Greenland and Canadian waters as part of the US supported use of the ship. The program on Oden developed into a partnership with Sweden late in the planning so an additional MSR application to Denmark and Canada will be submitted by the Swedish group through the Sweden's government.

The current draft schedule for the *Healy* in 2016 includes the BOEM/MARES program in June 2016. The Coast Guard was able to schedule maintenance early enough for a June 1, 2016 science start date. Then a 29 day cruise for the CANAPE/ONR project is planned for August 2016. The third cruise in 2016 is scheduled to be a NOAA/Ocean Exploration project. Renee Crain/NSF reminded the CG that the agency which uses the ship is required to pay for the STARC technicians through a transfer of funds to NSF.

Kathy Crane/NOAA report

NOAA has scheduled a 10-day cruise in September 2015 for the RUSALCA program on a different ship than previously used, the *Victor Buynitsky*, and NOAA is working on plans to add several days of ship

time to an NSF-funded cruise on a Russian icebreaker. In 2016, the plans for a complete RUSALCA program with 3 transects is being organized.

STARC Support

Woody Sutherland/SIO provided the STARC support update on several projects and their progress and future plans. Woody covered many topics and details can be found in the Powerpoint slides in the appendices. Some of the topics covered included that the mounts to place science vans on the *Healy* are now in place. The utilities will be installed at the end of this 2015 season.

Mapserver is running status quo and everything is running fine with the exception of the ability to ingest ice images in a georeferenced format, which remains an effort where work is continuing.

The computer monitors which were funded by NSF have been installed in the staterooms. NSF provided the funds to purchase the monitors and the Coast Guard provided the labor.

The traffic flow in the main lab has been improved with the benches being trimmed back. The wet lab has been remodeled. The acoustic mooring release deck-box has been installed. STARC is working to improve the data quality on the ADCP. The BGM-3 gravimeter was recently serviced by WHOI techs. The milli-Q system has been improved. In regards to GEOTRACES the large number of different science groups are stretching the capabilities to handle the storage of gas bottles, but racks and necessary clamps are being taken care of.

The power request for the Healy fantail was for (1) 220 volts outlet and (8) 120 volt- 20 amps outlets. There will be (7) lab vans on board for GEOTRACES.

Bathymetric Data

NOAA survey scientists have made a request to the Coast Guard that as the *Healy* is transiting the region to adjust the ship's track-lines so that new bathymetric data can be collected as the ship's systems are running. This continues prior efforts to improve bathymetry by fine adjustment of the ship track as practical.

Scott Hiller's Replacement

The AICC Chair and UNOLS Office recently sent Scott a certificate of appreciation with a letter thanking him for his service to STARC and his many years of effort on behalf of the AICC. Woody reported the recruitment and interviewing of a replacement to fill Scott's position is continuing.

Habitability

The CG recently installed privacy curtains on the staterooms that have three bunks in them. Please see the appendices for photographs.

AICC Membership

A new chair will be needed by January 2016. Current Chair, Lee Cooper's term expires on January 30, 2016. Lee has been reaching out to potential candidates.

There will also be several committee members who term expires in October and November of 2015. The UNOLS Office will prepare a call for nominations and will work with the AICC Chair and committee to get these positions filled.

Next Meeting-

Lee Cooper led the discussion on potential dates and a location for our winter meeting. He followed up after the telcon with the following dates for the AICC to consider.

November 19-20, Seattle---coincides with the Arctic Observing Open Science Meeting on November 17-19

(<http://www.arcus.org/arctic-info/archive/23040>), so we would meet starting the afternoon of November 19 (a Thursday).

January 21-22, Seattle---this would be before the Alaska Marine Science Symposium January 25-29 in Anchorage.

December looks somewhat crowded. There is a conflicting UNOLS Council meeting on December 3-4, and AGU in San Francisco is December 14-18. We could consider a West Coast meeting during the week of December 7-11 if some of us are going to San Francisco or we could hold the meeting in the Washington DC area also.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:05 pm