

## UNOLS Goals and Initiatives

### UNOLS Standing Goals

- Promote broad, coordinated access to oceanographic research facilities
- Maintain a system and procedures that facilitate and promote broad access to research vessels and other major ocean science facilities.
- Support coordinated, efficient and effective scheduling of research vessels and facilities.
- Support continuous improvement of existing facilities
- Foster co-operation among facility operators, funding agencies and research scientists with the goal of continuously improving the quality and capability of existing ocean science facilities and the quality, reliability and safety of their operation.
- Plan for and foster support for the oceanographic facilities of the future
- Provide leadership and broad community input to the process of planning for and supporting the improvement, renewal and addition of facilities required to support the ocean sciences in the future.

### UNOLS Goals for 2011

- Explore options for the establishment of a UNOLS Speaker Series
- Options to establish a speaker series will be explored to highlight UNOLS ships and oceanographic research and to serve as an outreach activity to non-UNOLS colleges and universities, with particular attention given to institutions with under-represented minorities in the marine sciences.

**UNOLS Vision** - A healthy and vigorous United States research and education program in the ocean sciences with broad access to the best possible mix of modern, capable and well-operated research vessels, aircraft, submersibles and other major shared-use facilities.

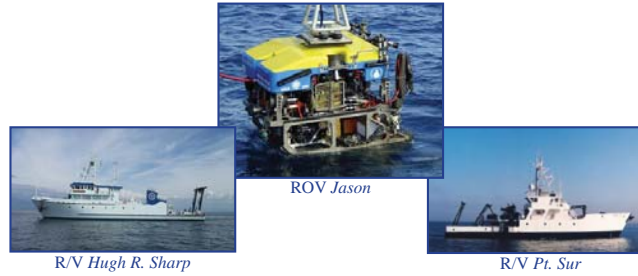
**UNOLS Mission** - UNOLS provides a primary forum through which the ocean science research and education community, research facility operators and the supporting Federal agencies can work cooperatively to improve access, scheduling, operation and capabilities of current and future academic oceanographic facilities.

## UNOLS Public Outreach

Visit the UNOLS Public Outreach webpage: <http://unols.org/info/outreach.html>.

Here you will find:

- Slide packages detailing the UNOLS Fleet and UNOLS activities that are available for public outreach events
- The informational booklets and brochures that are available for public outreach events
- Information on how to request outreach material through the UNOLS Office



**UNOLS Chair:** Dr. Bruce Corliss (Duke Univ.)  
**UNOLS Chair Elect:** Dr. Peter Ortner (U Miami)  
**UNOLS Past Chair:** Dr. Vernon Asper (Univ. So. Miss)

### UNOLS Office Personnel:

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### UNOLS Office

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The Graduate School of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island

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## University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System



**UNOLS** is a consortium of 61 academic institutions and national laboratories involved in oceanographic research. This unique organization, originally created in 1971, ensures access to research vessels and other major shared use facilities that support U.S. research and education programs. UNOLS coordinates and reviews the scheduling and utilization of facilities (e.g. ships, planes, submersibles) for academic oceanographic programs. With the community of users, we review the current match of research program needs to available facilities. UNOLS makes recommendations for replacing, modifying or improving the number and mix of facilities, especially research vessels. UNOLS fosters federal and other support for academic oceanography, thereby continuing and enhancing the excellence of this nation's oceanographic programs.

**UNOLS** consists of an elected Council of nineteen members and nine standing committees. All Council and committee members are volunteers.

**UNOLS Council**

Represents and acts on behalf of the UNOLS membership as the operating and governing body of UNOLS. It makes recommendations to funding agencies regarding the needs for specialized or new facilities, the balance between facilities and funded research programs and accepts charges for special studies and reviews.



**Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee (AICC)**  
Provides oversight and advice to the US Coast Guard for the purpose of enhancing facilities and science aboard their icebreaker fleet.



**DEep Submergence Science Committee (DESSC)**

Provides input and oversight on the use of the National Deep Submergence Facility assets and promotes new technology.

**Fleet Improvement Committee (FIC)**

Assures the continuing excellence of the UNOLS Fleet, to improve the effectiveness of individual ships, and to assure that the number, mix, and overall capability of ships in the UNOLS Fleet match science requirements.

**Marcus Langseth Science Oversight Committee (MLSOC)**

Provides community input and oversees the scientific operation of the seismic survey ship *R/V Marcus Langseth* as a National Oceanographic Seismic Facility.

**Research Vessel Operators' Committee (RVOC)**

Promotes fleet standards, marine safety, efficiency, and quality of service among marine science research and educational institutions.

**Research Vessel Technical Enhancement Committee (RVTEC)**

Fosters activities and improvements that enhance technical support for sea-going scientific programs and oceanographic facilities.

**Ship Scheduling Committee (SSC)**

Develops and coordinates ship schedules to assure the most effective, efficient, and economic utilization of UNOLS ships and associated facilities.



**Scientific Committee for Oceanographic Aircraft Research (SCOAR)**  
Provides advice and recommendations to the National Oceanographic Aircraft Facility managers and supporting federal agencies on aspects of operations, sensor development, fleet composition, utilization, and data services.

**Ocean Observing Science Committee (OOSC)**

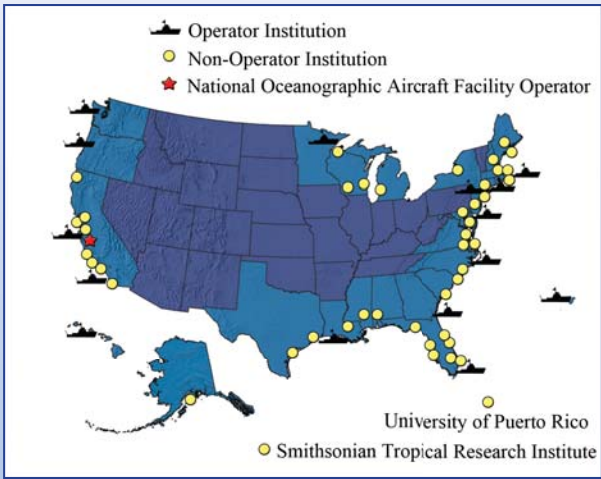
Provides advice on decisions and plans from the science perspective related to NSF ocean observatories and ocean observing support systems.

**UNOLS Academic Research Fleet**

The UNOLS Fleet consists of 21 research vessels. The six Global ships are highly capable and are able to work worldwide in ice-free waters. The six Ocean/Intermediate Class ships are smaller in size than the Global ships and are ocean-going, but do not operate globally. The three Regional Class ships are designed for operations in the shelf and coastal environments of the U.S. Coastal/Local Class ships are those smallest in size and play an important role in supporting research in the waters surrounding their homeports.

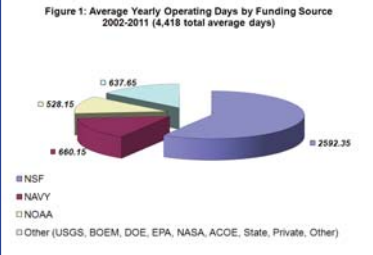
Vessel	Operator	Length (ft)	Year Built / Refit
<b>Global Class</b>			
MELVILLE	(UCSD)	279	1969 / 1991
KNORR	(WHOI)	279	1970 / 1989
THOMAS G. THOMPSON	(UW)	274	1991
ROGER REVELLE	(UCSD)	274	1996
ATLANTIS	(WHOI)	274	1997
MARCUS LANGSETH	(LDEO)	235	1996 / 2007
<b>Ocean/Intermediate Class</b>			
KILO MOANA	(UHawaii)	186	2002
WECOMA	(OSU)	185	1976 / 1994
ENDEAVOR	(URI)	184	1976 / 1993
OCEANUS	(WHOI)	177	1976 / 1994
NEW HORIZON	(UCSD)	170	1978 / 1996
ATLANTIC EXPLORER	(BIOS)	168	1982 / 2006
<b>Regional Class</b>			
HUGH R. SHARP	(UDelaware)	146	2005
CAPE HATTERAS	(UNC/Duke)	135	1981 / 2004
POINT SUR	(MLML)	135	1981
<b>Coastal/Local Class</b>			
ROBERT G. SPROUL	(UCSD)	125	1981 / 1985
PELICAN	(LUMCON)	116	1985 / 2003
F.G. WALTON SMITH	(UMiami)	96	2000
SAVANNAH	(Skidaway)	92	2001
BLUE HERON	(UMN)	86	1985 / 1999
CLIFFORD A. BARNES	(UW)	66	1966 / 1984

**UNOLS Member Institutions**



**Funding Support for the UNOLS Fleet**

UNOLS Fleet operations are supported by funds principally from the National Science Foundation (NSF) (about 60%), Navy (about 15%), and National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) (about 10%). The remaining support for fleet operations comes from sources, such as, states, institutions, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), U.S. Geological Survey, Environmental Protection Agency, and others. See Figure 1.



**UNOLS Fleet Renewal**

Fleet renewal is essential to insure continued excellence of the UNOLS facilities available to support our nation's future oceanographic research initiatives. Facility renewal activities that are currently under way:

- The Alaska Region Research Vessel, *R/V Sikuliaq*, an ice-strengthened ship for use in Arctic research, is under construction. This ship could be ready for operation in 2014.
- NSF is moving forward with plans to refine the Regional Class Vessel design. Construction can start when funds are available.
- The Navy plans to acquire two new Ocean Class vessels. Design and construction efforts began in 2009. The first Ocean Class ship could enter service in 2014.
- NSF is supporting the development of an improved Human Occupied Vehicle (HOV) that will update the DSRV *Alvin*. The updated *Alvin* will have a new titanium personnel sphere that will provide improved ergonomics and eventually offer an increased depth rating of 6500 meters.



Conceptual drawing of the *R/V Sikuliaq*.

**Current Projects**

- New web design - The UNOLS Office is working on a new web design for [www.unols.org](http://www.unols.org).
- MATE/UNOLS Technical Internship Program - Two interns successfully completed this program in 2011. MATE and UNOLS plan to continue this partnership. For more information on this program please visit <http://www.marinetech.org/education/internships.php>.

