

UNOLS  
Committee Reports  
October 2008

RVTEC Report – by Bill Martin, RVTEC Chair

Since the report given at the winter UNOLS meeting, RVTEC members are preparing to attend INMARTECH 2008 in Toulon, France on October 8-10. This international meeting brings together marine technicians from around the world. Sessions allow attendees to share information relating to instrumentation, data collection, data archival and other topics affecting all technicians. In the past, these meetings have shown to be very informative and helpful for all those who attend.

Issues such as crew retention, RF frequency spectrum management, and TWIC continue to be discussed with our community.

New to the list of discussion topics is data archival. The 'NSF Legacy Workshop' was held September 3-5. This workshop brought in data archivists and shipboard data collectors to discuss issues associated with data collection, formats, and archival. This was a very successful meeting and I look forward to this topic as an agenda item at the 2008 RVTEC meeting.

The 2008 RVTEC meeting will be held October 28-30 at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida. This year we will have 'focus group' meetings the day before our normal meeting. The purpose of these focus groups is to have more time to discuss topics. The regular meeting agenda just doesn't seem to be able to schedule enough time for everyone to discuss certain topics to the depth we would like. We hope the focus groups will promote interaction between the technicians. Currently two focus groups are scheduled, HiSeasNet and SWAP. Both of these groups have technicians that want to know what is being developed, troubles experienced and help with the future direction of these programs. Another topic to be discussed will be Rich Findley's spreadsheet to determine safe working loads per the new guidelines. We will also have Ali Hudon, from the Alliance for Coastal Technology, give a talk on best practices for ocean sensors and the sensor comparison testing her laboratory performs. Also on the agenda is a tour of the FSU Coastal and Marine Laboratory.

# **Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee Report**

**October 2008**

USCGC HEALY has completed her 2008 science season and is presently transiting from Barrow AK to Seattle WA. HEALY had a very busy schedule this year, with 6 cruises covering 133 days at sea for science and funded by a diversity of agencies. HEALY supported: 1) the NSF funded Bering Ecosystem Study with three cruises to the Bering Sea. 2) Two National Oceanographic Partnership Program projects to install and turn around moorings during a cruise on the Beaufort Shelf were funded by the ONR. 3) Two cruises mapping the seafloor on the Chukchi Cap and the Canada Basin, the latter together with the CCGS Louis St. Laurent that also was acquiring multi-channel seismic data, in support of the Extended Continental Shelf mapping and the Law of the Sea effort funded through NOAA.

Captain Fred Sommers relieved Captain Tedric Lindström as Captain of HEALY in June. Ted was an excellent CO and provided very good service for science. The AICC will acknowledge his contributions at an upcoming meeting.

USCGC POLAR SEA completed a cruise to the Bering Sea in April on which she supported a NOAA seal survey while conducting training and providing experience in ice breaking for the crew. POLAR SEA is on standby to support the ODEN during this year's Deep-Freeze cruise to break out McMurdo Station, Antarctica. POLAR SEA is departing Seattle in late October for a 6-week Coast Guard mission in the Bering and Chukchi Seas for which a Science of Opportunity (SOO) Solicitation has been released. USCGC POLAR STAR remains in caretaker status at the USCG Base in Seattle.

Efforts to foster communication between the icebreaker science community and the local Alaskan communities adjacent to the science study areas continue. The AICC Chair will contact AEWG Chair Harry Brower, Jr. once the 2009 Healy schedule has been determined in order to discuss the cruises for the upcoming year.

The AICC also has been working with the US Department of State to identify a means to communicate advance information to local Alaskan communities regarding upcoming cruises by foreign research vessels/icebreakers in the US Arctic. Early this year, the Department of State (DOS) and NSF agreed that the NSF OPP would serve as the point of contact for such information and facilitate the communication of advance information to local Alaskan communities regarding upcoming foreign cruises in the area. The AICC, DOS, and NSF are evaluating the effectiveness of this approach.

The AICC conducted debriefs of the first two 2008 HEALY cruises in May and will conduct debriefs of the remaining cruises this fall following HEALY's return to Seattle. Based on discussions at the November 2007 and June 2008 AICC meetings and during a teleconference in late February to review science upgrades during the 2010 drydock, the AICC provided the five following recommendations: 1) That the NSF review and define new requirements for medical pre-cruise assessment for science participation and on-board medical expertise for US icebreaker

Arctic cruises. 2) That the NSF support the proposed replacement of the existing HEALY Seabeam system with a Kongsberg EM122 multibeam system during the planned drydock of HEALY in 2010. 3) That the NSF purchase a laboratory van to be used on the icebreakers and, when not needed, to be part of the UNOLS van pool. 4) That the NSF and CG enable Science of Opportunity on non-science missions on board the POLAR SEA and other icebreakers through open Science of Opportunity calls. 5) That the NSF support upgrades/maintenance to existing science equipment on the POLAR SEA so that it is functional and useful for science and that the NSF continue to support the POLAR STAR in caretaker status until a decision is made regarding replacement or refurbishment of the POLARS. This last recommendation required, and received, review and endorsement of the UNOLS Council prior to being submitted to NSF-OPP.

The AICC met in Arlington VA on June 3-4, 2008 and will next meet in Seattle, WA on December 2-3, 2008.

The AICC welcomes three new members to the Committee: Don Perovich replaced outgoing member Rolf Gradinger in the field of sea ice studies; Erica Key replaced outgoing member Peter Minnett in the field of satellite oceanography and meteorology; Lee Cooper replaced outgoing member Henrietta Edmonds in the field of chemical oceanography. Many thanks to Rolf, Peter, and Hedy for their valuable contributions to the committee's work.

*The AICC can be reached by writing to the Chair (carin@whoi.edu) or to the UNOLS Office (office@unols.org).*

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