

RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATORS COUNCIL

1969 ANNUAL MEETING

TRANSACTIONS

CHAIRMAN -

Jonathan Leiby
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

SECRETARY -

Frank T. Bean
University of Washington

RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATORS' COUNCIL

Annual Meeting

20-21 March 1969

Held at the U.S. Naval Academy

Annapolis, Maryland

FIRST DAY

The 1969 annual meeting of the Research Vessel Operators' Council was held on the 20th and 21st of March, 1969, at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Jon Leiby, at 0930.

New Member

Mr. P. F. Irving, representing the Alan Hancock Foundation, University of Southern California, submitted that institution's application for membership. It was moved, seconded and carried that the Alan Hancock Foundation be admitted as a member institution.

Public Hearing

The Chairman discussed the agenda for the U.S. Coast Guard Public Hearing to be held in the Department of Commerce Auditorium, Washington, D.C., 22 March 1969. He pointed out the RVOC had maintained that oceanographic research vessels were not engaged in trade or commerce and were therefore not merchant vessels. RVOC had exhausted administrative procedures in an effort to resolve remaining problems in documentation, inspection and manning of vessels and that it appeared our sole remaining recourse would be to the courts. Of particular moment was the oceanographic limitation that the Coast Guard proposed to place on licenses of officers serving on oceanographic vessels.

The agenda items affecting oceanographic vessels were discussed and exceptions to proposed wording of specific paragraphs were adopted as follows:

- 20.01-1 Add "...certain oceanographic vessels...."
- 20.01-3a Omit "all" and add "...and by applicable provisions of Titles 52 and 53."
- 20.01-3 Refer back not only to P.L.89-99, but also to Titles 52 and 53. Add "except".
- 20.15-5e(1) Eliminate differences in service--oceanographic vessels, tankers, cargo, etc.
- 20.15-50a Tonnage. Approved. Removal of restrictions should not require re-examination, since less than full examinations have not been given to applicants whose service was gained in oceanographic vessels. It was suggested that in case less than full examination is given, e.g., if cargo handling and stowage are not covered in examination for present grade or restricted license, then removal of restriction must be based on examination or re-examination on omitted subjects.
- Crew List We should seek change in the wording so that crew lists need not be prepared for each individual voyage. Recognizing that MVP needs record of sea service for seamen, the crew list could be submitted annually, showing dates of

shipment and discharge. This procedure would meet MVP requirements and reduce paper work since crews of oceanographic research vessels are, in nearly all cases, permanent employees of the operating institution and not shipped for specific voyages.

It was moved and seconded that the Chairman prepare a statement to be read at the Public Hearing and submitted for the record. Motion carried.

Meeting recessed at 1200 to R/V RIDGELY WARFIELD for lunch and tour of adjacent waters of Chesapeake Bay.

Afternoon Session

The council meeting was called to order at 1500 by Chairman Leiby.

Charter Parties

Max Silverman informed the members that contracts for Navy-owned, institution-operated research vessels were being transferred from Naval Ship Systems Command to the Oceanographer of the Navy. All new contracts are being so written. Existing contracts will be modified to reflect this change. Technical control remains with PMS 391.

Capability Questionnaire

Ad hoc committee on ship utilization needs capability information on all ocean research ships in the national inventory. Bob Warsing distributed Capability/Characteristics Questionnaire to be discussed at tomorrow's session, and hopefully returned by all members within a month.

Change in By-Laws

forthcoming

King's Point Graduates

Sid Griffin informed the members that King's Point Maritime Academy was interested in placing cadets on board ocean research vessels; that certain graduates were being double-licensed, i.e., as both Third Mate and Third Assistant; and that King's Point will permit their graduates to sail in research vessels in fulfillment of the three-year service obligation.

International Recognition of Special Status of Research Vessels

The Chairman led a discussion of the desirability of attaining international recognition of the unique function of research vessels as contrasted to vessels engaged in trade. U.S. Coast Guard has worked with RVOC on this problem, but to date there has been little progress. Chairman has approached the State Department on the need for international recognition of research vessels as a separate and distinct class of vessels. There is a possibility this matter may be brought to the attention of IGO.

Port Entry

The problem of port entry for research vessels evidently stems from the various interpretations of a "public vessel", especially those that are Navy-owned, but operated by institutions. ARGO and CHAIN are "public vessels" and entry must be obtained by Navy through the State Department. Other vessels, e.g., THOMAS WASHINGTON, THOMAS G. THOMPSON and CONRAD are Navy-owned, but operated by state institutions. Carrying a Coast Guard Certificate of Inspection is irrelevant; such certification does not make a vessel "private". The State Department is now looking at this problem. Some institutions have entered ships in foreign ports without arranging such call through the State Department. The University of Washington always arranges through the State Department for foreign entry as part of the clearance for research in foreign territorial waters or continental shelves.

MEETING RECESSED AT 1635.

SECOND DAYPay Scales

Pay scales of SIO and UofW were made available for distribution to the members, and discussed generally. WHOI scale is approximately 10% over that of 1968, and can be obtained upon request. The Secretary is to hold the pay scale information of member institutions and furnish to individual members upon request.

Job Descriptions

Florida State University and Rhode Island University requested job descriptions of other institutions. It was moved and seconded that job descriptions be exchanged for mutual information and benefit.

R/V ANNANDALE

Chairman announced the availability of R/V ANNANDALE. The vessel is 90' LOA, but has no winches and little laboratory space.

Research Vessel Capability/Characteristics Questionnaire

Bob Warsing explained the use of this questionnaire is to provide the ad hoc Committee on Ship Utilization of the Committee on Marine Resources, Education and Facilities with current information of ship capabilities and characteristics. The questionnaire is designed for computer application and will permit rapid ascertainment of specific ship capabilities if needed for specific unforeseen operations similar to ALVIN and Palomares operations.

Eventually there will be a 24-hour telephone available for emergency alerts and capability information readouts.

Questionnaires should be returned in three weeks, if possible, and updated annually when called for, otherwise whenever significant changes occur. Information will not be published but is available to cooperating institutions upon request and release by operating institution. Members agreed to objection to dissemination to other government agencies.

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Portable Vans

Mr. Trapani informed members that plans were available for portable vans configured for laboratories, explosives or personnel accommodations. Vans are 15' long, 8' wide and 8-1/2' high, and cost approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000 each. He will furnish name and address of company from whom plans can be obtained.

Election of Officers

It was moved, seconded and carried that Jon Leiby would continue as chairman for an additional year.

Adjournment

Moved and seconded that meeting be adjourned. Motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 1230, 21 March 1969.