

UNOLS NEWS

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Fleet Management

The debate continues on how best to manage the UNOLS fleet in the context of changing research requirements and flat funding. After considering various scenarios involving more centralized scheduling and/or operations, the following consensus was achieved: (1) Late winter (February-March) ship scheduling meetings of the East and West coast scheduling groups will be discontinued and replaced with the exchange of "strawman" schedules via telemail and (in a pinch) the U.S. postal service. East and West coast scheduling meetings will be held at the UNOLS semiannual meeting which will be held following NSF funding cycles. (2) Regional meetings of operators and users are a useful means of matching science to appropriate vessels and of developing realistic schedules in a timely fashion. UNOLS encourages ship operators and scientists to continue to have these meetings in preparation for the semiannual meetings. (3) Ship-time requests will be computerized so that UNOLS institutions and the oceanographic community in general can follow schedules as they develop on telemail. The file will be compiled under the auspices of UNOLS and will contain a listing of the PI, project requirements, ship preference, and funding status. (4) And last, but not least, the present decentralized character of fleet management is strongly endorsed.



The discussion of fleet management strategies is a continuing process and we encourage the scientific community to provide UNOLS and the Advisory Council with constructive criticism.

Fleet Improvement

The new Fleet Improvement Committee is now in place. The FIC will be chaired by Worth Nowlin with Tex Treadwell as Executive Secretary. Bob Dinsmore, Marcus Langseth, and Fred Spiess from the old FRC have agreed to continue to provide their good services. New members are Dick Barber, Don Gorsline, Jim Murray, and Bruce Robison.

George Keller has charged this committee with the following: (1) Amplify and update the ship improvement plan. This will involve the continued reassessment of the number, size, and research and operational capabilities needed to meet the research goals of the community. (2) Continue to refine science mission requirements, including the roles and capabilities of smaller vessels and innovative platforms. (3) Complete conceptual designs for smaller vessels. (4) Consider alternatives to new construction for meeting research needs, such as refits and improvements of existing vessels and the conversion of relatively new vessels currently in the merchant fleet. (5) Carry two of the new conceptual designs for large vessels to more detailed design phases (perhaps to full preliminary designs). (6) Serve as a liaison group and information source for Federal Agencies working on planning and funding for new construction and upgrading UNOLS ships.

The FIC will have complete responsibility for (1), (2), (5), and (6). Subcommittees may be established for (3) and (4). The Executive Secretary is responsible for staffing and for initiating and tracking contracted design studies.

AGOR-23

ONR presented an updated schedule for selecting an operating institution for AGOR-23 at the October UNOLS meeting. The Circular of Requirements and the RFP is to be issued before the end of 1986. Proposals would be due in February, 1987 with the operating institutions being selected by April to roughly coincide with the close of the AGOR-23 solicitation. Construction is currently scheduled to begin October, 1988 with an estimated delivery time of February, 1990.

Proposals will be accepted from U.S. academic oceanographic research institutions with operating experience and support facilities. Potential operators should be members of UNOLS or eligible for membership. Proposals should include technical and scientific justifications, a plan for retiring an AGOR-3 class UNOLS research vessel, a plan (with cost estimates) for participating in the acquisition process (including sea trials and outfitting), and an operations plan with an associated budget.

ONR will establish a selection committee chaired by the Associate Director, Environmental Sciences, ONR. Membership would include ONR (4), NSF (2), UNOLS (1), and the Oceanographer's Office (1).

AGOR-14 & 15 Overhaul

The R/Vs KNORR and MELVILLE are currently scheduled for overhauls as follows:

October-December 1986		WHOI completes concept and technical study
January	1987	Workshop to fix overhaul elements; participation by WHOI, SIO, NSF, ONR, UNOLS, and consultants
February-July		WHOI in consultation with naval architects performs preliminary design study
June		WHOI and SIO submit proposals to ONR for final design and overhaul
August-September		Task group (members from ONR and NSF with UNOLS representation) reviews proposals
October		Fund proposal
October	1988	Begin overhaul of the R/V KNORR
October	1989	Complete overhaul and shakedown

ALVIN/ATLANTIS II 1987 Schedule

The tentative schedule for 1987 has ALVIN working in the eastern and central north Pacific during January-March. During April-August operations will be conducted in the Mariana region and in the Bonin Island Arc after which ALVIN/AII will return to the eastern Pacific to complete the 1987 field year.

A schedule has not been developed for 1988 although ARC recommendations for eight projects totaling more than 120 dives are pending. All of the pending work is in the eastern Pacific from Gorda-Juan de Fuca to the East Pacific Rise. Overhaul and maintenance will probably be scheduled late in the year. The 1988 schedule will be developed in late spring, 1987 based on pending recommendations and new ones from the 1987 ARC review.

Investigators who intend to use ALVIN for deep submergence research during 1989 and beyond are invited to inform the ARC.

Submersible Research Futures

The ARC, at the direction of UNOLS, has developed a draft plan to determine the broad scientific program requirements that can best be served by research submersibles and related technologies such as ROV's and autonomous under water systems. The ARC will establish an eight member study committee that will be charged with the following:

(1) Assess trends, patterns, and directions for the academically based ocean science research programs that can best be served by submersible systems, both manned and unmanned. The assessment should include the full range of depth requirements needed to achieve the objectives of these programs.

(2) Develop a comprehensive submersible science plan for facilities that will satisfy the science requirements identified. This should include the rationale for such facilities, funding requirements and potential sources, and management plans.

It is proposed that the study be conducted under the auspices of UNOLS and organized by the ARC. The study is to be completed by the semi-annual UNOLS meeting in Fall, 1987.

R/V CAYUSE Disposition

Letters of interest have been received from the EPA, NOAA, Center for Marine Science of the University of Southern Mississippi, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, and from the Bigelow Laboratory Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine. It is expected that the decision will be made at any moment.

NSF/OCE Long Range Plan Update

An updated version of the LRP is scheduled for completion in early 1987. The revised version will include sections on ship operations, ship construction, and ocean technology in the context of field program requirements.

Advisory Council Election Returns

The UNOLS membership at its October meeting elected two new members to the AC. They are Dr. Paul J. Fox and Dr. Charles S. Yentsch. Dr. Fox is a Research Professor in marine geology from URI, and Dr. Yentsch is the Director of the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences. Welcome aboard. We recommend that you acquire at least one empty file cabinet.

Awards

Congratulations go to Dolly Dieter and Bob Dinsmore. The NSF has commended Dolly and the crew of the R/V ALPHA HELIX for their exceptionally high standards in crew training and ship maintenance. Bob Dinsmore, John Humble, and Samuel Applegarth were recognized by NSF for their important contributions to the NSF ship inspection program. UNOLS and the scientific community are grateful for your valuable leadership and contributions to the continued development of excellence in the operation of the research fleet.

Ship Operations Job Opening

The Department of Oceanography of Texas A&M University has announced a job opportunity for a marine operations manager, hiring during spring, 1987 with duties to begin in late spring or early summer. The position would involve management and supervision of all phases of the TAMU seagoing operation, including R/V GYRE, small boats, charter ships and research submersible. A large responsibility would be with arranging operating schedules and interfacing with scientists, other universities, the UNOLS organization and federal sponsoring agencies. Duties include preparation of proposals for support of ship and submersible operations. A thorough knowledge of the management of general marine operations is essential, and a familiarity with oceanographic ship operations is highly desirable. A background in oceanography or other science would be helpful but is not mandatory. Place of employment will be College Station, Texas, and salary is negotiable. Qualified applicants are invited to submit a resume and names of three references to: Head, Department of Oceanography, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, by January, 1987.

Institute for Naval Oceanography

The Institute for Naval Oceanography (INO) has been established to provide a focus for ocean prediction research, including university based research. The INO, located at the National Space Technology Laboratories, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, is sponsored by the Office of Naval Research, governed and operated by the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR). The Institute is headed by Dr. Christopher Mooers.

The INO has been established to provide leadership in the research, development and evaluation of ocean models, in coupling such models with atmospheric circulation and ocean acoustic propagation models and in developing means to assimilate remotely sensed and directly observed oceanic data for operational use. Specific functions will include data preparation, software for model input, dynamical or statistical models and the analysis and display software for model outputs. The Institute will exploit new technological opportunities for ocean modeling, including supercomputers, microcomputers, telecommunications systems, ocean remote sensing systems and acoustic systems.

Programs will be conducted by a core INO staff with participation by the university community, NCAR and Navy laboratories. The Institute will interact with appropriate major ocean science research programs and with ocean programs of NSF, NASA and NOAA. The INO will provide and operate a broadband telecommunications network to connect the ocean community to the anticipated supercomputer at the National Space Technology Laboratories (NASA).