

# 2001 Annual Report

JANUARY 2002

## The Year In Review

### A Message From the UNOLS Chair:

If only by its sheer size, this annual report affords a good measure of the substantial scope of UNOLS activities during the year. The scope may surprise some readers. It is important to note that UNOLS activities do not simply sprout like weeds, nor are they cooked up by the UNOLS organization to justify its existence. Each issue or task is occasioned by some substantive concern arising from the national community of seagoing scientists or from the agencies that support the science. UNOLS is preeminently a creature of the scientific community. It exists to work on facilities-related issues and problems of importance to the successful pursuit of the community's plans and hopes for research at sea. These matters range from pursuing shipboard scientific activities in proper accord with internationally-mandated safety standards (ISM) to guiding the designs of new ships and vehicles for optimum effectiveness to the broad community of users to thinking rationally about the risks posed to people, ships and projects by the burgeoning threat of piracy in many places around the world. New

issues are brought forward in a steady stream. Several weighty topics are "in the wings" as this report goes to press, with constituencies of scientists urging UNOLS to go to work on them.

There is thus no lack of work to be done, and plenty of need for oceangoing scientists to continue to populate the various positions on the UNOLS Council and committees as terms of current members expire. Even a cursory look at the report reveals how many scientists have given their time and energy to such work in the course of a single year. The future of the organization and of the facilities for which it speaks depends entirely on the continued willingness of scientists to volunteer in this manner.

Dr. Robert Knox  
UNOLS Chair  
Scripps Institution of  
Oceanography



## UNOLS MISSION STATEMENT

The University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS) is an organization of academic oceanographic institutions working in cooperation with agencies of the U.S. Federal Government to ensure broad access to modern, well operated, state of the art research vessels, submersibles and facilities required to support a healthy and vigorous research and education program in the ocean

sciences. UNOLS is an advisory body that provides the mechanisms for coordinated scheduling and access to research vessels and facilities, co-operation and innovation by facility operators and broad community input to operators and Federal agencies regarding current and future facility requirements for the ocean sciences.

### UNOLS UPDATES

Accomplishments and Activities	2
ISM Compliance Status	
UNOLS Quality of Service Initiative	3
Charter Changes	4
Election Results, Membership Votes, and New Committee Members	
The Year Ahead	5
Committee Reports	6

### INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

- Meeting Minutes - Oct 2000-Sept 2001 (and Nov 2001)
- Newsletters
- UNOLS Charter
- Council and Committee Members
- Contact Lists



## 2001 Accomplishments and Activities

### Access and Scheduling

- Completed scheduling of all UNOLS vessels by early October ensuring that scientific objectives were used as the primary consideration in making decisions whenever possible. Some issues were not resolved until November or later due to budget unknowns. Some projects were deferred to 2003 in order to provide the appropriate platform and facilities during the proper season.

### Continuous Quality Improvement

- Planning for implementation of ISM Compliance on large UNOLS Vessels.
- HEALY science systems testing was conducted and the ship is now operating in the Arctic.
- Started work on improvements to the Post Cruise Assessment System and considered other methods for implementing formal quality improvement programs.

### Plan for Future Facilities

- The community was alerted to the need for fleet renewal.
- UNOLS provided a community response to the draft FOFC Long-range Fleet Plan.
- New vessels are under construction or in the planning process: KILO MOANA, SAVANNAH, ALPHA HELIX replacement and CAPE HENLOPEN replacement.
- Upgrade and overhaul at the National Deep Submergence Facility: ALVIN overhaul, DSL 120A, and JASON II.
- Development of standard specifications for shipboard vans including US Coast Guard approved specifications



## ISM Compliance Status

An International Safety Management (ISM) Code has been adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and is included as Annex IX of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). All UNOLS vessels over 500 tons on international voyages will be required to comply with the ISM code effective July 2002. Those UNOLS vessels include MELVILLE, KNORR, THOMPSON, REVELLE, ATLANTIS, EWING, and KILO MOANA. The objectives of the ISM Code are to ensure safety at sea, prevention of human injury or loss of life, and avoidance of damage to the environment and property. Each ship operating institution subject to ISM is required to establish a Safety Management System that includes safety and environmental policy and procedures necessary to implement that policy. The goal of the ship operators and of the ISM code is to achieve the scientific objectives during the cruise while at the same time protecting the safety of the people involved and the environment.

The operators of the above listed vessels SIO, WHOI, LDEO, UW and UH have worked together and with consultants to create and implement the required Safety Management Plans. These plans are in the final stages of

implementation and approval. The intent of the operators has been to make the implementation of this code as transparent to scientists as possible, but it will mean that adherence to safety and pre-cruise planning requirements

will be more closely enforced. It is also the intent of the operators that this will improve safety and ensure that the operators are better prepared to achieve your scientific goals.

For more information on the background of the ISM code and how it will be implemented in the UNOLS fleet you can visit the website at: <http://www.unols.org/rvoc/safety.html>.



## Quality of Service Initiative

The UNOLS Council has formed a subcommittee to review the current UNOLS on-line Post Cruise Assessment (PCA) form and recommend design improvements. The online form is located on the web at <<http://www.gso.uri.edu/unols/pcaform.htm>>. The committee includes Wilf Gardner (TAMU), Tom Shipley (UT), Steve Rabalais (LUMCON), Tim Cowles (OSU), Dale Chayes (LDEO), Mike Prince (UNOLS Office) and Laura Dippold (UNOLS Office).

The PCAs are tools intended to help improve fleet safety, reliability and quality. They are a useful reference during ship inspections. The forms can be useful in identifying problems with the ship, ship's systems, or shipboard scientific equipment. The forms can help

assess the performance of shipboard technician support and ship operations. They can be used by the UNOLS Council for gauging overall fleet support of science.

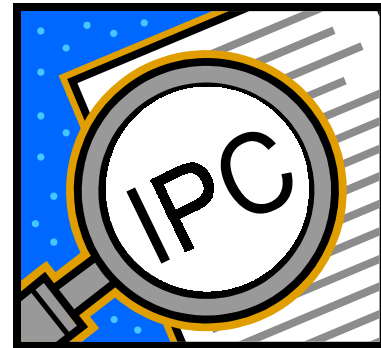
The Subcommittee will explore methods for increasing user feedback. They will consider the effects of requiring that the form be submitted electronically. The captain and marine technicians PCAs will be examined. The subcommittee will consider whether or not all PIs should be able to submit the form, or just the chief scientists. The new form under design will allow evaluation of the scheduling process and cruise planning in addition to the actual cruise itself.



## UNOLS Charter Changes

All proposed Charter revisions were accepted by the membership in a mail ballot. The revised Charter is included in this report and on the UNOLS Website. The revision included changes to accomplish the goal of creating a rotation from Vice Chair (Chair-Elect) to Chair to Immediate Past Chair (IPC). This is similar to systems used by other organizations such as AGU and it is hoped that it will enhance our ability to recruit good candidates for Vice Chair (Chair-Elect) and Chair in the future. The proposed plan is based on two-year terms as Vice Chair (Chair-Elect), Chair and IPC. The second change to the Charter was to include a section that spells out the procedure

for a run-off election when no candidate receives the necessary majority in a Council election.



## 2001 Election Results, Membership Votes, and New Committee Members

Elections were held in the fall 2001 by mail ballot. Two Council seats were up for election this year; a Non-Operator representative, from among designated UNOLS Non-Operator Institutions, and an At-large representative, affiliated with any Member Institution. Dr. Charles Flagg (Brookhaven National Laboratory) was re-elected for a second term in the Non-Operator category. Dr. Bruce Corliss (Duke University) was elected to fill the At-large position.

Three institutions applied for UNOLS Membership. All three were accepted, bringing the total UNOLS membership to 64. The new members are: Caribbean Marine Research Center, Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies – San Francisco State University, and Humboldt State University Marine Laboratory.

### **New Committee Members :**

Dr. Timothy Mitchell Shank, WHOI (DESSC)  
 Dr. Peter Minnett, RSMAS (AICC)  
 Dr. Margo Edwards, U Hawaii (AICC)  
 Dr. Robert Bourke, NPS (AICC)

### **New Committee Officers:**

Dr. Lisa Clough, ECU (AICC Chair)  
 Mr. Steve Poulos, U Hawaii (RVTEC V-Ch)



## Objectives and Priorities for 2002

### Create Schedules by September

- Create effective and efficient schedules by mid September
- The Ship Scheduling Committee will work with PI's and Agency program managers to identify scheduling issues and funding decisions as early as possible in an effort to solidify schedules by mid September 2002 for CY 2003 operations
- Every attempt will be made to meet the scientific objectives of all funded projects when creating schedules while at the same time minimizing the costs associated with dead-head transits and unproductive idle time.
- Idle periods will be utilized for maintenance and upgrade opportunities whenever possible.

### Make improvements to the ship-time request and scheduling systems

- The UNOLS Office will work with the Federal Agencies, PI's and ship schedulers to improve the systems that support ship time requests and scheduling
- The UNOLS Office will work with Federal Agencies to generate clear explanations to PI's of schedule compromises that may become necessary.

### Quality of Service Improvement Projects

- Update the Post Cruise Assessment process and forms to yield clear feedback (subcommittee formed)
- RVTEC to develop standards of service.
- Improve the scheduling system and process.
- Improve training and preparation for safe and secure operation of research vessels.

### ISM Implementation

- Class I ship compliance required by July 2002.
- Create procedures that continue to enable flexible science operations within the constraints of ISM regulations.
- Ensure that scientists are aware of any new procedures and requirements.
- Work to clarify and promulgate safety-related responsibilities of scientific party members.
- Develop plans for voluntary compliance or other enhancement of R/V Safety Standards for smaller vessels.

### Arctic Icebreaker Operations

- AICC will shift focus to science operations and outfitting of all USCG operated Arctic icebreakers.
- AICC will make formal recommendations to Coast Guard and funding agencies.

### Planning for Future Facilities

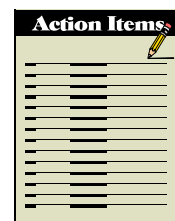
- Stay engaged with the FOFC "Fleet Plan" process.
- Promote the budgeting of ship design and construction funds.
- Begin work on updating SMRs for Oceans, Regional and Global Class vessels
- Promote concept design development for new vessels.

### Monitor and Stay engaged with the development of "Ocean Observatories" and other new uses of research vessels

- Formally request UNOLS representation on the Observatories Steering Committee or other appropriate bodies as they are formed.
- Examine the long term impacts that Ocean Observatories and other new uses will have on the scheduling process, consider a new scheduling paradigm.
- Assess the impact of Observatories and other new uses on research vessel requirements.

### Development of New Facilities

- Develop Science Mission Requirements and specifications for oceanographic wires, cables and ropes for the future.
- Provide community input on the development of new submersible assets and instrumentation..
- Improve shipboard scientific equipment utilizing group purchases and standard specifications to increase cost savings.



## Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee (AICC) Report

The big news for the AICC and Arctic oceanography in general is that USCGC HEALY completed her first two science cruises in 2001, AMORE and ALTEX. We don't want to steal anyone's thunder, but things went really well! Highlights include the discovery of hydrothermal vents along the Gakkel Ridge, and a visit to the North Pole. Fortunately, both cruises included educational components, so you can access journals at the following web sites: AMORE (TEA Michele Adams) [http://tea.rice.edu/tea\\_adamsfrontpage.html](http://tea.rice.edu/tea_adamsfrontpage.html) and ALTEX (MBARI crew, especially Mike Pinto) <http://www.mbari.org/education/cruises/Altex/>

The POLAR class icebreakers had a busy year in the Arctic as well. USCGC POLAR STAR completed an early season cruise to the St. Lawrence Island polynya (TEA Kathie Stevens, [http://tea.rice.edu/tea\\_stevensfrontpage.html](http://tea.rice.edu/tea_stevensfrontpage.html)). USCGC POLAR SEA completed mooring turnarounds in the Bering, and there were plans for opportunistic science in Russian waters, but permission was denied. It looks like NSF will utilize every science day available for 2002 on the three USCG icebreakers. One of the major programs will be the interdisciplinary Shelf-Basin Interactions (SBI) project. We anticipate things will continue to be busy in 2003.

Accordingly, the AICC is turning its full attention to science facilitation. We continue to work with the Coast Guard and funding agencies on long-range planning, underway and continuous data collection (What data

should be routinely collected? Who's responsible for collection, and more importantly, quality control and data archiving?), science equipment needs for future cruises, and how to best advise the CG on setting expectations and protocols for "Science Of Opportunity" (SOO) cruises, topics that are familiar to several UNOLS committees. Briefly, the AICC is working with UNOLS to maintain a Web site containing a rolling five year plan for icebreaker use, beginning with conceptual plans and updated to show proposal submission and status, and, for the lucky few, scheduling. To help facilitate planning, the CG has a planning manual on-line for HEALY (<http://www.uscg.mil/pacarea/iceops/cpmanual/cpmanual.htm>), and similar manuals for the POLAR class vessels are in the works.



**Science teacher Michele Adams from Musselman High School in West Virginia was chosen to participate in the Teachers Exploring the Arctic and Antarctic (TEA) program for 2001/2002. She is shown arriving at the North Pole aboard the USCGC HEALY**

We remind the community that requests for cruises on the USCG icebreakers follow the same procedures as those for UNOLS vessels. And to make the ship request procedure even more UNOLS-like, all proposals for Arctic cruises are due on Feb 15<sup>th</sup> of the year preceding a cruise (i.e., to use the icebreakers in 2003, you'll need to get your NSF proposals submitted by 15 February, 2002). A scheduling meeting for the icebreakers will be held each summer, and several funding agencies (NSF, NOAA, ONR, USFW) have indicated their intentions to obtain icebreaker time for 2003.

Finally, we need to pass along updates on AICC and key Coast Guard icebreaker personnel. Inaugural AICC members Joe Coburn, Glenn Cota, Dan Lubin, and

## AICC Report Continued

Kelly Falkner have cycled off the committee. Our new members are Robert Bourke (Naval Postgraduate School), Margo Edwards (University of Hawaii), and Peter Minnett (RSMAS, University of Miami). Jim Swift has completed an outstanding five-year tenure as AICC chair, and as of 1 January, Lisa Clough has assumed the Chair position. The AICC has also formalized ex-officio representation from RVTEC (Dale Chayes) and RVOC (Daniel Schwartz). Of note for the Coast Guard, CAPT Dave Visneski is now the CO on HEALY, CAPT Dave Mackenzie is the CO of the POLAR STAR, and CAPT Keith Johnson continues as CO of the POLAR SEA. CMDR Joe Bodenstedt has replaced CMDR George Dupree as the icebreaker contact in Coast Guard headquarters. A key player in the scientific success of USCGC HEALY, CAPT Jeff Garrett (previous CO of HEALY) has been promoted to RADM—Congratulations Jeff!

Dr. Lisa Clough  
AICC Chair  
East Carolina University

The AICC can be reached by writing to the Chair (CLOUGHL@MAILECU.EDU) or to the UNOLS Office (office@unols.org)



USCGC HEALY



USCGC POLAR SEA



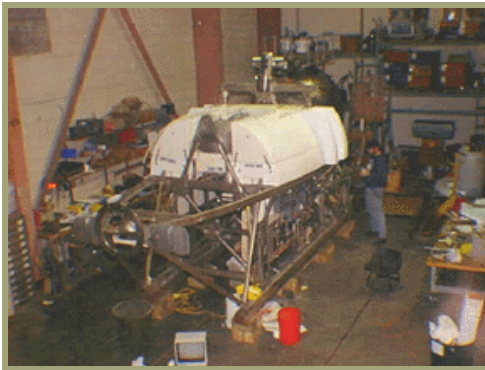
USCGC POLAR STAR

## DEep Submergence Science Committee (DESSC) Report

The Summary of findings and recommendations from the DESCEND Workshop (Developing Submergence Science for the Next Decade) was published in a brochure which was distributed at the San Francisco DESSC meeting in December 2000 and at the UNOLS Council Meetings. In spring 2001 the DESSC pursued efforts to follow-up on the technology recommendations of the DESCEND meeting. An evening meeting held at the Oceanology Conference in mid-April helped define directions for more detailed discussions. The meeting (coordinated by Jim Bellingham, Annette DeSilva, and Dan Schwartz) consisted of an introduction and free flowing exchange on submergence facility needs and issues. Submergence technology needs and problems were identified. These are listed in the meeting minutes included in this report and posted on the UNOLS Website at <http://www.unols.org/dessc/descend/followon/april04.htm>. Access and funding of assets were also discussed at the meeting. This continues to be a concern within the community.

DESSC is currently engaged in synthesizing the efforts of various technology workshops that have been held over the last few months and is pursuing linkages with groups planning technology workshops in the near future. DESSC is interested in providing a means by which the submergence aspects of these meetings may be summarized and explored in greater detail and by which a roadmap for future directions in technology development may be defined.

DESSC held its summer meeting at WHOI at the end of May. At this meeting a summary of operations of other deep submergence activities was presented for MBARI, MPL, NURP, ROPOS and the US Navy. The agencies reported on recent activities and trends including the establishment of the NOAA Ocean Exploration program. The national facility report included an update on the overhaul of the Alvin, which was completed in early June. The Alvin passed recertification in mid-June and has completed work in the Atlantic and the East Pacific Rise. Upgrades to the NDSF ROVs continue on schedule and are expected to be complete by mid 2002.



January 7th, 2001—Reassembly of the submersible ALVIN progresses at the marine facility hangar at Woods Hole

DESSC discussed mechanisms by which it could improve its effectiveness in providing the community of marine biologists with a higher level of interaction with the National Deep Submergence

Facility. To this end DESSC has applied to hold and been granted a Special Session at the ASLO/AGU meeting in Honolulu in 2002. The Special Session description is as follows (Patricia Fryer, Shirley Pomponi, Anna-Louise Reysenbach co-conveners):

"Recent advances in understanding submarine biosystems: Submergence Research"

Description: *The use of submersibles and remotely operated vehicles provides a mechanism by which the marine biologist and geochemist can perform field work in extreme environments, collect samples, run experiments, and establish observatories on the sea floor and in the water column. This*



## DESSC Report Continued

*experiments, and establish observatories on the sea floor and in the water column. This session will highlight recent advances in marine biology and geochemistry as pertains to systems investigated with these submergence vehicles including ridge crest studies, convergent and passive margin studies and research in the water column. Presentations on upgrades to existing vehicles and projected uses for the future will provide attendees with up to date information on the state of the art in submergence vehicles and systems. There will also be an opportunity for scientists to exchange feedback with other users of these vehicles and systems and with facility operators.*

DESSC discussed scheduling efforts for 2002 and beyond as well as efforts to broaden the user base of NDSF to include more researchers from the field of Marine Archaeology.

DESSC also discussed the status of archiving data at the NDSF.

Minutes for DESSC meetings are included in this report and are on the UNOLS Web site at: <http://www.unols.org/dessc/>

Dr. Patricia Fryer  
DESSC Chair  
University of Hawaii



Scenes from the National Deep Submergence Facility at Woods Hole. Shown here: R/V ATLANTIS and the Submersible ALVIN

## Fleet Improvement Committee (FIC) Report

The academic research fleet in the U.S. is now entering a new, exciting phase. The National Ocean Research Leadership Council has now approved the document, Charting the Future for the National Academic Research Fleet: A Long Range Plan for Renewal developed by the Federal Oceanographic Facilities Committee (FOFC). The report can be viewed at [http://www.geo-prose.com/projects/projects\\_narf.html](http://www.geo-prose.com/projects/projects_narf.html). To put it directly the plan calls for replacement of the fleet. The plan provides a recommendation on the numbers and composition of vessels that are needed for replacement. The need for fleet renewal requires that Science Mission Requirements and Conceptual Designs be developed. There is an urgency to keep the renewal process rolling as it takes many years to fund and construct ships. This will be a focus of the FIC.

The most urgent need is to develop a process for implementing fleet renewal. A draft process is being developed and can be viewed on web at UNOLS/FIC web site <http://www.unols.org/fic/renewal/roadmap.html>. It cannot be overemphasized that we will be seeking community input and participation in the process. The renewal will take twenty years.

The FOFC Plan defines four basic vessel classes for the current and future fleet: Global Class, Ocean Class, Regional Class and Local Class. FIC, UNOLS and various institutions are initiating or are currently involved in fleet renewal projects. These are briefly summarized below:

**Ocean Class:** The Ocean Class called for in the FOFC plan is a new class of larger, more capable intermediate vessels. As stated in the report, "Ocean Class ships will fulfill a critical need in fleet modernization by replacing the

aging "Intermediate" ships with vessels of increased endurance, technological capability, and number of science berths. These will be ocean-going vessels, though not globally ranging." The Ocean Class would have the following characteristics: Endurance - 40 days; Range - 20,000 km; Length - 55-70 m; Science Berths - 20-25 m. In the coming months the process to develop the science mission requirements and concept designs for the Ocean Class will be developed. The process will attempt to include the broad user community through web comment areas and town hall meetings.

**Gulf Regional Vessel -** The need for a new research vessel in the Gulf of Mexico has been recognized for many years. This was also recently noted in the FOFC report that also recommended that such a vessel be the first regional vessel. The Regional Class ships are those that will work in and near the continental margins and coastal zone, but with improved technology and more science berths than in current, comparably sized vessels. FIC recently asked representatives of Gulf of Mexico Institutions to organize an open discussion of ship requirements for the region. The purpose of this meeting is not to discuss or propose ship operators, but to start formulating Science Mission requirements for the ship. Similar meetings will be needed for ships proposed in other areas. The Gulf group hopes to meet in late spring.

**Alaska Region Research Vessel (ARRV) –** Design development for a research vessel that will operate in the Alaska region is well underway. This vessel is being designed as an Ocean Class ship. Progress towards a concept design of the ARRV continues with FIC represented on the Design Steering Committee. At a recent meeting in Seattle, Washington, The

## FIC Report Continued

Glosten Associates presented an updated design plan. The final preliminary design should be ready by this summer. Information about the Science Mission Requirements and concept design can be found on the UNOLS website at <http://www.unols.org/fic/#arrv>.

Science Test of the AGOR 26 (R/V KILO MOANA) – Construction of the University of Hawaii's vessel, KILO MOANA, is nearing completion. KILO MOANA will be the first large SWATH in the academic fleet. As such it is imperative that it be thoroughly tested so both the scientific community and the operator community are fully and fairly aware of its capabilities and limitations. UNOLS/FIC is working with the operator (U. Hawaii) to plan such testing. See <http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/agor26/> for more information on the KILO MOANA.

FIC Web Site - If you haven't visited the UNOLS/FIC website <[www.unols.org/fic](http://www.unols.org/fic)> we urge you to. There you can find information on the following:

- FOFC Draft Academic Fleet Renewal Plan - UNOLS Response
- Ship Construction Efforts:
- Alaska Region R/V (ARRV)
- KILO MOANA (AGOR 26)
- FIC Fleet Renewal Plans
- Past Trends and Future Projections for the Academic Research Fleet
- The UNOLS Biennial Review of Sea Going Oceanographic Facilities
- Fleet Improvement Committee Reports
- Science Mission Requirements



Christening of the R/V Kilo Moana by Mrs. Daniel Inouye takes place at Atlantic Shipyard in Jacksonville, FL

November 17, 2001



## Research Vessel Operators Committee (RVOC) Report

The 2001 RVOC annual meeting was held at the University of Rhode Island and at Newport, Rhode Island on October 23-25th. Day 1 was held in conjunction with RVTEC.

On the first day of the meeting Federal Agency representatives and the UNOLS Chair provided updates on their activities. The remainder of the day was devoted to discussions on the Quality of Service Initiative, winch and wire issues, and presentations by various groups involved with ISM compliance on research vessels. Mike Prince introduced the Quality of Service Initiative and provided an overview of progress to date by the UNOLS committee assigned to this issue. Topics covered in the winch and wire section included presentations by Jon Alberts, WHOI, on the establishment of SMR's for the next generation of UNOLS wire ropes and cables, Tom Althouse, SIO, on safe working loads of existing UNOLS cables, James Stasny, Dynacon, on new over the side handling equipment, and Peter Wiebe, WHOI, on future science needs for wire ropes and cables. The ISM discussion included presentations by Morgan Terrell, U of W, on compliance efforts by Class I&II operators, Paul Stone, Southampton Oceanography Centre, on ISM issues addressed by foreign operators, and Doug Friskes, NOAA, with an up date on their STCW training program. All of the topics discussed on the first day were relevant to both RVOC and RVTEC and, in general, both groups felt it was beneficial to conduct these discussions in joint session. Efforts are underway to formalize procedures for future joint meetings between RVOC and RVTEC.

RVOC reconvened on days 2 and 3 for their routine agenda and business items. Tom Althouse, Safety Committee, and Lee Black, Personnel Committee gave subcommittee updates. Other topics discussed on day 2 included an overview of accident statistics, pay compensation studies on small UNOLS vessels, reports on the buyers and personnel conferences attended by RVOC members, and an introduction to the Ship Operators Cooperative Program (SOCP). After presentations by foreign operators, the meeting continued with research vessels updates, a presentation on fuel cells and their potential applications on UNOLS vessels, new USCG drug testing policies, the new UNOLS medical services contract, and an insurance and admiralty law review by Professor Dennis Nixon of URI (UNOLS Risk Manager).

The meeting continued on day 3 with a wrap up of new vessel updates and a presentation on security in the UNOLS fleet. A review of security related issues and an update on the R/V EWING attack on August 31st in the Gulf of Aden, was followed with discussion by the operators, and general comments about ways to improve security onboard UNOLS vessels. The RVOC Business Meeting followed.

Action items adopted at the business meeting included a vote to adopt a standard computerized maintenance management system (CMMS) on UNOLS vessels for group purchase. RVOC members voted to accept the accommodations van panel design pressures described in paragraph (1) of the Coast Guard review letter (Serial H1-0101248, dated May 24, 2001) as the minimum structural standard for all new vans "normally occupied by personnel", including lab vans. An RVOC subcommittee was formed to address other van

## RVOC Report Cont'd

issues including inventory, science liaisons, and further actions related to new vans constructed for the UNOLS community.

Further action included the assignment of individuals to groups whose task it is to conduct salary surveys on Class I-III UNOLS vessels, an agreement to formulate an NSF Inspection Program evaluation form, a vote of confidence for the continuation for the compilation of accident statistics by the UNOLS office, a recommendation that RVOC become a member of SOCP, and a decision to encourage future joint interactions between RVOC and RVTEC. A sub-committee was formed to develop plans for dealing with security related issues.

The 2002 RVOC meeting will be hosted by MBARI and Moss Landing Marine Labs. E-mail ballots will decide the meeting place for the 2003 annual meeting later this year.

Mr. Steve Rabalais  
RVOC Chair  
Louisiana Universities  
Marine Consortium



**R/V ENDEAVOR dockside at Narragansett Bay Campus at the University of Rhode Island**



**The view of Moss Landing Marine Laboratories at Moss Landing, California**

## Research Vessel Technical Enhancement Committee (RVTEC) Report

The Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University in Palisades, New York hosted the 2000 Annual meeting of the Research Vessel Technical Enhancement Committee (RVTEC). The minutes of this meeting were (for the first time) approved by a combination of posting revised drafts to the web, soliciting comments, additions and corrections by email and then accepting the final version by email vote. Historically, the minutes were approved at the following annual meeting. During this meeting we tried a new format with “hands-on” technical sessions on several topics including Salinometer operation, wire termination and had a session on SeaNet training.

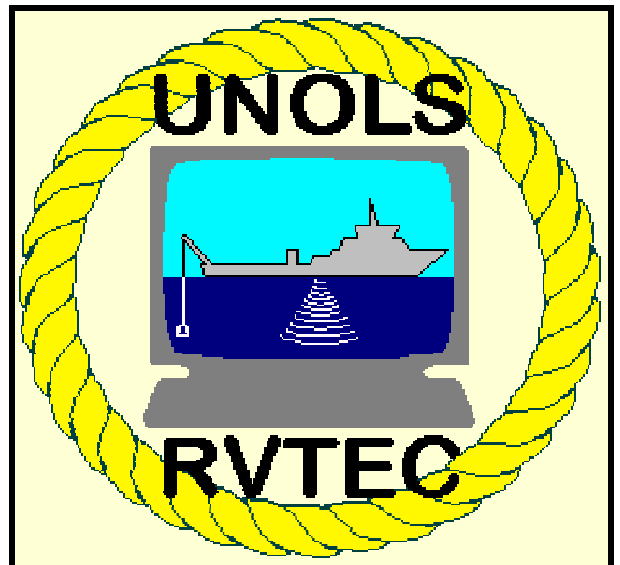
During the year, members of the RVTEC participated in editing the updated Winch and Wire Handbook as well as email based discussions related to wire safety and development of specifications for new wire and winches. Several members participated in a final shakedown of the science systems on the HEALY on a short cruise from Seattle to San Francisco in late April, 2001 just prior to her departure for her first science cruises.

The Graduate School of Oceanography in Narragansett, Rhode Island hosted the 2001 Annual meeting on October 23-25, 2001. The first day of this meeting was a joint meeting with the Research Vessel Operators Council (RVOC). There was a brief over-lap during the final day as well. During the joint sessions we received UNOLS and Agency reports, had presentations on winches and wires and then discussed the impact of ISM on our operations. We continued our breakout session format this year with sessions on debubblers, wireless communications and data acquisition systems. We had two discussions on the issue of the level of technical service on UNOLS vessels

and have formed a working committee to continue pursuing this issue.

During our business meeting, Steve Poulos of the University of Hawaii was elected vice chair to replace Tony Amos who has served two terms (four years). After some discussion, it was agreed to evaluate the University of Hawaii as the venue for the 2002 annual meeting. Barrie Walden was nominated to be our interface with the organizing committee for INMARTEC 2002 that is being hosted by JAMSTEC. As currently scheduled, INMARTEC 2004 will be hosted by the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) and the Southampton Oceanography Centre. By rotation, INMARTEC 2006 should be hosted on the US East Coast and we need to identify likely hosts.

Mr. Dale Chayes  
RVTEC Chair  
Lamont-Doherty Earth  
Observatory of  
Columbia University



## Ship Scheduling Committee (SSC) Report

For the second year in a row, scheduling problems have persisted late into the year. The problems for both CY 2001 and CY 2002 involve multiple ship cruises, logistics of providing special assets (e.g. JASON, ALVIN, ROPOS, etc.), and timing of cruises to fit weather or seasonal windows. Each attempt to solve one problem sent waves of new problems rippling through other schedules. This has been especially frustrating in trying to schedule the multiple ship cruises for the Navy last year and for the GLOBEC cruises this year. GLOBEC issues were not completely resolved until late November.

Schedulers are presently facing many of the problems that critics of the first draft of the fleet renewal plan predicted would happen with a reduction in vessels. If there is a reduction, these problems during periods of peak demand will only get worse. With budgets still in the Great Unknown, many days were still listed as pending on almost all ships' schedules at the end of 2001. Be that as it may, the total number of days requested in 2002 is 5479.

That is a reduction of 254 days from 2001. The main decrease in days comes in the Class IV vessels, with a decrease of 394 days requested from 2001. The final Naval Oceanographic Office budget was reduced from 5M to 1.5M. The comparison by class follows:

Class	2001 Days (% FOY)	2002 Days (%FOY)
I & II	2356 (87.3%)	2425 (89.8 %)
III	1149 (69.6 %)	1195 (72.4 %)
IV	1567 (96.7 %)	1173 (81.5 %)
V	661.5 (100.2%)	686 (124.7 %)

Some of the reduction in Class IV comes from CAPE HATTERAS undergoing a half-year lay-up with the goal of completing a mid-life refit during that time. There also was a reduction in the number of vessels included in that class with SEA DIVER retiring from the fleet. LAURENTIAN, from among the V Class category, also retired from the fleet at the end of 2001.

Dr. Joe Ustach  
SSC Chair  
Duke/University of North  
Carolina Marine Lab



**Photos clockwise from top left: R/V POINT SUR (MLML), R/V REVELLE (SIO) , R/V EWING (LDEO) , R/V WALTON SMITH (U Miami), and R/V WECOMA (OSU)**

## Included In This Issue:

### Meeting Minutes October 2000-September 2001\*

<a href="#"><u>Research Vessel Technical Enhancement Committee</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>LDEO, Palisades, NY</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Oct 18 - 20, 2000</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Research Vessel Operators Committee</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>OSU, Newport, OR</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Oct 24-26, 2000</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Deep Submergence Science Committee</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>AGU-Moscone Center</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Dec 14, 2000</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>San Francisco, CA</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>AGU-Moscone Center</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Dec 15, 2000</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>San Francisco, CA</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>USCGC HEALY, Seattle, WA</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Jan 25 &amp; 26, 2001</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Fleet Improvement Committee</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>RSMAS, Miami, FL</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Feb 21 &amp; 22, 2001</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>UNOLS Council</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>RSMAS, Miami, FL</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Feb 22 &amp; 23, 2001</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Submergence Technology Meeting</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Miami Beach Convention Center,</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>April 4, 2001</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>Miami, FL</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Deep Submergence Science Committee</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>WHOI, Woods Hole, MA</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>May 30 &amp; 31, 2001</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>UNOLS Council</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>MLML, Moss Landing, CA</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>June 21 &amp; 22, 2001</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Ship Scheduling Committee</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>NSF, Arlington, VA</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>July 19, 2001</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>NSF, Arlington, VA</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Sept 10 &amp; 11, 2001</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Ship Scheduling Committee</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>NSF, Arlington, VA</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>September 12, 2001</u></a>

\* *Rescheduled from September 13, 2001:*

<a href="#"><u>UNOLS Council Meeting</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Brookings Institution</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>November 15, 2001</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>Washington, D.C.</u></a>	

### 2000-2001 Newsletters

[UNOLS News Spring 2000 - Volume 17, No. 1](#)  
[UNOLS News Fall 2000 - Volume 17, No. 2](#)  
[UNOLS News Late Winter 2001 - Volume 18, No. 1](#)  
[UNOLS News Summer 2001 - Volume 18, No. 2](#)

[RVOC Newsletter - May 2001](#)

### Items of Interest

[Current UNOLS Charter](#)  
[Council and Committee Members](#)  
[Contact Lists: Marine Operations, Ship Scheduling and Technician Point of Contacts](#)

