

Apparent Over-Capacity

The utilization figures seem to indicate an excess capacity of one ship. However science cannot be responsively scheduled without the flexibility afforded by the apparent over-capacity.

The long-term history is that the funding has been basically flat and ship demand comes from funded science proposals. The best estimate is that funding and ship demand will remain flat.

The FOFC plan seems to indicate a reduction in fleet size by one vessel, which if the demand remains flat will result in a fleet, which could not be scheduled to meet the demand of science.

Utilization is a balance between numerical efficiency and scientific flexibility. Obtaining 100% fleet use efficiency can only come by sacrificing flexibility needed to meet scientific goals – the point of the oceanographic fleet. In addition, the current excess capacity would disappear rapidly were there to be a 10 – 15% increase in sea-going funding or a similar increase in demand for sea-going research.

Ocean Class Vessel

Steering Committee:

Dave Hebert (URI)
Tim Cowles (OSU)
Bob Knox (SIO)
Joe Coburn (WHOI)
SE Atlantic representative.

Tasking:

- **Develop a process for SMR development. - The process should define methods for getting broad community input. Identify workshop/meeting needs and essential participants including Naval architect. Establish a project timeline.**
- **Prepare a proposal to support workshop/meetings and submit to the UNOLS Office. Upon award, proceed to workshop and SMR development.**
- **Work with the Navy in support of their “Oceanographic Ship Common Scaleable Hull Study.”**
 - **Provide Tim Pfeiffer with a Steering Committee POC.**
 - **Provide a prioritized set of requirements and desired capabilities. Wherever possible, requirements should be expressed in ranges rather than discrete values. Evaluate existing SMRs.**
 - **Participate in study review meetings.**
- **Define steering committee’s role in implementation process (activities following SMR Development).**

Gulf of Mexico Vessel

Steering Committee:

Wilf Gardner, Chair

Steve Rabalais

Tom Shipley

Denis Wiesenburg

Dennis Hansell

Fic member - Gulf of Mexico

Rep. from outside Gulf

Tasks:

1. What are the future science plans of investigators working in the Gulf?
2. Given that the region loses an Ocean class vessel in 2006, what are the science mission requirements of a new vessel to accomplish the anticipated work in the Gulf?

Proposed Meeting:

- **Houston, TX - April 22**
 - **TAMU System - Institute of Biosciences & Technology (IBT) Building in Museum District - no cost**
 - **National call for meeting participation - e-mail, web, EOS**
 - **Anticipate ~25 people attending**
 - **Send request for funding to Mike Prince, UNOLS Office**
 - **Request statement of future use needs and SMR's in advance of meeting (from anyone)**
 - **Annette DeSilva to provide history of ship use data and type of work.**
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- **Update progress through UNOLS website**
 - **Liaison with UNOLS/ONR Oceans Class committee**

KILO MOANA Testing

- Ship performance tests – proposal submitted to ONR
- Post cruise evaluations - entire science party
- Science equipment/systems testing (pre-science ops) – U.Hawaii is drafting plan
- Post-cruise de-briefs by FIC - Draft form to ask specific questions regarding the science performance of the ship. Obtain feedback from science party and crew. Terry Whitledge and Dave Hebert will draft form.