

# FY 2003 NSF Report to UNOLS RVTEC

Honolulu, Hawaii

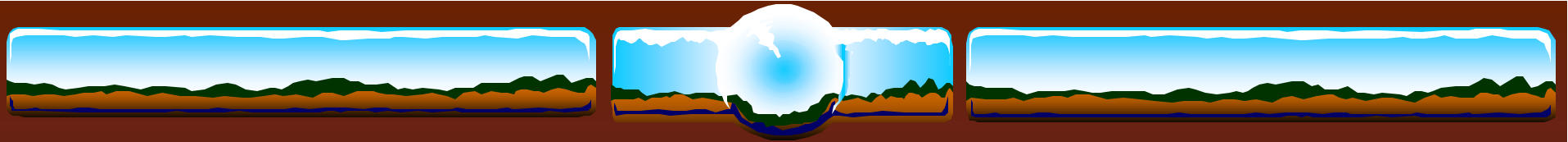
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# NSF Budget Status

- ❖ Most of federal government, including NSF, is on a Continuing Resolution, which we expect may continue into the new Congress, starting in January.
- ❖ Both House and Senate subcommittees have increased the NSF budget above that requested by the Administration.
- ❖ BUT ..... It is worth remembering that the Congress that will approve the budget is not the same one from which the committee recommendations came.
- ❖ (That said, we have no reason to anticipate any new concerns coming from the new Congress, either for NSF or for ocean sciences.)



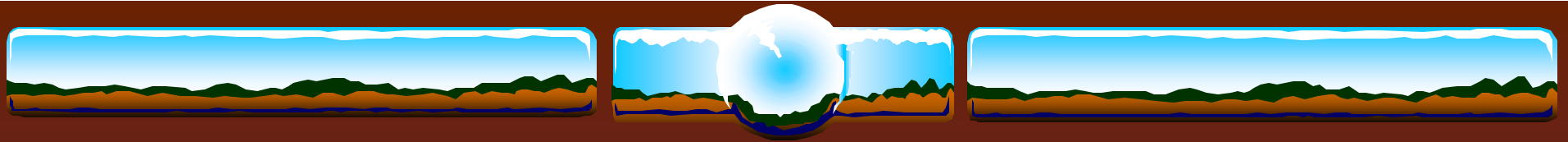
# Oceanographic Technical Services Program Priorities

1. Quality of Service
2. Clear Standards by Ship Class
3. Cost-effective operations



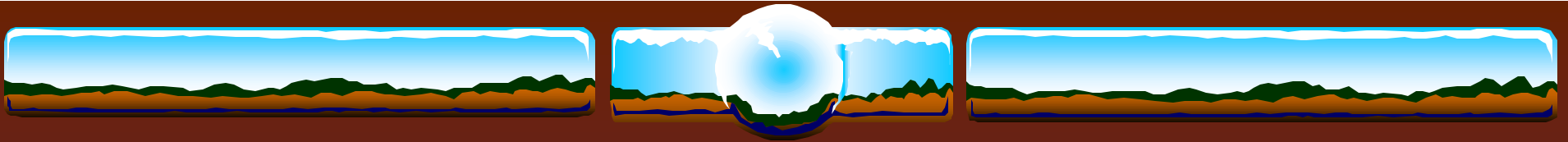
# New ships

- ❖ Kilo Moana has joined UNOLS fleet – first of the new “Ocean Class” vessels.
- ❖ Planning now for Alaska Region Research Vessel (ARRV) – likely to be the second “Ocean Class” vessel in UNOLS.
- ❖ UNOLS has drafted Science Mission Requirements (SMRs) for Ocean Class and Regional Class vessels.
- ❖ Implementation talks ongoing about other Ocean Class and Regional Class vessels in the FOFC plan.
- ❖ New “Local Class” vessels – plans underway for Cape Henlopen replacement at Delaware.



# Ocean Sciences Division Proposals

- ❖ Guidelines being revised for all Facilities Programs – Ship Operations, Oceanographic Tech Services, Oceanographic Instrumentation, SSSE.
- ❖ Deadlines shifted later for all programs (one month later for all but SSSE, which is 3 months later)
- ❖ New guidelines effective officially in fall 2003.
- ❖ Promised update on changes for OTSP not sent – little change for most groups this year, but intent to simplify for second and third years of the 3-year award by requiring annual reports instead of new proposals.



# UNOLS Post-Cruise Assessments

- ❖ NSF is seeing very strong response to the new electronic post-cruise assessments, especially from the participating scientists.
- ❖ These PCAs and operator responses are expected to play an even larger role than in the past in proposal review for the facilities programs.
- ❖ These assessments provide an opportunity to use customer needs/desires to justify new instruments or changes in level of technical service.



## Recent NSF Concern

- ❖ R/V Ewing (Lamont) stopped from seismic operations in Gulf of California by Temporary Restraining Order (issued to NSF) on October 30.
- ❖ Event was precipitated by stranding of 2 Cuvier's Beaked Whales on Isla de San Jose on September 24, with Ewing operating 50-100 kilometers away.
- ❖ Well written summary of events in October 29 Eos, by Randy Showstack; it was also widely reported in the press in both U.S. and Mexico.
- ❖ Ongoing process to define what level of assessment and/or permits will be required for future programs.