

NSF Report to UNOLS RVTEC

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Apology

- ★ I intended to be with you in Seattle until yesterday, and I very much wish I were there and not here..... I hope the meeting and networking go well, and please accept my apologies for having to opt out.

NSF Budget

- ★ NSF's FY 2004 Budget has not yet been approved by Congress, and we are operating under a Continuing Resolution. It is possible (likely?) that this will continue into the new year. Budget increases in the House and Senate committee bills for Ocean Sciences are approximately 0 and 4% above FY 2003 levels.

NSF Budget, cont'd

- ★ NSF-funded ship operating days in 2004 are much higher than normal, and though good to see strong fleet ops, it will put very heavy pressure on our budgets for ship-related facility operations. At present, we anticipate over 3700 NSF-funded days on UNOLS vessels, up from about 3000 in 2003.

Proposals

- ★ Target dates for Oceanographic Instrumentation (10/15) and Oceanographic Technical Services (11/15) have both passed, though I have indicated flexibility, and anticipate additional proposals. The OTS submittal is as a Annual Report, Year 2 of 3, not a new proposal.

Marine Mammals

- ★ Issues related to the impact of marine mammals on oceanographic research operations has become a major effort in the Technical Services Program at NSF, and have very recently involved cancellation of all or part of two cruises, in one case after it had sailed. New legislation and increased international concern are also impacting operations. Stay tuned if you use acoustics.