

## Darft Charge to Ship Lay-up/retirement Subcommittee

### **Problem:**

There appears to be insufficient funds to keep all of the designated UNOLS vessels operating at optimal levels in 2007 and perhaps for several more years. The shortfall is now estimated to be about \$12 million, which could be accommodated by the lay-up or retirement of one of the four general purpose global class ships and two of the general purpose intermediates (one from each coast). Partial lay-ups as was done in 2006 have been ruled out. The decision to lay-up or retire vessels depends upon the need for these assets in the out-years before the new regional and ocean class vessels are constructed.

### **Information Required:**

- To make a recommendation about the specific vessels to be laid-up or retired,
- Information about the ship use by NOAA and ONR (and other agencies) is needed so that an optimization of the schedule for the fleet can take place. This would allow determination of which ships need to be laid-up.
- Criteria for rotating lay-ups needs to be developed if retirements are ruled out for now.
- Information about the UNOLS ship needs for the ORION observatory installation and maintenance is needed to help determine whether to recommend rotating lay-ups or retirements.
- Information about NOAA DART mooring installation ship requirements in 2007 and possibility that a laid-up Global Class Vessel could do the work cost effectively needs to be determined.
- The NRAC deliberations about the NAVY construction of Ocean Class vessels needs to be known.

### **Time-frame for Decision/Recommendation:**

Most of the information should be available before the summer UNOLS council meeting (by phone conference). A draft recommendations should be prepared (by ???) and, after council discussion, finalized .

### **Charge:**

Develop a short (3-5 page) white paper to focus UNOLS Council discussion and agreement upon an equitable and defensible process to be followed by UNOLS to arrive upon a recommendation by July 2006 as to which UNOLS vessels would be laid up in 2007 or beyond or retired.

### **Membership:**

- Chair: Marcia McNutt
- Membership: Curt Collins, Wilf Gardner, Peter Ortner

### **Questions to Address:**

- What values need to be considered in making a recommendation (cost-savings realized; institutional impact; whether a specific vessel is operated by a multiple or single vessel operator, planned retirement date, geographic distribution; class of vessel(s); and number of vessels, etc.);

- What relative weightings of these general values are appropriate in this specific context and why;
- How will out-year recommendations be made (and what is the relevancy of prior year recommendations);
- Who (and how many) should develop the substantive recommendations to UNOLS Council (RVOC subcommittee(s); schedulers; lab directors, others?);
- By what process should the above group settle upon the recommendation it will make to the UNOLS Council (majority; super-majority; consensus; non-veto consensus, randomization, etc.);
- What additional information is relevant to the eventual substantive recommendation and when is the estimate to be available (ORION needs; individual schedules; shiptime request constraints; NOAA lease for DART installation; other agency (NOAA, ONR, USGS, EPA, BLM, state) shiptime requirements)?

**Exclude from Scope:**

- No substantive recommendations (which ships and when) at this stage