

UNOLS Vision, Mission, Goals and Objectives

2006 - 2007



UNOLS Vision

A healthy and vigorous United States research and education program in the ocean sciences requires broad access to the best possible mix of modern, capable and well-operated research vessels, aircraft, submersibles and other major shared-use facilities.



UNOLS Mission

UNOLS provides a primary forum through which the ocean science research and education community, research facility operators and the supporting Federal agencies can work cooperatively to improve access, scheduling, operation and capabilities of current and future academic oceanographic facilities.



UNOLS Goals

- ✍ Promote broad, coordinated access to oceanographic research facilities (access)
- ✍ Maintain a system and procedures that facilitate and promote broad access to research vessels and other major ocean science facilities.
- ✍ Support coordinated, efficient and effective scheduling of research vessels and facilities.



UNOLS Goals

- ✍ Support continuous improvement of existing facilities (improvement)
- ✍ Foster co-operation among facility operators, funding agencies and research scientists with the goal of continuously improving the quality and capability of existing ocean science facilities and the quality, reliability and safety of their operation.



UNOLS Goals

- ✍ Plan for and foster support for the oceanographic facilities of the future (planning)
- ✍ Provide leadership and broad community input to the process of planning for and supporting the improvement, renewal and addition of facilities required to support the ocean sciences in the future.



Issues and Objectives for 2006-2007

✍ Scheduling and Utilization

- ✍ Address issues related to retirement of research vessels and planned retirements as it relates to fleet renewal and better utilization of the fleet.*
- ✍ Explore methods for better serving the requirements of NOAA and ONR programs and to better align NOAA funding processes with the UNOLS scheduling and proposal process.*



Issues and Objectives for 2006-2007



✍ Quality of Fleet Operations

- ✍ Recruiting and retention of skilled and experienced technical personnel and crewmembers is extremely important to successful science operations.*
- ✍ Better identify areas needing improvement and successful operations through improved Post Cruise Assessments.*



Issues and Objectives for 2006-2007



Fleet Renewal

-  Articulate UNOLS vision for Oceanographic Facilities of the future through the Fleet Improvement Plan that addresses the infrastructure needed to support new and innovative science.
-  Support and participate in ongoing fleet renewal programs such as ARRV, Regional & Ocean Class and new HOV.



Issues and Objectives for 2006-2007


Communications

-  improve communication within and between the UNOLS subcommittees and the UNOLS council. Too few people in the academic or congressional ranks really know what UNOLS is or what it does.
-  Better communication of important issues to the broader science community.



Issues and Objectives for 2006-2007


Data management:

-  We are entering a new era when PIs or groups of PIs will have to more effectively and efficiently make their data available within prescribed time periods to the community at large (other researchers, managers, and the public). UNOLS should play a role in the dissemination of the information on best practices for the collection of data/metadata when working at sea.



Issues and Objectives for 2006-2007

Communications:

-  Better explain the process of proposing to use a UNOLS vessel and what is expected and the responsibilities of all the different parties (scientists, crew, technical services).



Challenges - Continuing access to the sea

- The projected shortfall in ship availability over the next 5-10 years despite the federal agency plan for fleet renewal.
- The increased demands on the fleet as the Ocean Observatory Initiative is implemented.
- No room for increased demands made upon the fleet if the vision of the Ocean Commission is realized and ocean science funding is increased as recommended to the President.