

Subcommittee Report:

Establishing Safety Standards for Human Occupied Vehicles

Report to the
UNOLS Council

October 5, 2006



University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System

The situation:

- ✍ NSF and NOAA have traditionally provided support for science cruises on the NAVY owned and inspected DSV *Alvin*.
- ✍ NOAA routinely uses other vehicles, including Pisces and JSL subs, certified and inspected by ABS as well.
- ✍ NAVY is moving away from HOV operations and have indicated they are not interested in certifying the *Alvin* replacement.
- ✍ For many years, the science community has expressed interest in using HBOI and HURL submersibles for appropriate NSF-sponsored projects.

A timely opportunity:

- ✍ **The new HOV will be ABS certified.**
- ✍ **NAVSEA is now advising ABS on certification procedures for deep diving submersibles.**
- ✍ **NOAA and NSF want to ensure that academic HOVs all meet adequate standards.**
- ✍ **Unification of safety standards should remove a major obstacle for NSF funding of research that uses compliant HOVs.**



Committee Membership:

- Dana Wilkes (Chair) - NOAA Representative
- Tim Askew (HBOI) – HOV Operator, UNOLS Safety Committee
- Colleen Cavanaugh (Harvard U.) – Science HOV user
- Pat Hickey (WHOI) - HOV pilot
- Terry Kerby (HURL) – HOV Operator and Pilot
- Dan Schwartz (UW) - Marine Superintendent, past Ship Captain
- Barrie Walden (WHOI) – HOV Operator
- Craig Young (U. of OR) - Science HOV user, DESSC






Agency Representatives:

- NSF- Dolly Dieter, Holly Smith
- NOAA – Barbara Moore



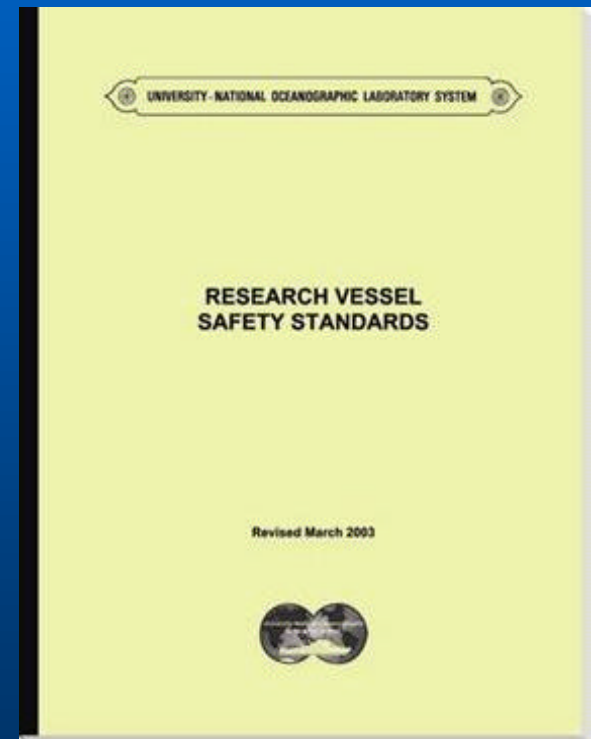
Meetings to Date:

*January 25, 2006. Tampa, FL
May 4, 2006. Phone Conference
May 25, 2006. Woods Hole, MA
August 22, 2006. Phone Conference*

-  Reviewed Project Background and Task Statement
-  Heard reports on current standards and operating manuals from HOV Operators (WHOI, HURL, HBOI)
-  Identified areas that should be addressed by an HOV Safety Standards Document.
-  Defined writing and research assignments for committee members
-  Reviewed Progress on Writing assignments

Proposed Model - Research Vessel Safety Standards

“These standards are based in major part on applicable laws and regulations. In addition and where appropriate, they supplement, extend, and assist in the interpretation of the legal requirements. Nothing herein is intended to conflict with the legal standards, but rather to encourage and assist the operator to not only meet, but to go beyond the legal minimums, as may be desirable and practicable...”





Document Chapters

- ✍ HOV Operations
- ✍ HOV Support Ship
- ✍ HOV Handling Systems
- ✍ Training Procedures for HOV Crew
- ✍ Science User Safety Guidelines



Project Timeline and Meetings

 **Timeline:** **Multi-year**

 **Meetings:**

- Phone and Web conferencing every other month
- Next Conference – October 31, 2006

 **Completion:** **before new HOV comes into service.**