

UNOLS

Vision, Mission, Goals, and Objectives

2007-2008

Vision

The US Ocean Science research and education programs are healthy and vigorous, thanks to broad access to the best possible mix of modern, capable, **efficiently run**, and well-operated research vessels, aircraft, submersibles, and other major shared-used facilities.

Mission

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

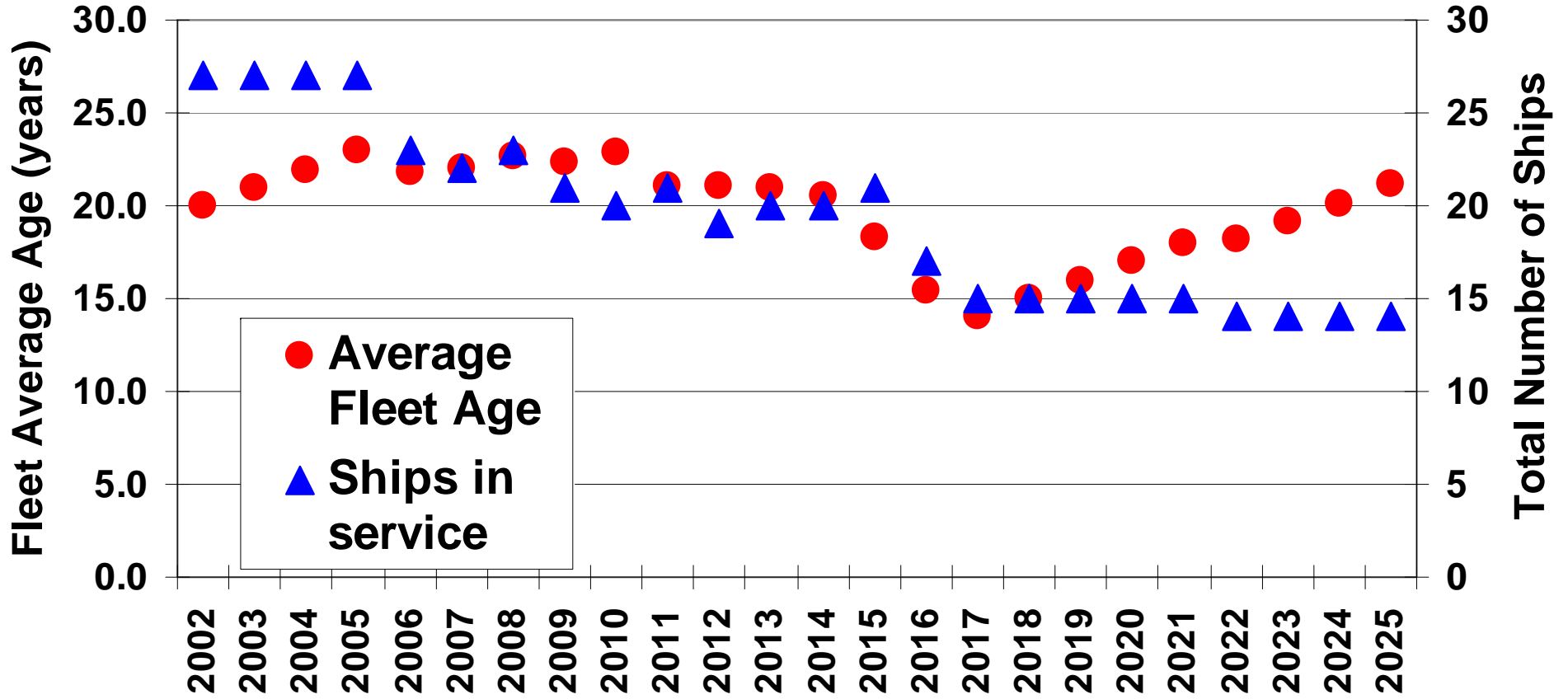
Goals for 2008

1. Enlarge the group of supporters for the UNOLS fleet both in terms of capitalization and operations.
2. Plan for the UNOLS of the future to meet the fleet and other infrastructure needs of the future.
3. Continuously work to lower barriers to effective use of UNOLS ships caused by disabilities, gender, or other special situations

Issues: Capitalizing UNOLS

- NRAC worked hard to get Navy commitment to build just 2 new ships
- Difficulty in building new ships from NSF sources of funds
- Procurement a political minefield with paucity of US shipyards
- NOAA was able to get refit Ocean Exploration ship with new ROV
- Private foundation investment in ocean research has never been higher
- Law of the Sea, ocean observing, etc. means that ships will be needed!

UNOLS Fleet Age including Renewal



Issues: Operating UNOLS

- Fewer agencies supporting fleet operations
- Difficult to keep a talented group of technical support at sea, with increased needs for high levels of training
- Overall higher costs (fuel, SOLAS, Homeland Security, etc.)
- Using the fleet in different, more efficient ways
- Need to begin thinking about the "green" ship of the future (wind, solar, plankton powered?)
- Need to think of facilities beyond fleet?

Issues: Equal Access

We are making progress in ADA access.

Why are we still having problems with women feeling unsafe and harassed at sea or in ports?