

## **Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee Report February 2009**

USCGC HEALY is preparing for the 2008 season. She presently is on her shakedown cruise out of Seattle and departs in early March for Dutch Harbor, AK and the first cruise. HEALY has a very busy schedule this year, with 7 scheduled cruises covering 135 days at sea for science and funded by a diversity of agencies. HEALY is supporting the NSF funded Bering Ecosystem Study with three cruises to the Bering Sea, two National Oceanographic Partnership Program projects on the Beaufort Shelf with two mooring cruises funded by ONR, as well as mapping of the seafloor on the Chukchi Cap and mapping of the Canada Basin together with the CCGC Louis St. Laurent in support of the Extended Continental Shelf mapping and the Law of the Sea effort funded through NOAA. Captain Fred Sommers is scheduled to relieve Captain Tedric Lindstrom as Captain of HEALY in June. USCGC POLAR SEA was on standby to support the ODEN during this year's Deep-Freeze cruise to break out McMurdo Station, Antarctica but was not required for that effort. Potential field activities in the Arctic this year by the USCGC POLAR SEA presently are unresolved. USCGC POLAR STAR remains in caretaker status at the USCG Base in Seattle.

Efforts to foster communication between the icebreaker science community and the local Alaskan communities adjacent to the science study areas continue. Carin Ashjian (AICC Chair) provided a synopsis of the 2008 HEALY cruises to Harry Brower, Chair of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission. Upon written request by Mr. Brower for further discussion, the Chief Scientist of the April-May BEST cruise (C. Ashjian) and Capt. Lindstrom attended the AEWG Commissioners meeting in Anchorage in mid-December. Discussions and coordination with the Bering Sea whaling communities on St. Lawrence Island are continuing. Mr. Brower also requested that two cruises based out of Barrow, AK in September/October be discussed further at the mid-summer AEWG meeting. The AICC Chair continues to update the AEWG Chair on the status and any schedule changes of the 2008 Healy cruises.

The AICC also has been working with the US Department of State to identify a means to communicate advance information to local Alaskan communities regarding upcoming cruises by foreign research vessels/icebreakers in the US Arctic. Early this year, the DOS and NSF agreed that the NSF OPP would facilitate this communication by serving as the contact for the DOS for such information.

The AICC conducted debriefs of the 2007 HEALY cruises and is presently compiling the information. The AICC also provided a recommendation to the National Science Foundation for more comprehensive medical reviews of science crews on US Arctic icebreakers and for the inclusion of greater medical expertise on board US Arctic icebreakers that are deployed to remote areas. The AICC has recommended to the 2008 HEALY Chief Scientists that they post their cruises on the Arctic Ship Coordination during IPY website at the Alfred Wegener Institute in Germany ([www.asci-ipy.de](http://www.asci-ipy.de)) to promote greater international awareness of US Arctic science and to foster potential collaborations with international scientists. A new poster highlighting the AICC was

featured at the UNOLS booth at the AGU meeting in December in San Francisco, CA. The AICC also is working with the CG to clarify the berthing policy on the cruise information web site, to increase habitability in science quarters, and to improve communications between science parties and the HEALY crew.

The AICC met in Seattle Washington on Nov. 27 - 28, 2007. The AICC will meet next in Arlington VA on June 3-4, 2008.

Presently the AICC is soliciting applications for a three positions to replace committee members whose terms have expired or are about to expire; a meteorologist/satellite oceanographer, an ice biologist, and, in the fall, a chemical oceanographer. Outgoing members Peter Minnett and Rolf Gradinger were recognized at the Fall meeting for their valuable contributions.

*The AICC can be reached by writing to the Chair (carin@whoi.edu) or to the UNOLS Office (office@unols.org).*

Report submitted by C. Ashjian.

# AICC Report

Carin Ashjian

# AICC Membership

- Carin Ashjian - biological oceanographer
- Hedy Edmonds - chemical oceanographer
- Peter Minnett - satellite oceanographer
- Bernie Coakley - geophysicist
- Rolf Gradinger - ice biologist
- Rebecca Woodgate - physical oceanographer
- Kate Moran - geologist
- Robin Muench - physical oceanographer
- Dan Schwartz (RVOC)
- Steve Hartz (RVTEC)
- Rob Dunbar (ARVOC)

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Presently seeking new members in two fields; chemical oceanography in the fall

# USCGC Healy in 2008



- 7 cruises scheduled with 135 days of science
- Work in the Bering and Beaufort Seas
- Capt. Lindstrom to be replaced by Capt. Sommers in June

# Communications with Alaskan Native Communities

- Discussions with Harry Brower, Chair of AEWC, regarding Healy 2008 cruises
- Ashjian and Lindstrom attended AEWC Commissioners meeting in December 2007 to discuss Healy cruise season and one BEST cruise
- Two more Chief Scientists will continue discussions with the AEWC regarding cruises scheduled for later in the year (Sept. - Oct. near Barrow)
- After discussions with the AICC, US Dept. of State and the NSF agreed to work together to pass information regarding foreign research icebreakers in US waters to the science and local communities

# Other Activities

- Debriefs of 2007 Cruises
- Recommendation to NSF for more stringent medical requirements for scientists on US Arctic icebreakers as well as better medical expertise on icebreakers for extended, remote voyages
- Requested that 2008 Healy Chief Scientists post their cruises on the ASCI Web site in Germany to increase international awareness of US icebreaker research and to foster collaborations
- Working with CG to increase habitability on Healy and to improve communications between science and the CG