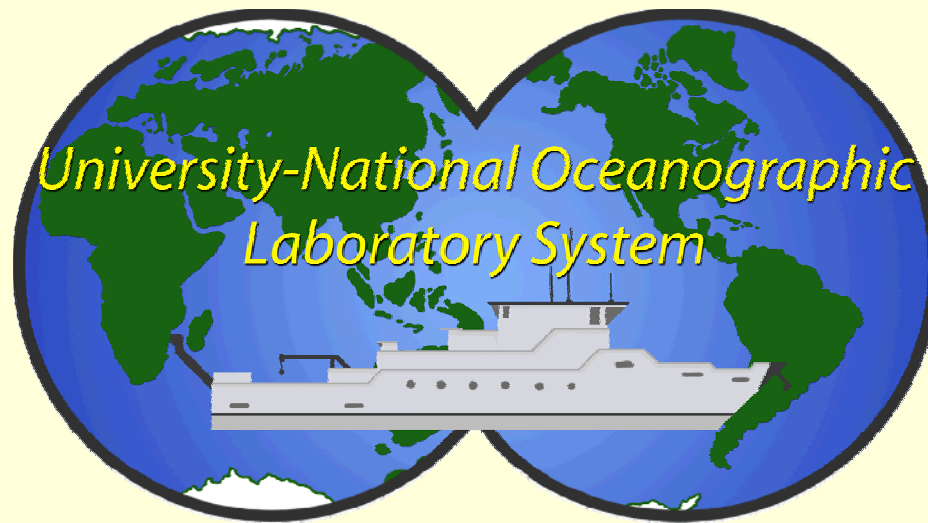


University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System

UNOLS Council Meeting

Updates on Activities and Issues



July 2008

2008: Ongoing Issues and Activities

- **Ad-hoc Committee on Data Management Best Practices**
- **Academic Fleet Renewal Activities and Plans:**
- **Interagency Working Group on Facilities – Future Initiatives**
- **Consortium for Ocean Leadership**
- **Continue Review of PCAR**
- **UNOLS Office Competition**
- **HiSeasNet Shadowing Report**
- **Wire Workshop**
- **Gender Climate at Sea**
- **RVOC Safety Committee**
- **TWIC Update**
- **Codes of Conduct - The Impact of Scientific Studies on the Environment/Law of the Sea**
- **Safety Standards for Human Occupied Vehicles**
- **UNOLS Annual Meeting Plans**
- **UNOLS objectives, priorities and goals**

Data Management Best Practices

Committee's charge:

1. Identifying existing best practices, and
2. Make selective recommendations for new ones.

Work is guided by these two broad principles:

1. The community is best served if metadata are *routinely reported by every platform to a central repository in a standard format.*
2. It's easier to train a dozen operators than a thousand scientists.

Preliminary recommendation - The initial set of information to be routinely reported for each cruise leg:

1. Basic "cruise-level" metadata record
2. Navigation (platform track i.e. time + position)
3. Event log ("everything over the side")

Data Committee Meeting –March 5, 2008 (At The Ocean Sciences meeting). Agenda Items:

1. Review draft cruise metadata form (compiled from various institutional candidates), and
2. Review of draft cruise event log

Future Plans: Legacy/UNOLS data workshop:

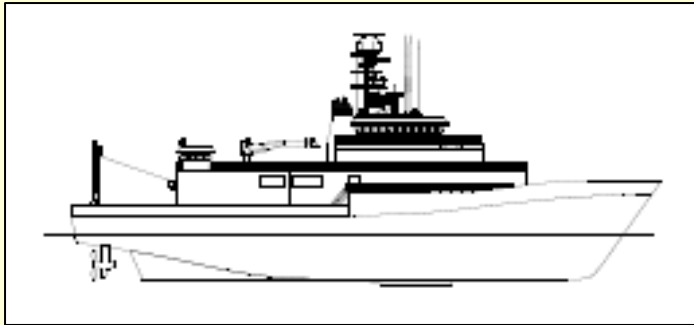
- Bob Arko and Bill Martin (Co-conveners)
- September 3-5, 2008 at LDEO
- Participants – representatives from NSF, RVTEC, UNOLS Data Committee, and data managers.

Academic Fleet Renewal Planning

SMR Update Project:

- NSF and ONR requested that UNOLS revise and reformat the Science Mission Requirements (SMRs) for UNOLS vessels.
- SMRs could benefit from
 - Updating
 - Re-organization
 - Incorporating the lessons learned by community, Regional Class and ARRV advisory committees.
 - Stronger statements about minimum/threshold requirements
 - Establishment of priorities
- UNOLS Email (May 15, 2008) to Council and FIC on May 15, 2008 – forwarded the Task Statement, timeline and proposed process for revising the SMRs.
- Much of the effort will fall on the FIC and will be carried out by phone/web conferences as feasible.
- Project website: <<http://www.unols.org/committees/fic/smr/update08/index.html>>
- Status:
 - Mike Prince has created a draft re-organization of the Ocean Class SMRs that includes a table with threshold and desirable values for parameters as well as priority levels.
 - FIC will review the draft Ocean Class SMRs and provide feedback by early August.
 - FIC phone/web meeting will be scheduled later in the summer.

Fleet Renewal Activities



Ocean Class Acquisition (Navy)

Status:

- Planning for Program Initiation

Quantity: (2) Ships

Phase I: Contract/Preliminary Design

- 18 mos. And multiple awardees.

Phase II: Detail Design & Construction

- 1st ship: FY14, Q2
- 2nd ship: FY14, Q4

Cost: \$92.5/ship

Regional Class Acquisition (NSF)

Phase I

- Nearing completion

Phase II

- Suspension of the detailed design and construction phase until funding is available (FY 2010 or later).
- Industry pressures and time delay has led to “guesstimates” being \$50-60M per ship.
- **NSF Remains Committed to RCRV**– but likely forced to build fewer ships.
- MREFC funding instead of Mid-Sized Infrastructure?

Fleet Renewal Activities



Alaska Region Research Vessel

Currently **\$0** in FY09 for NSF MREFC funding.

No Cost Overrun policy from Director of NSF.

All MREFC projects MUST:

- Have “robust” Final Design Reviews that includes, cost, contingencies,, and risk analysis.
- NSB approval after FDR before proceeding to construction.
- 30 month build time

R/V *Marcus Langseth*



- Began Science Operations – February 2008
- Completed 3-D Sea Trials

Academic Fleet Renewal Planning

Fleet Improvement Plan:

- Findings and Recommendations have been drafted.
- Final editing is on-going
- Completion by end of summer

IWG-F Future Initiative

Terms of Reference have been drafted that task the IWG-F to establish an inventory of current and planned federal facilities available to accomplish Ocean Research Priorities Plan (ORPP) goals.

The inventory would focus on shared-use federal assets for ORPP implementation.

This would include:

- Federally-owned and/or Federally-operated facilities and infrastructure
- Assets which were constructed/fabricated with majority funding from the Federal government or for which the majority of operations funding is provided by the Federal government.

Phase 1

- Develop guiding principles for determining shared-use infrastructure.
- Develop infrastructure categories for determining inclusion/exclusion in the inventory.
- Gather data on shared use facilities and infrastructure

The IWG-F will coordinate closely with the JSOST in developing the guiding principles and categories.

Schedule

- Phase 1 effort - one year.

Status: IWG-F met on May 30th to discuss guiding principles and categories.

Consortium for Ocean Leadership

- Marcia McNutt, Vernon Asper, and Mike Prince attended the Consortium for Ocean Leadership's April Meeting.
 - Marcia will provide summary.
-

Post Cruise Assessment Report Review

- Subcommittee Membership:
 - Bob Collier (Chair)
 - Mary Jane Perry
 - Matt Hawkins - **Replacement is needed**
 - Mary-Lynn Dickson
- Mike Prince will provide subcommittee with review material.

UNOLS Office Competition

- The Cooperative Agreement to host the UNOLS Office by Moss Landing Marine Laboratories will expire on April 30, 2009.
- A solicitation for a new host was announced in early 2008 and in response three proposals were received:
 - University of Miami – RSMAS
 - Columbia University – LDEO
 - University of Rhode Island - GSO
- Evaluation committee was appointed by Marcia McNutt:
 - Bob Knox, Scripps Institution of Oceanography (Chair)
 - Vernon Asper, University of Southern Mississippi
 - Clare Reimers, Oregon State University.
- The Evaluation Committee will recommend their top-ranked proposal in early September.
- The recommendation from the Evaluation Committee will be reviewed and endorsed by the UNOLS Council and then by the UNOLS membership by October 1st.
- The single top-ranked proposal, together with the UNOLS endorsement, will be submitted to NSF and ONR by the selected institution.
- The UNOLS Office will Transfer in May 2009

HiSeasNet Shadowing Report

by Bill Martin

- Bill Martin emailed an impromptu survey to the Tech Manager list asking various questions relating to shadowing and how cruises may have been affected on the vessels they support. Bill's summary of the responses follows:
- Basically vessels have had to make heading changes during cruises to transfer data due to the shadowing. This has not been intrusive to science to the point that scientists have lost or cancelled research objectives. In the responses received no one responded that a PCA submitted mentioned lost science time due to shadowing issues.
- Responses indicated all science users like the service and would like increased capabilities for data through-put over resolving shadowing. Video through-put is becoming a hot-topic from more users than shadowing.
- A focus group meeting has been scheduled to be conducted the day before the regular RVTEC meeting. The intention of this focus group will be to discuss problems/accomplishments of the various vessel installations and to work as a group and provide input for future developments for the HiSeasNet program. Steve Foley has agreed to facilitate this focus group.

UNOLS CTD Cable Improvement – Proposed Workshop

Purpose:

- The proposed workshop would focus on improving the capabilities of the UNOLS standard “CTD” cable (0.322” 3 conductor cable) through new design specifications or design proposals with participation by cable manufacturers, users, operators and engineers.
- The goal will be to incrementally increase the payload, rotational (torque balance) characteristics and power/data capabilities of this standard workhorse cable.
- Improving the cable without changing the diameter will improve the safety and reliability of CTD operations and other uses of this cable without having to replace or modify all the CTD winches in the UNOLS Fleet.
- As a side benefit, we may be able to identify design parameters that could result in a slightly larger cable for future higher payload requirements.

Workshop Products:

- Design or Performance Specifications for improved 0.322 Cable.
- Request for Proposals (RFP) for cable design based on the Performance Specifications
- Selection, Testing and Acceptance criteria for choosing a new cable design

Participants (approximately 15) – Participants would include representation from wire pool managers, marine technicians and superintendents, NDSF and other towed vehicle operators, wire consultant, engineers, cable manufacturers, winch manufacturers,

Location & Date – Location TBD, Probably September

Gender Climate at Sea

- Exploring options for implementing an on-line training program
-

RVOC Safety Committee

- The target publishing date for the Research Vessel Safety Standards is October 2008

TWIC Update

- Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) - Information for the UNOLS Community
http://www.unols.org/info/UNOLS_TWIC_INFO_051408.pdf
- TWIC cards are required for unescorted access to secure vessels and facilities.
- UNOLS recommends that scientists who use secure vessels/facilities obtain TWIC cards
- Until further notice, UNOLS is recommending that students and researchers from other countries that are in the U.S. on a Visa with restricted authorization to work such as an F-1 or J-1 Visa DO NOT apply for a TWIC.
 - Mike Prince participated in a phone conference with the US Coast Guard seeking clarification – USCG and TSA standby their policy to deny TWIC cards
 - Some UNOLS institutions are also seeking clarification from the U.S. Coast Guard and the Transportation Security Agency
- TWIC regulations are not required until April 15, 2009 in most locations
- Once they are in place, foreign students and researchers will still be able to go to sea on UNOLS research vessels, but may require an escort to gain access to the ship at certain secure facilities.



TWIC Dashboard (Page 1 of 3)

June 26, 2008



Explanation of Dashboard

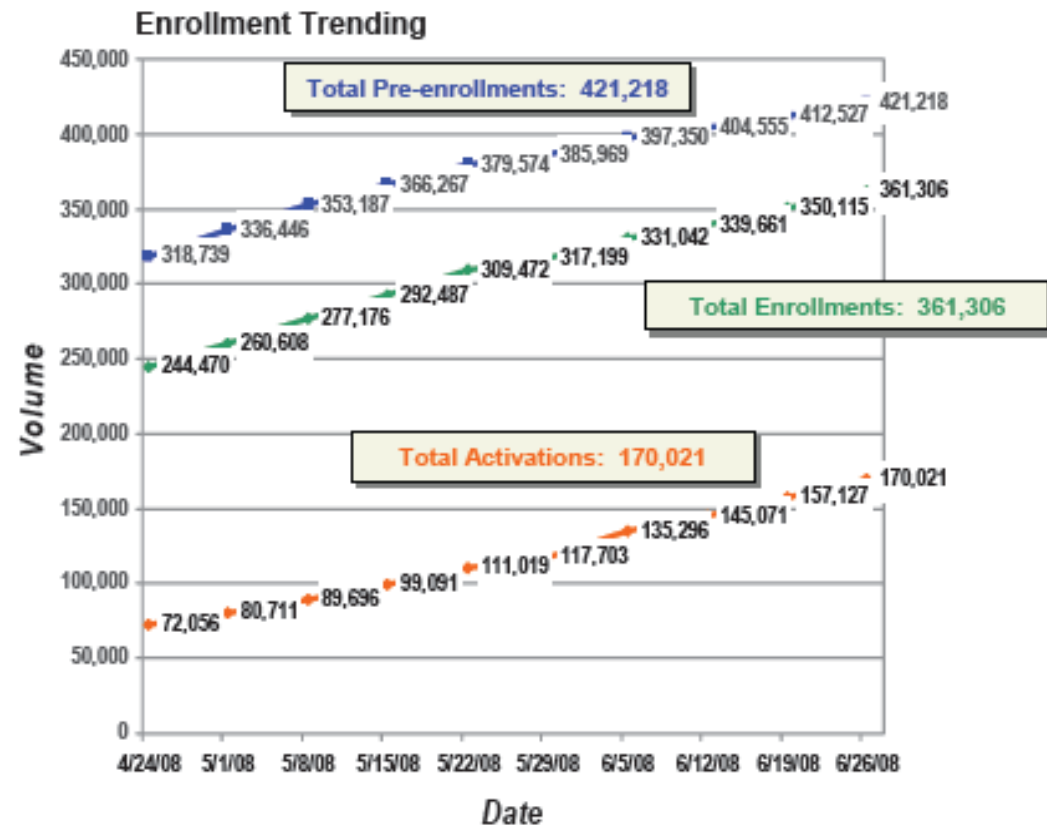
The TWIC Dashboard provides point-in-time program information on:

- Enrollment and adjudication-related statistics
- Graph depicting pre-enrollment and enrollment trends
- Contact information for TWIC resources
- Quarterly deployment schedule identifying enrollment center opening dates if formally announced in the Federal Register; current enrollment numbers are included for centers that are operational

Program Statistics

Enrollment/Activation	Measurement (as of 6/25/08)
Pre-Enrollments	421,218
Enrollments (133 enrollment centers operational)	361,306
Cards Printed	290,648
Cards Activated	170,021
Average Enrollment Time	9.07 minutes

Security Threat Assessment	Measurement (as of 6/22/08)
Initial Disqualification Letters	7,133
Appeals Requested	3,292
Appeals Granted	2,466
Waivers Requested	545
Waivers Granted	352
ALJ Hearings Requested	0
ALJ Hearings Granted	N/A
Final Disqualification Letters	18
Number of Expired IDTAs	822



TWIC Information and Resources

Help Desk: 1-866-DHS-TWIC (1-866-347-8942) Website: www.tsa.gov/twic
 8:00 AM ET - 12:00 AM ET
 Email: credentialing@dhs.gov

Codes of Conduct – The Impact of Scientific Studies on the Environment/Law of the Sea

ISOM Research Vessel Codes of Conduct – draft available at http://www.unols.org/meetings/2007/200710cnc/200710cncap_06.pdf.

Document is being finalized with edits relating to the wording on chemical tracers and adding a line about dumping of waste biological (fish) material.

RVOC April 2008 Meeting – RVOC approved a motion to have Pete Zerr (Chair) present the ISOM Code of Conduct to the UNOLS Council with a statement that RVOC endorses this document, but that in this country, it can only be effectively adhered to with support from the scientific community and the Federal agencies.

Safety Standards for Human Occupied Vehicles (HOVs)

- Document was drafted and circulated to HOV Safety Committee, DESSC, NSF and NOAA for review.
- HOV Safety Committee, DESSC and NSF comments were minimal. NOAA comments were numerous.
- An HOV Safety Committee phone meeting was held on May 27th to discuss NOAA comments.
- Committee is reviewing remaining comments and incorporating as appropriate.
- Phone meeting scheduled for July 8th – hopefully to finalize document.

Meeting Announcement

**The UNOLS Annual Meeting will be held
Thursday and Friday, October 2-3, 2008**

at

The National Science Foundation

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Robert Gagosian

President/CEO

Consortium for Ocean Leadership

(same format as last year)

UNOLS Goals 2008

2008 Goals: <<http://www.unols.org/info/issues.html#goals>>

- ***Enlarge the group of supporters for the UNOLS fleet both in terms of capitalization and operations.***
- ***Extend our planning horizon to ensure that we are building a UNOLS fleet that really meets what the infrastructure needs will be for ocean sciences in the coming decades.***

Activities

- FIC established draft Fleet Improvement Plan Findings and Recommendations
- Initiated UNOLS discussions to set facility renewal and improvement priorities
- ***Continuously work to lower barriers to effective use of UNOLS ships caused by disabilities, gender, or other special situations.***

Activities

- ADA Guidelines for UNOLS Vessels approved – NSF Ship Inspectors are evaluating ADA features as part of their vessel inspections. Revised SMRs are incorporating ADA guidelines.
- Sexual harassment on-line training program options are being evaluated.

2009 UNOLS Goals: ?

UNOLS 2008 Calendar

Committee	Meeting	Date	Location
Council	Summer Meeting	July 1-2	Via teleconference
SSC	Ship Scheduling Meeting	Sept 30	NSF, Arlington, VA
FIC	Fall Meeting	Oct 1	NSF, Arlington, VA
Council	Fall Meeting	Oct 2	NSF, Arlington, VA
UNOLS	Annual Meeting	Oct 2-3	NSF, Arlington, VA
Science	INMARTECH 2008	Oct 8-10	Ifremer, Toulon, France
RVTEC	RVTEC 2008 Annual Meeting	Oct 28-30	FSU, Tallahassee, FL
AICC	Winter Meeting	Nov-Dec	TBD
DESSC	Annual Community Meeting	Dec 14	San Francisco, CA
MLSOC	Community Meeting	Dec 14	San Francisco, CA
Science	2008 Fall AGU	Dec 15-19	San Francisco, CA

End