

RVOC Annual Meeting

April 2009

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Outline

- Regional Class Research Vessel (RCRV)
- Personnel Changes in IPS
- SSSE and OI
- Equipment Pools
- Ship Inspection Program
- “Appendix B”
- Recovery Act

Regional Class Research Vessel (RCRV)

- Both designs complete
- Final close-out packages received from NAVSEA
- Design Team contracts closed out
- NSF/NAVSEA MOU being terminated
- NSF will move the program forward

RCRV

- Spring/Summer 2009
 - Convene Design Selection Committee
 - Provide down-select recommendation to NSF
 - Standard NSF Committee of Experts (Closed)
 - Members include some original RCRV Technical Advisors from Phase I (UNOLS ship operators, technical support, scientists) plus ship design/construction experts (~10 - 15 total)

RCRV

- Process will be:
 - Well documented
 - Use elements of the NAVSEA Selection Criteria and ARRV Shipyard Selection Process (which has been subject to both internal NSF and external Panel review)
- Fall 2009
 - NSF makes final design decision
 - NSF develops solicitation for “Construction and Operation of the RCRV” following the ARRV process model

RCRV

- *ARRV* process:
 - Phase I – Project Refresh
 - Phase II - Shipyard Selection
 - Phase III - Construction
 - Phase IV - Transition to Operations
- If construction funds are identified:
 - 2010 Release Solicitation/Review Proposals
 - 2011 Shipyard Selection
 - 2012 Construction
 - 2015 Operations

Personnel Changes

- Bob Houtman - New IPS Section Head
- John Walter – Retired in January. Hired back part time to assist with RCRV and *JOIDES RESOLUTION* wrap-up.
- Dolly – Continues to assist with ARRIV, RCRV and *ALVIN* Replacement as needed.

SSSE & OI

- Base level of funding similar to FY08
- FY 09 Group Purchases:
 - Continue FBB and satellite time as back-up to HiSeasNet (WHOI Workshop in May – Day 1)
 - HiSeasNet – Continue and Enhance (Workshop – Day 2)
 - NSF focus on “Pools” and next-generation equipment
 - **Operators??** (suggestions & coordination)
- Joint SSSE & OI Panel completed in February
 - Waiting on Program allocations
 - **Pre-awards needed?**

Equipment Pools

- Increased NSF focus – Demonstrated benefits to science, operators, and agencies with van pools.
- Standard accounting and management models.
- Wire Pool:
 - Wire Workshop – **What's the plan? What's needed?**
 - Compliance with *Appendix A* prior to wire distribution
- Van Pools (East and West):
 - Model for operation/accounting for winch pools
 - Expanding utilization in academic fleet and beyond (NOAA & USCG) - **What are we lacking??**

Equipment Pools

- Winch Pools (East and West):
 - Under development (WHOI and Scripps)
 - Establishing shared-use winch inventories, management, and policies
 - Daily rates + Shipping
 - Manager and staff to ensure proper maintenance and logistical support.
- **NEED better visibility to operators and science!!** (Centralized data base on UNOLS web site and/or links to institutional web sites)

Ship Inspection Program

- NSF Reps – Bob, Matt, Linda, Jim and Brian
- Ship's completed in CY 2009:
 - *POINT SUR* and *BARNES*
- Ship's remaining in CY 2009:
 - *SAVANNAH, OCEANUS, ENDEAVOR, SEWARD JOHNSON, WALTON SMITH, BLUE HERON, PELICAN*
- 10-day documentation in on time!

Ship Inspection Program

- Increased emphasis on:
 - Service Life discussions - NSF Rep
 - Understanding and compliance with *Appendix A* (SWL Table & Wire Testing)
- Ship Condition Form – No changes in CY 09
 - Future??
 - Is current format useful to operators?
- Better NSF tracking/monitoring of PCA and inspection issues - Take advantage of emergent funding opportunities and align better with SSSE and OI requests.

Appendix B

(Load Handling System Design Standards)

- Like *Appendix A*, this will be a UNOLS standard:
 - Development & acceptance by the community
 - Funding support provided by NSF
 - Long-term benefits to operators, science, agencies and vendors – Standardization, clarification of requirements, lighter weight (?), operational flexibility, incorporation of latest technologies (Auto-render/mo-comp)
 - Technical and procedural elements.

Appendix B

(Load Handling System Design Standards)

- Needed for *ARRV* and *RCRV* for “next-generation” handling systems!
- Needed for *SSSE* requests and **Winch Pools!**
- Applied to future science-owned winches

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

- \$400M for MREFC (Major Research Equipment Facilities Construction)
- Other infrastructure enhancements:
 - Well justified/documented – Ship Inspections & PCA's
 - Use existing mechanisms such as SSSE and OI?
 - Separate proposals for segregation of funds?
- Spend Plans submitted to OMB for approval
- “Buy American” and Reporting – OMB requirements available for public comment. NSF interpretations still under consideration. So...

“Standby to standby”