

# ARCTIC ICEBREAKING COORDINATING COMMITTEE (AICC)

Report to UNOLS  
15 October 2010



Photo courtesy USCG

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[UNOLS Charter - Annex VI](#)

Committee Member	Contact Information	Term Dates
Robin Muench, ESR (Chair)	<a href="mailto:rmuench@esr.org">rmuench@esr.org</a>	01/2007 to 12/2012
Lee Cooper, UMCES	<a href="mailto:cooper@cbl.umces.edu">cooper@cbl.umces.edu</a>	09/2008 to 09/2011
Don Perovich, CRREL	<a href="mailto:donald.k.perovich@usace.army.mil">donald.k.perovich@usace.army.mil</a>	05/2008 to 05/2011
Karen Frey, Clark U.	<a href="mailto:kfrey@clarku.edu">kfrey@clarku.edu</a>	10/2009 to 10/2012
Jeremy Mathis, UAF	<a href="mailto:jmathis@sfos.uaf.edu">jmathis@sfos.uaf.edu</a>	10/2009 to 10/2012
Luc Rainville, UW/APL	<a href="mailto:rainville@apl.washington.edu">rainville@apl.washington.edu</a>	11/2009 to 11/2012
Larry Mayer, UNH	<a href="mailto:larry@ccom.unh.edu">larry@ccom.unh.edu</a>	11/2009 to 11/2012
Robert Campbell, URI	<a href="mailto:rcampbell@gso.uri.edu">rcampbell@gso.uri.edu</a>	01/2010 to 01/2013
Dan Schwartz, U Washington (RVOC Rep)	<a href="mailto:schwartz@ocean.washington.edu">schwartz@ocean.washington.edu</a>	01/2001 to xxxx
Steve Hartz, UAF(RVTEC Rep)	<a href="mailto:sjhartz@alaska.edu">sjhartz@alaska.edu</a>	05/2007 to xxxx

## Pending Membership issues:

- ➔ Need to replace Dan Schwartz with a new RVOC Rep.
- ➔ Initiate search for replacements for 2 members leaving within a year.

## Significant Accomplishments over Summer 2010

- ➔ Continued to improve communications among Alaskan Native groups, chief scientists, and the USCG: drafted an online tutorial focused on assisting new investigators with communications.
- ➔ Facilitated communications among foreign research vessels, Alaskan Natives, and cognizant agencies.
- ➔ Facilitated new clearance mechanism for foreign nationals working aboard icebreakers.
- ➔ Initiated drafting of a science berthing plan designed to guarantee use of designated science berths aboard *Healy* by scientists while also allowing use of excess spaces by Coast Guard personnel.
- ➔ Continued discussions on the most effective means for carrying out medical screening.
- ➔ Addressed accountability, details and obligations of the Alaskan Native Observer Program.

## **2010 Field Activities in The Arctic**

### **Healy:**

**June 14 – July 22, Dutch Harbor Seward: NASA Cruise in the Chukchi and Bering Seas.** Chief Scientists Kevin Arrigo and Don Perovich

**August 2 – September 6, Dutch Harbor - Barrow: Seismic Cruise in the US EEZ (1 week) and International Waters in the Arctic Basin in Collaboration with Canada.** Chief Scientist Brian Edwards.

**7 September – 23 September, Barrow – Dutch Harbor: Moorings and water sampling on the Beaufort Shelf/Slope,** Chief Scientist Robert Pickart (Ashjian project on board)

### **Polar Sea:**

**8 March – 6 April, Kodiak –Kodiak to Kodiak, Spring BEST cruise.** Chief Scientist Lee Cooper

## Closely Related Other Recent Events

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➔ NSF Call for proposals for a ship technical support position to manage and help maintain NSF scientific gear aboard the icebreakers.

➔ **NSF call for a formal, committee-based assessment of polar research vessel science mission requirements.**

# A Major Future Concern For Polar Research ...

POLAR RESEARCH

## Broken-Down Icebreakers Hamstring U.S. Science

Biologist Carin Ashjian is hoping that her research cruise next winter will fill in some of the many blanks about how the Arctic ecosystem behaves during that forbidding

season. But to do so, she'll need help from a good mechanic.

That's how it works these days for scientists whose access to the polar regions

depends on an over-the-hill and increasingly fragile U.S. icebreaking fleet. A 2006 report from the National Academies called for building two new icebreakers (*Science*, 6 October 2006, p. 33), but Congress has so far been unwilling to pony up the estimated \$2 billion or more that would be needed to upgrade the fleet. The most that supporters have achieved to date is a Senate-backed call for a cost-benefit analysis of the nation's icebreaking needs.

Such an analysis won't help Ashjian, a scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts. Her 6-week cruise aboard the Coast Guard cutter *Polar Sea*, the world's most powerful icebreaker, would be the first such scientific exploration of the Bering and Chukchi seas in January, Ashjian says. The goal is to provide information on water temperature, nutrient chemistry, and other biological and physical characteristics of this poorly understood ecosystem.



**Crunch time.** Neither of the U.S. Coast Guard's two polar-class icebreakers, shown operating in Antarctica in 2002, are currently serviceable.

CREDIT: PETER WEST/NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

# Online Information Sources for the AICC

The UNOLS Website:

<http://www.unols.org/committees/aicc/>

The IceFloe Website  
(maintained by the US  
CG)

<http://www.icefloe.net>

