



Summary of Agency Recommendations for 2012 Fleet Operations



Criteria and Process for Recommending Non-Operational Periods of Ships in the UNOLS Fleet

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Objective: Recommendations for ship lay-ups and retirements and procedures to be followed

Procedures:

- 1) Based on anticipated ship usage, the agencies will make a recommendation to a non-operator subcommittee of UNOLS Council consisting of at least three members from non-ship operator institutions.



- 2) The subcommittee will share the draft recommendation from the agencies with UNOLS ship operators, the Council, and other interested parties.
- 3) Based on input from these groups, the subcommittee will provide feedback to the agencies on the recommendations and possible alternative scenarios to consider.
- 2011: Non-operator subcommittee consisting of Council members Robin Muench, John Morrison, and Vernon Asper will present agency recommendations.



UNOLS Response to Agency Recommendation

1. The *Oceanus* will be retired at the end of 2011.
 - Agree

2. Maintenance periods in the vessel home-port are strongly encouraged both as a cost saving measure as well as an opportunity to conduct preventative maintenance.
 - Agree



UNOLS Response to Agency Recommendation

3. If no additional work is identified when the final schedules are completed, it may be necessary for NSF to consider providing some funds to support extended maintenance or partial layup periods for the NSF-owned ships, *Cape Hatteras* and *Point Sur*.

- Strategically locate the vessels. - Consider placing the laid up vessels in geographically opportune locations (example: Gulf of Mexico coastal states).
- Use some of the lay-up funds to transit to the Gulf. This could reduce the cost for potential users in the Gulf.



UNOLS Response to Agency Recommendation

4. Encourage operators of all ships to find ways to reduce costs and seek appropriate opportunities to support research and education programs supported by other funding sources.

- Agree

5. Emphasize to operators of institution-owned ships that they must decide if their planned schedule can support the cost to operate.

- Agree



UNOLS Response to Agency Recommendation

6. A survey was conducted in 2011 of the possible causes for the recent decline in ship-time request demand. Examination of the survey responses and development of strategies for addressing the ship time demand decline is recommended.

- Agree
- NSF should hire a qualified professional analyst to review the survey data.



UNOLS Response to Agency Recommendation

7. UNOLS Council is encouraged to begin a dialogue with the federal agencies on how to reduce the size of the Fleet within the context of the declining demand, utilization, and potential for declining federal budgets.

- We agree with this recommendation, however, we need to continue the initiatives for Fleet Renewal that are currently underway
- This issue needs to be considered at a government-wide level to work towards a more integrated federal fleet.
- We endorse the strategy recommended by the the Fleet Improvement Committee that:

“The FIC and Council to work with the agencies to establish recommendations for fleet size and composition based on consideration of key parameters and variables.”