



FIC Report To UNOLS Annual Meeting

Clare Reimers
FIC Chair



1. Issues before FIC in 2011

- Four-Class System Designations
- Review Vessel Condition Memorandums from NSF
 - Does FIC agree with the recommended retirement dates?
 - Given limited resources and the current states of both the RCRV and OCRV projects, which vessels should NSF focus on with regard to material investments?

SHIP	BUILT	Conv/ Mid Life	Owner	LOA m (ft)	Science Berths	NSF Projected Service End Date	Estimated SLP cost	2012 Scheduled Days
<i>Endeavor</i>	1976	1993	NSF	56 (184)	18	2014	\$3,765,000	188
<i>Wecoma</i>	1976	1994	NSF	56 (185)	18	2014	\$2,570,000	159
<i>New Horizon</i>	1978	1996	SIO	52 (170)	19	2018	\$1,951,400	111
<i>Atlantic Explorer</i>	1982	2006	BIOS	51 (168)	20	2026	\$3,410,000	181
<i>Point Sur</i>	1981		NSF	41 (135)	12	2016	\$2,420,000	99
<i>Cape Hatteras</i>	1981	2004	NSF	41 (135)	14	2016	\$875,000	87
<i>RG Sproul</i>	1981	1985	SIO	38 (125)	12	2018	\$1,551,000	76



2. Fleet Improvement Plan

- 2009 FIP needs updating
- Need to incorporate new Four-Class System into FIP (complicates portrayal of trends)
- Jan 1st was agreed on as due date for an Ocean Acoustics Appendix for FIC review (drafted by Dave Bradley, PSU)



FIC's Recommendation

Future decisions on Fleet size and composition be made after UNOLS (FIC and Council) work with the Agency Representatives to assemble data showing:

- Fiscal operational constraints (projected annual operation budgets)
- Research initiatives and geographic areas of interest
- A realistic projection of ship demand across classes



Fleet Size Planning

- Major discussion of agency recommendation that :
“UNOLS Council 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” (Bob Houtman)
- Looking for a collaborative approach for right-sizing the UNOLS Fleet that also minimizes funds spent on operations that do not take science to sea (e.g., layups)



Further, UNOLS and the agencies should jointly evaluate the variables that make up the current and future Fleet including:

- Current and planned fleet capabilities (do we want no Regionals or Intermediates on West Coast by 2018?)
- Operating range and home ports
- Role of UNOLS in setting Safety Standards
- Operational Costs
- Ship Age and Condition
- Recommended Service Life End Dates



Immediate Strategy

- 1) Task Agencies and UNOLS Office to assemble data on restricting parameters and Fleet variables
- 2) Hold a series of Web/Phone Conferences to review data and formulate recommendations
- 3) If needed – hold a 2-Day workshop of the FIC, Council subcommittee, and Agency representatives to finalize the recommendations.
- 4) Time frame: First Phone meeting – Jan 2012



FIC Response to the COL Working Group Report

- In response to a request from Bruce Corliss to FIC will:
 - Hold phone meetings to review the COL Working Group Report recommendations on Funding Models for New Ships and to formulate a response.
 - Upon completion, forward the FIC response to the UNOLS Council.



Early Career Scientist – Cruise Training Program

- FIC has endorsed a continuing 3 year program for an Early Career Scientist – Chief Scientist Training Opportunity with one cruise training cruise per year. The program would be modeled after this year’s cruise training program.
- Clare Reimers will be the lead PI on this program. She will work with NSF to determine program feasibility and ship/cruise options.



Hugh R. Sharp User Debriefs

- This will be the last year of the *Hugh R. Sharp* user debriefs. The data collected will be summarized into a report that can be provided to guide new ship construction and technology efforts.