



# Highlights and Areas of Contention of Oct 24 FIC Meeting: Resulting Action Items

Clare Reimers  
FIC Chair



# 1. Fleet Renewal Activities

- RCRV is still in internal review at NSF- no change
- OCRV entering Phase II, design awarded to Dakota Creek, Joe Mackes gave a Design Overview. FIC pleased design meets or exceeds SMR specs and has some unique features.
- RV *Sikuliaq* on schedule for July 2013 delivery to UAF



## 2. Fleet Improvement Plan

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



# 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)



# 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



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 a motion was made and passed to:
  - 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

- A motion was made and passed in favor of establishing a 3 year pilot 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

- A motion was made and passed that this 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.