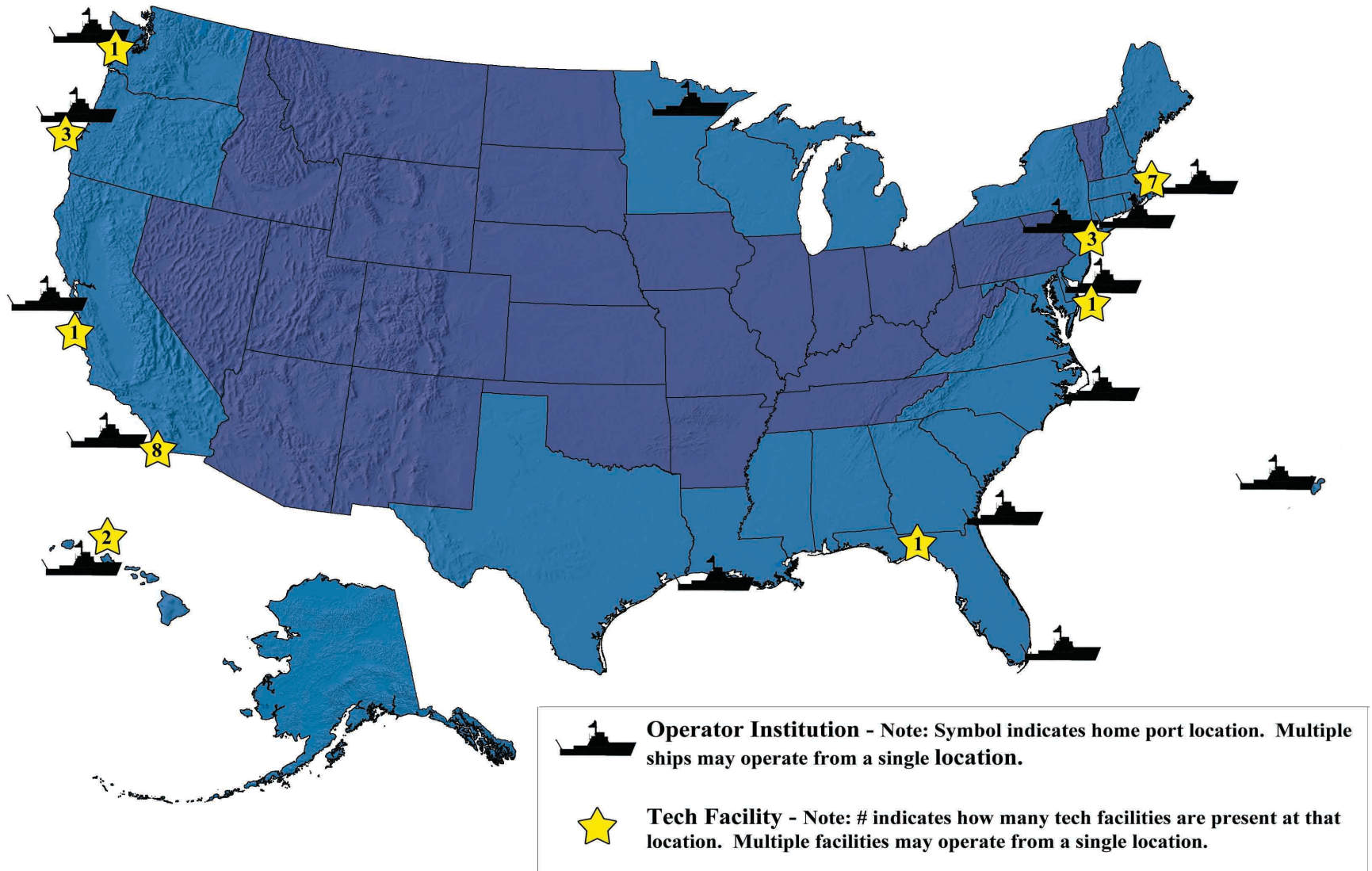


NSF Report
2011 RVTEC, New Orleans, LA



Academic Fleet and Specialized Support Facilities

The academic fleet consists of 21 vessels operated by 15 institutions





FY 2012 Budget



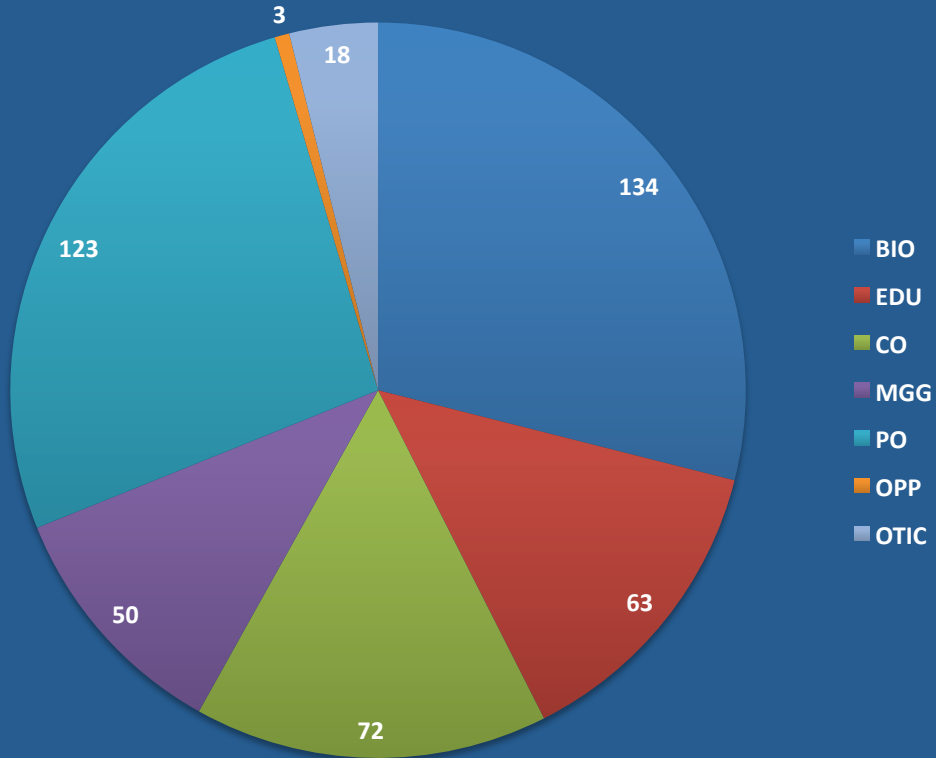
- The 2012 budget has not been passed. NSF (and all the Federal Government) is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution which runs through Friday, November 18, 2011
- Although an official budget was never passed in 2011, The Technical Services Program was allocated 98% of 2010 funds. This was the first decrease in funding for the Program since 2006
- OCE has requested a 10% increase in 2012 but pressures from the deficit make that number unlikely. Request for funding for Research Vessels actually decreased by 12% due to lighter schedules and the retirement of *Oceanus*
- Variables:
 - House version of budget
 - Senate version of budget
 - Super Committee
 - Another continuing resolution
- Bottom Line: ??? Wait and see but be prepared for cuts

Ocean Sciences FY 2012 Request

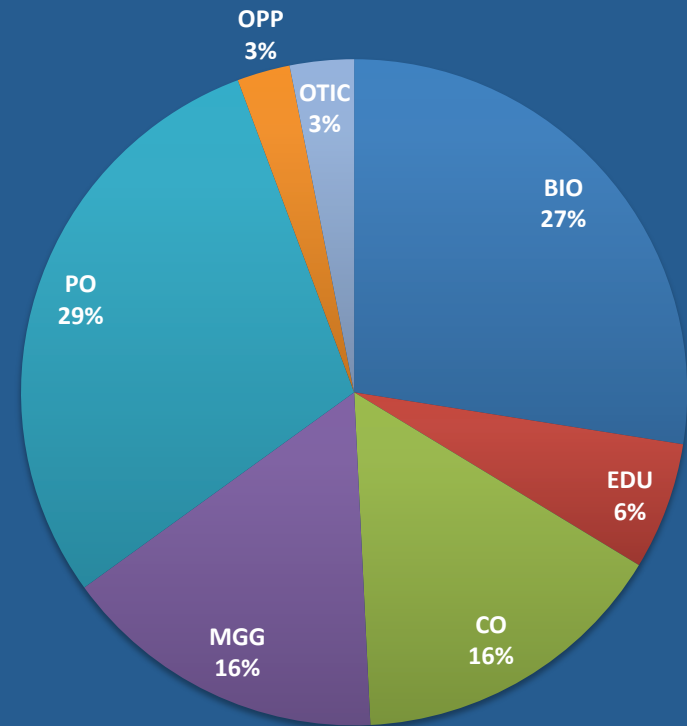
OCE Funding		
(Dollars in Millions)		
	FY 2010 Enacted/ Annualized FY 2011 CR	FY 2012 Request
OCE	\$348.92	\$384.64
Research	187.65	207.57
<i>CAREER</i>	2.50	2.80
<i>Centers Funding (total)</i>	4.00	9.00
<i>Coastal Margin Observation &</i>	4.00	4.00
<i>Dark Energy Biosphere Investigations</i>	-	5.00
Education	8.37	8.82
Infrastructure	152.90	168.25
<i>Academic Research Fleet</i>	78.00	69.35
<i>Integrated Ocean Drilling Program</i>	43.40	45.40
<i>Pre-Construction Planning (total)</i>	2.00	2.00
<i>Regional Class Research Vessels</i>	2.00	2.00
<i>Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI)</i>	16.50	35.70

2010

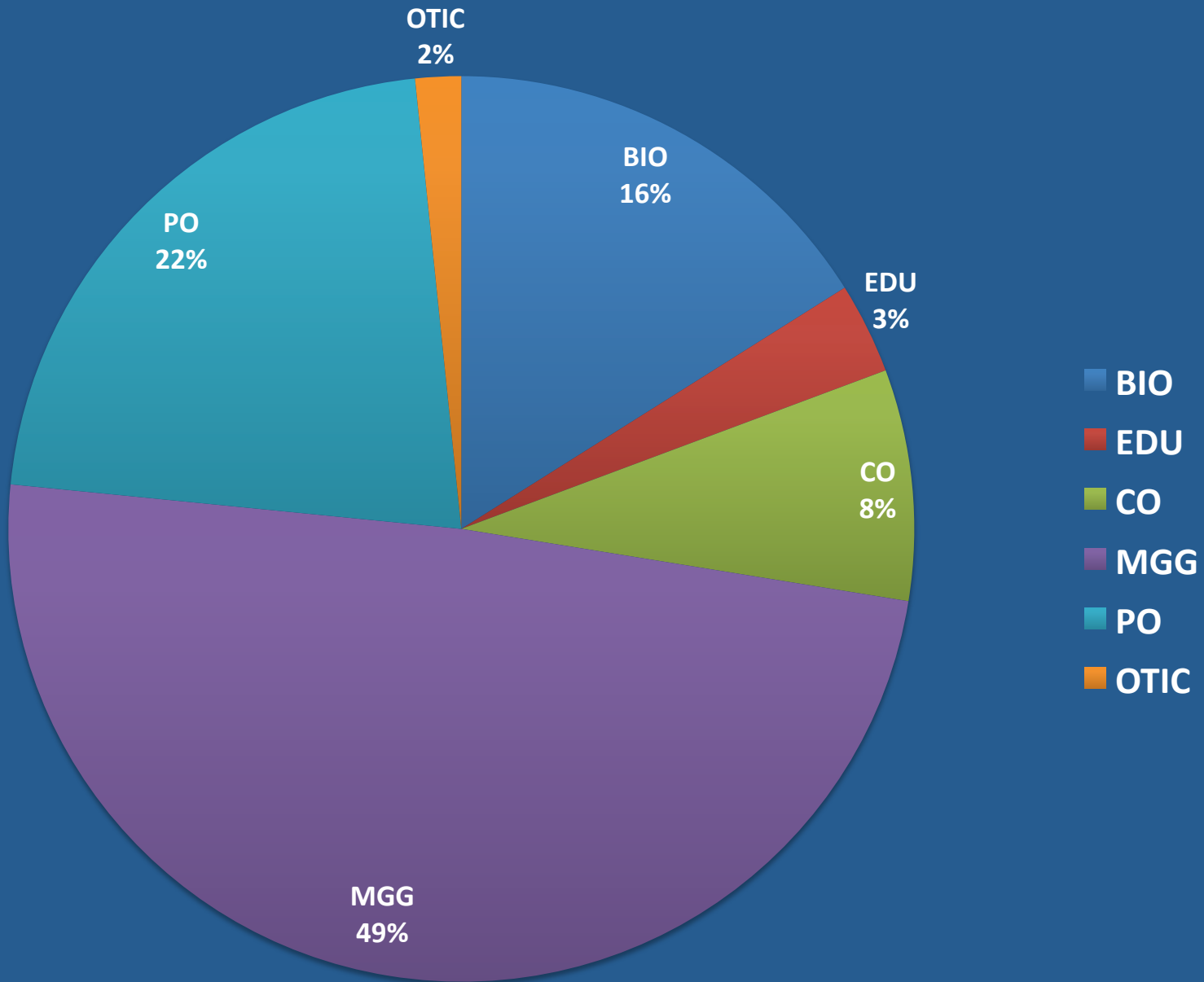
of Projects/Discipline 463 Projects; 409 Cruises



of Science Days/Discipline 3,346 Days



Share of 2010 Tech Services Budget/Discipline

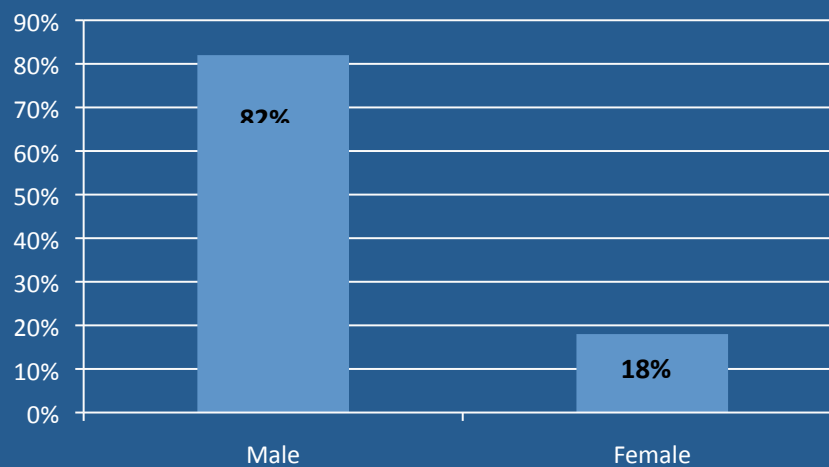


Biggest Challenges to Tech Support Program

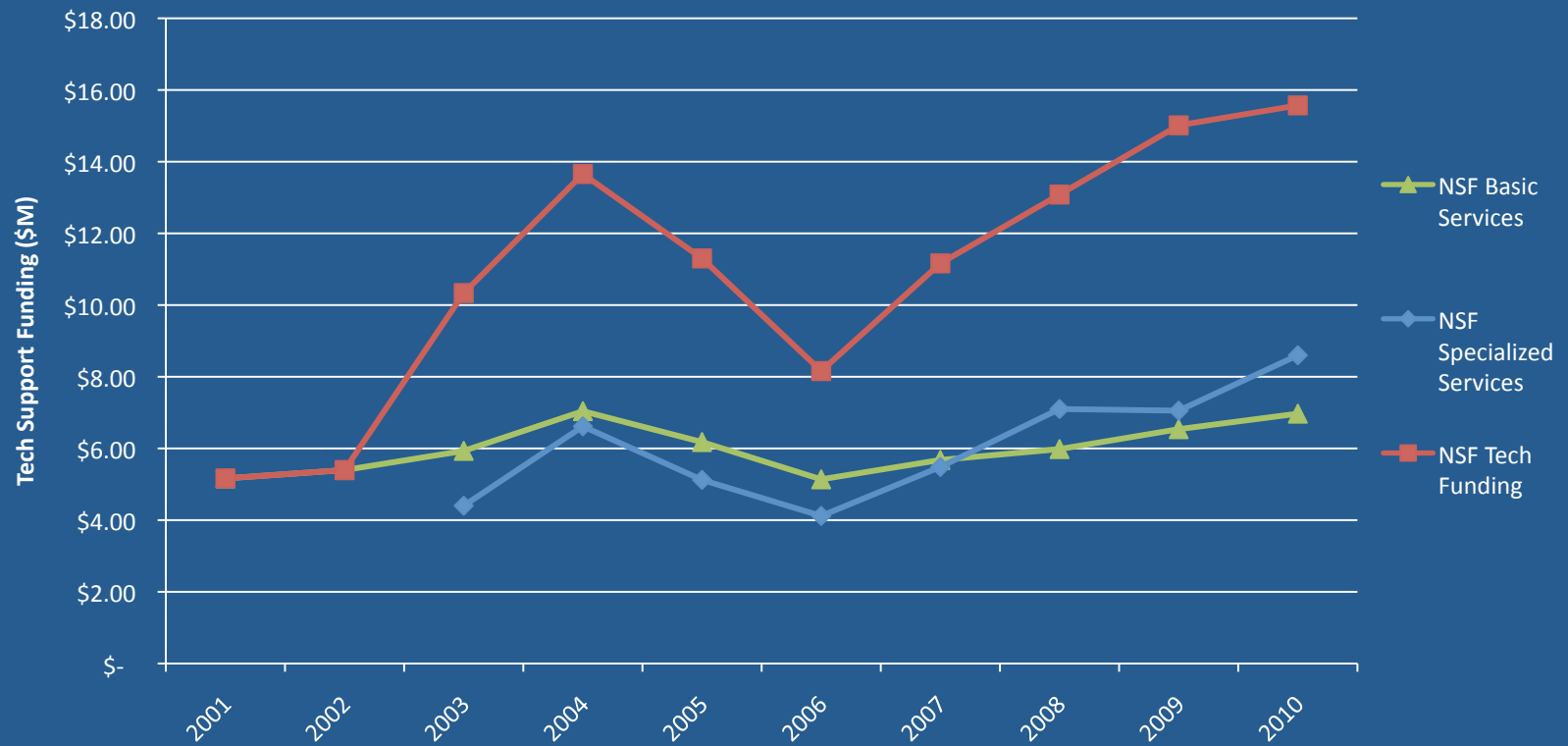
- Retention and recruitment of effective technicians
- Allocation of these resources in a dynamic environment of variable schedules and declining ship days
- Getting 'new' people into the fleet

What does the Academic Fleet's Technician Pool look like?

62 Full time, sea-going technicians



NSF Tech Support Funding



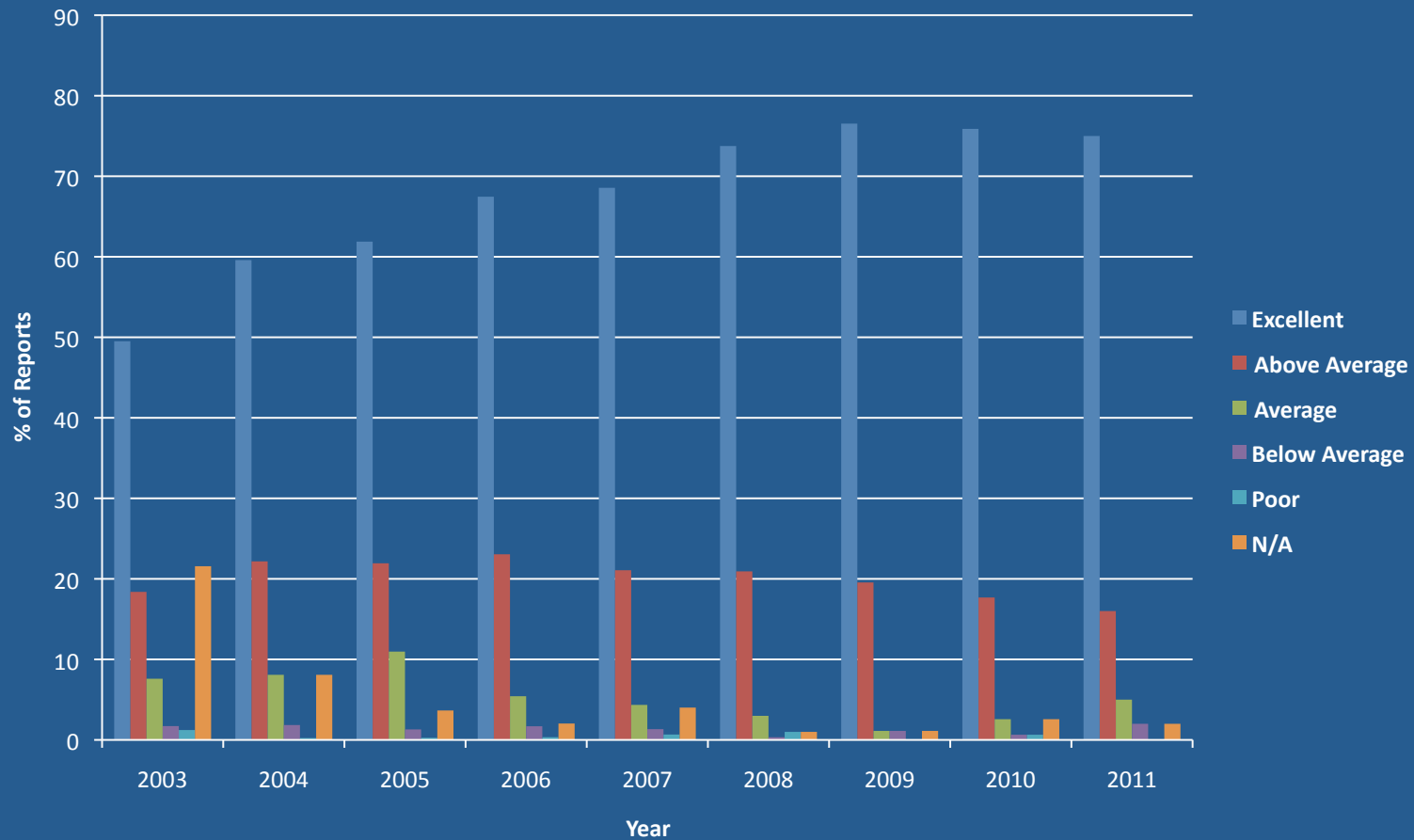
Comparison of Technicians by Support Model

Global vessel, 24hr Ops including CTD, underway instrumentation (USW, Met, ADCP, Echosounder)
Science network, Satellite Coms, and Multibeam

Support Model	# Techs	Description
NOC	4	1 MT, 1 ET, 2 CT
NOAA	4	2 Survey Techs (considered part of the NOAA crew) and 2 ETs
OPP/USAP	8	1 MPC, 2 MTs, 2 ETs, 2 CTs, 1MBT
OPP/USCG	4-6	2 MST, 2 CTD, 1-2 MBT
UNOLS	2	2 General Techs

Post-Cruise Assessments by Chief Scientist

Rate how well the ship operator supplied scientific equipment and marine technicians supported this cruise (appropriate equipment, equipment operational and ready for cruise, calibrations, documentation, technicians trained and familiar with equipment).



Musings from the Program Manager

- The UNOLS tech support model is too lean. It relies too heavily on PIs supplying their own technical support.
- Current model discriminates against PIs from smaller institutions who do not have the support structure within their institution.
- The fleet is getting more technologically complicated and with increasing connectivity, more science is being done remotely. Technical support at sea is therefore more important.
- The downsizing of the fleet will help to some degree by allowing surplus technicians to join remaining ships w/o increasing costs.
- Encourage science PMs and PIs to ask for additional technical support, specifically pooled technicians for projects that require them.
- We need to increase the technical footprint on the vessels.