Fleet Improvement Committee
Report to RVTEC

November 2011
FIC activities over the past year:

- Continued to provide advice on ship design plans
- Reviewed and provided advice on a new 4-class system of ships.
- Reviewed ship inspection letters and provided advice on service life end dates.
- Provided advice regarding plans to move the long coring system to the *Langseth*
- Early Career Chief Scientist Workshop
Special Acknowledgements

Linda Goad - for encouragement not to put this off, and program support

Daryl Swensen - for directing the participants through cruise planning from the marine technician perspective, as well as tireless work at sea (although admitting the second cruise was “an ass kicker”)

Program Goals

- teach early career marine scientists how to effectively plan for, acquire, utilize and report on time at sea for multi-disciplinary research and education
- demystify the process of ship operations and fulfill the intent of UNOLS to improve access to existing and future facilities
- offer new investigators opportunities to test compelling research ideas, work collaboratively and acquire samples critical for developing future oceanographic field programs
Participants- Cruise 2

Amy Maas, WHOI
Craig McClain, National Evolutionary Synthesis Center
Paul Suprenand, U of South Florida
Jennifer McCoy, Oregon State U
Danielle Wain, U of Washington
Meghan Powers, UC Santa Cruz/MBARI
Laurel Childress, Northwestern U
Sarah Hardy*, U of Alaska Fairbanks
William Browne, U of Miami
Pincelli Hull, Yale University
Henk-Jan Hoving, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
Karen Osborn, Smithsonian
Zoltan Szuts*, Max Planck Institute for Meteorology
Heather Beem, MIT/WHOI

*Mentors/Marine Technicians
Clare Reimers, Oregon State University
Maureen Conte, BIOS/MBL
Daryl Swensen, Oregon State University
Chris Moser, Oregon State University
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.
Fleet Improvement Plan

- 2009 FIP needs updating
- Incorporate new Four-Class System into FIP
- Incorporate updated service life end dates
- Update trends and projections
- Jan 1st 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
- Operating range and home ports
- Role of UNOLS in setting Safety Standards
- Operational Costs
- Ship Age and Condition
- Recommended Service Life End Dates