



# 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 McCay**, 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

*\* co-chief scientist*



## **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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