

**UNOLS RVOC ANNUAL MEETING**  
**U. S. Coast Guard Agency Report**  
**April 24, 2012**

**STATUS OF THE USCG POLAR ICEBREAKER FLEET**

**HEALY**

- Plans for 2012: BOEM Bering and Chukchi Study; Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) Task Force mapping; ONR/NSF North Slope Mooring Deployments and Recoveries
- Last 3 years:
  - 2011: NASA Icescape Casts; Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) Task Force mapping with Canadian icebreaker LOUIS ST LAURENT; ONR/NSF North Slope Mooring Deployments and Recoveries; NSF Winter Biological Oceanography Study (First Arctic Winter Deployment for Healy); Escort of T/V RENDA to Nome
  - 2010: NASA Icescape Casts; ECS Task Force mapping with Canadian icebreaker LOUIS ST LAURENT; ONR/NSF North Slope Mooring Deployments and Recoveries
  - 2009: NSF Bering Ecosystem Study; ONR/NSF North Slope Mooring Deployments & Recoveries; ECS Task Force Mapping with Canadian icebreaker LOUIS ST LAURENT

**POLAR SEA**

- Deployed on Operation Deep Freeze (DF) 2007; back-up for DF 2008, 2009 and 2010
- Conducted spring and fall 2008 deployments to Arctic in support of USCG District 17 missions and training
- Completed spring 2010 NSF Bering Ecosystem Study (BEST) deployment
- Currently in port awaiting determination of future disposition; CG intends to decommission. Crew, funding and usable equipment/parts transferred to POLAR STAR.

**POLAR STAR**

- Reactivation work continues; expected to extend service life to approximately 2022
- Expected to return to service in late 2013

**PLANS:**

As an Arctic Nation, the United States has vested interests in this region. In light of expected increases in maritime activity, it is prudent to ensure the Coast Guard, which operates the Nation's icebreakers and is the principal federal agency responsible for maritime safety, security and environmental stewardship, has reliable polar icebreaking

capacity. In light of this, the FY 2013 budget request includes resources in FY13 to begin a new polar icebreaker acquisition project. The current expectation is that the acquisition will be fully funded within the next five years and will deliver the icebreaker within the next ten years. In 2013, the Coast Guard will develop operational requirements to acquire an icebreaker that will serve its missions in the Arctic, including those support missions that have been traditionally conducted with other Federal partners that have equities in the Arctic. We will work closely with the Administration and those Federal partners to ensure we acquire the right capability.