

# UNOLS Council Non-operator Committee

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Response to NSF & ONR's

“2013 U.S. Academic Research Fleet Operations Support Findings and Recommendations”

Input:

- operators/ institutions of the R/V's *Cape Hatteras* and *Pt. Sur*
- UNOLS community (Council and non-Council)
- data from UNOLS

## Focused on:

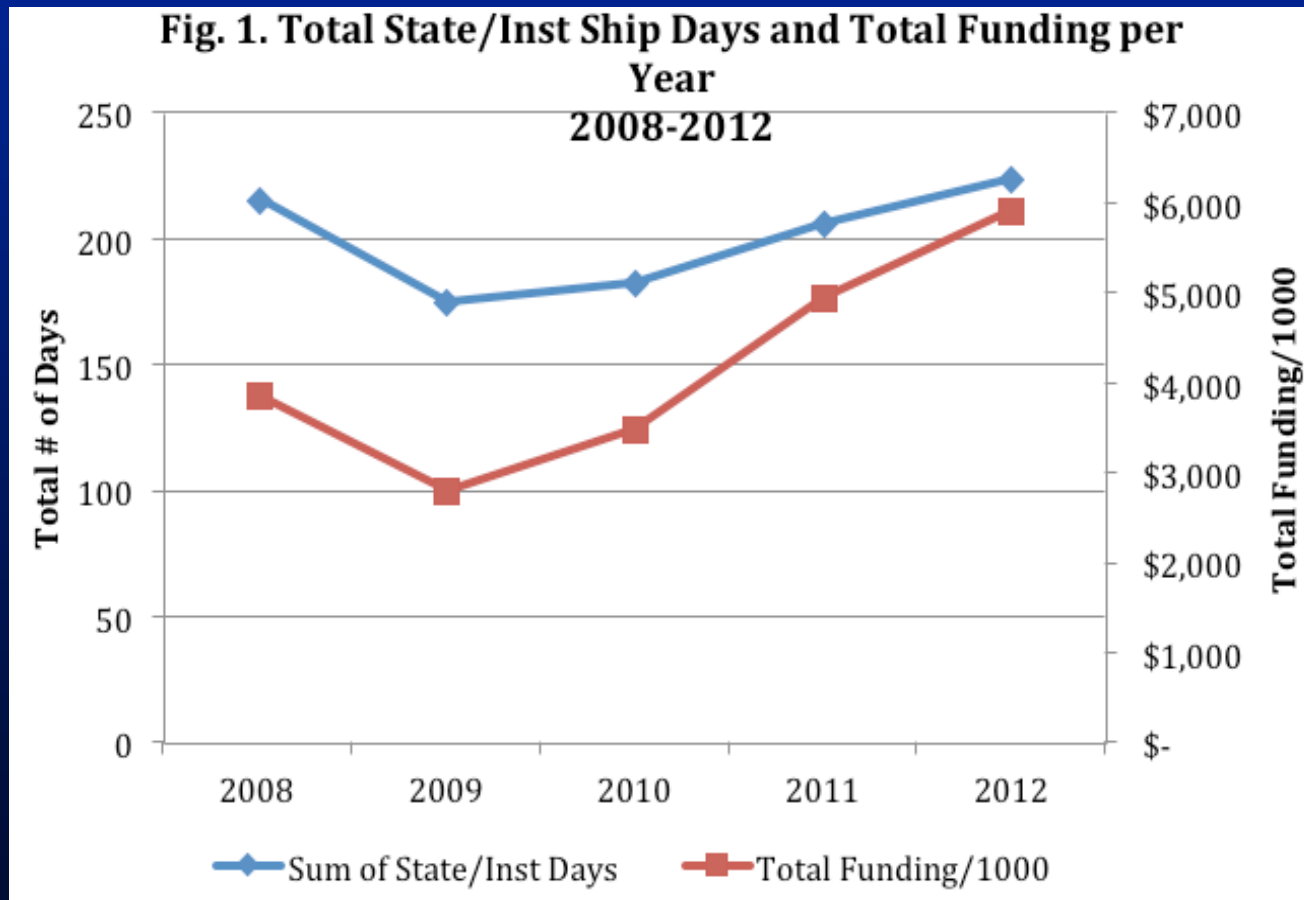
- NSF plans to retire R/V *Cape Hatteras* in 2013, and R/V *Point Sur* considered for retirement in 2014
- Recommendation that ship operators find ways to reduce costs and seek to support research and education programs by other funding sources, including institutional funds

# Retiring vessels

- R/V *Cape Hatteras* -based upon a weak funded schedule, availability of other regional vessels (the *Smith* and the *Sharp*)-hard to find fault solely based on this.
- No decision should be made for *Point Sur* retirement until it has been to the Antarctic and known if more work for it there (or elsewhere) in the future. *Sproul* available to take over some work as needed.
- Retirements will offset only a small portion of projected fleet-wide cost overruns. Also consider:
  - loss of educational activities
  - removal of larger ships with higher day rate
- Longer grace period for institutions to look for alternative funding

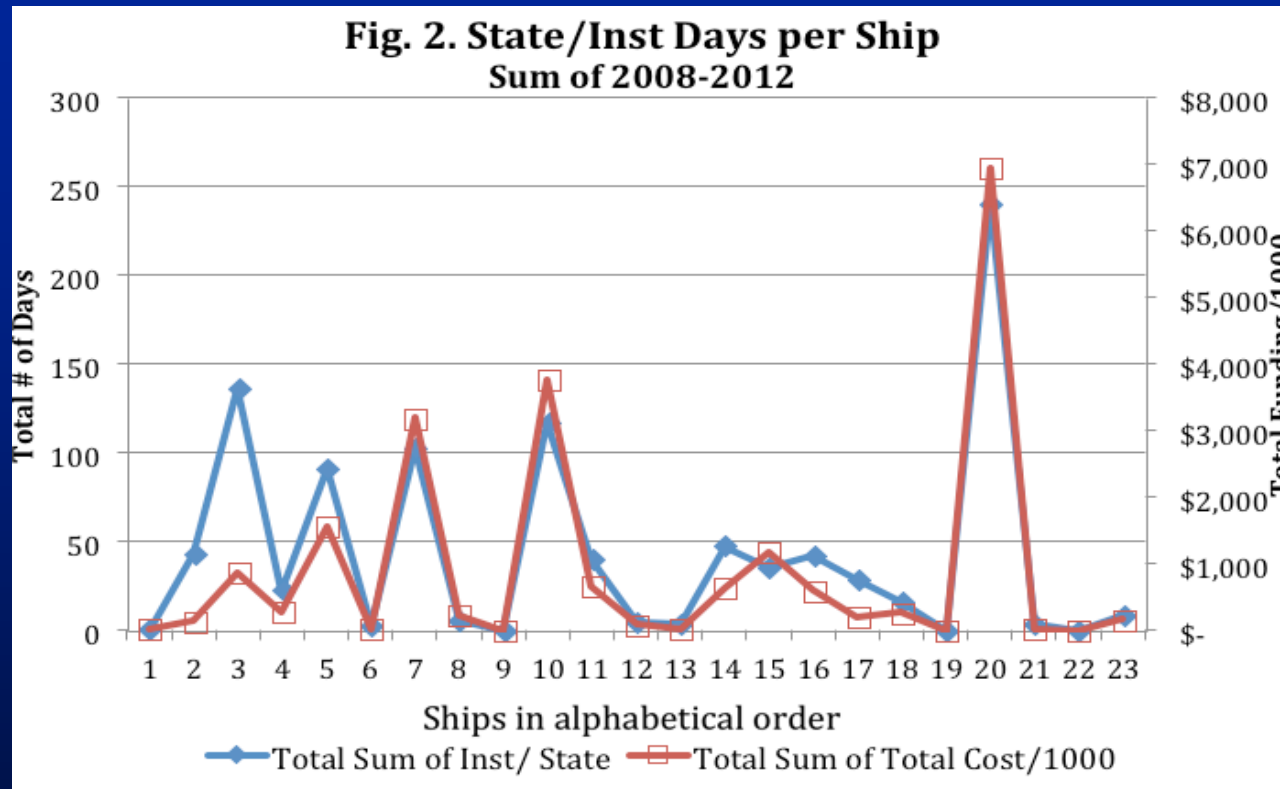
# Operators - reduce costs & seek funding

- Institutions/ states have been increasing contributions to ship funding , but will be hard to continue as state and institutional budgets tighten



# Operators - reduce costs & seek funding

- Look at 'bright spots' - a lot of variability in state/Inst. contribution to ships



- Alternative funding  
(Non-federal research contracts, industrial clients? )