Radioisotopes on board UNOLS vessels

RVTEC

5-9 November 2012
2011 Workshop

“How can we keep the ships clean for ALL users?”

- Workshop consisted of Enhanced Isotope scientists, Natural Abundance scientists, Tech Managers, an RSO and NSF.

- Radioisotope contamination levels that affect natural abundance work are far smaller than levels regulated for Health and Safety.

- We can’t standardize enhanced radioisotope operations throughout the fleet due to varying state/institutional regulations.
What can we do?

- Build awareness of the potential problem.
- Continue to monitor for contamination using Operation SWAB.
- Create Radioisotope Use Logs that document the history of radioisotope use and SWAB tests of each vessel.
How can we do this?

UNOLS Radioisotope Contamination Awareness Program
http://www.unols.org/info/RadioisotopeUse/RadAwareness.html

- Provides tools to help operators educate science parties to the potential problem. These include:
  - A short briefing of the potential problem
  - Presentations for Science and Crew regarding radioisotope contamination awareness
  - A checklist to guide pre-cruise shipboard discussion applicable to all users

- Discusses the SWAB monitoring program

- Introduces the Radioisotope Use Logs for the fleet
Outstanding workshop issues:

- Can we prevent the scientists from leaving an unclean ship? If so, how?
- What are the repercussions for an unclean ship?
- How are these acted upon?
Select RVTEC Survey Responses

- What is our responsibility as a tech
- Spill Response Procedures and planning
- How to manage the use of the isotope van during cruises? Spot check the wipe tests?
- Post-cruise Clean-up verification – making sure it is clean prior to the users’ departure.
- Holding users responsible/repercussions for a dirty van
Discussion
Resources

- **UNOLS RVSS Chapter 10** -

- **UNOLS Radioisotope Awareness Program** -
  [http://www.unols.org/info/RadioisotopeUse/RadAwareness.html](http://www.unols.org/info/RadioisotopeUse/RadAwareness.html)

- **Some current institution/vessel policies:**
  - **SIO** – [http://shipsked.ucsd.edu/Schedules/Instructions_For_Scientists/Isotopes/](http://shipsked.ucsd.edu/Schedules/Instructions_For_Scientists/Isotopes/)
  - **OSU** - [www.shipops.oregonstate.edu/ops/wecoma/appendix_11.pdf](www.shipops.oregonstate.edu/ops/wecoma/appendix_11.pdf)