

AICC Meeting Minutes 18 June 2013

Executive Summary

The UNOLS Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee, (AICC) conducted their summer 2013 meeting via a WebEx tel-conference on Tuesday June 18, 2013. The meeting was well attending by the AICC members, Coast Guard personnel including headquarters, District 17, the Healy, and representatives from the National Science Foundation, Office of Naval Research, UNOLS Office and scientific members of the community.

Minutes:

Dr. Lee Cooper/AICC Chair from the University of Maryland ran the meeting and opened with a welcome and introductions. The agenda was reviewed prior to the start of the meeting. The AICC action items from the January 2013 meeting were reviewed and discussion on a few items followed. These included the Open Water Meeting in Alaska which was held in March.

Review of Action Items

Arctic Open Water Meeting- March 5, 2013

Egan Center, Anchorage Alaska

Steve Hartz/UAK and a member of the AICC attended the meeting and provided the following notes from the meeting. The meeting was attended by a broad audience with approximately 150 people in attendance representing the following groups:

NOAA/NMFS-USCG - Susan Hargis (Tribal Liaison)-US Fish and Wildlife-BOEM
Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission-Alaska Beluga Whale Committee-LGL -Shell
Oceana-Stabbert Maritime-Ocean Conservatory -Furgo-Statoil-Arctic Energy Service
Alaska Oil Spill Commission-Exxon-Alaska Geological-ARB-Sea Tech.-CGG/Alaska
Petroleum News-Arctic Slope-Shishmaref-PGS Marine Geophysical-EPA-Cornell University
Alaska Maritime-Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement-Kivalina-Earth Wise
University of Alaska/Fairbanks.

Major issues discussed included local knowledge and laws which affect decision making, concern regarding increased ship activity and effects on subsistence, waste water discharge, stack emissions, and ship noise.

There is an Arctic Environmental Oversight Group that is made up of the following:

BESEE, BOEM, NOAA, US Fish and Wildlife, USCG (Susan Hargis Tribal Liaison) and EPA. However, their meetings are closed to the public.

A review of industry efforts with the Coastal Committee and ship based efforts include:

- LGL provides training of PSOs - They recruit from ASRC and NANA
- There is a PSO on every vessel
- LGL has developed software for protected species sightings
- Communication Centers have been established in the coastal villages to facilitate communications with the ships
- There is a Liaison for industry in the coastal villages
- (No mention of community observers on the vessels)

Other notes

- ADAM - Advanced data acquisition manager
- Real Time Ice and Weather Forecasting
- They conduct Sound Source Characterizations of all their vessels
- Acoustic monitoring of marine mammals (DASAR)
- They conduct marine mammal flights with observers and cameras
- NMFS is considering revising acoustic criteria to lower thresholds

National Ice Center Analyst

The next action item discussed was the National Ice Center ice analyst and travel support to allow the analyst to participate in Healy cruises. This is still an open issue as there are budget concerns.

Barrow Risk Matrix

The risk matrix at Barrow was discussed. The risks are understood. Mike Krause/USCG reported that the Coast Guard and NSF recently amended the MOA and this provides a written plan to help manage the expectations in working out of all ports north of Dutch Harbor. This will be helpful and will be posted on Icefloe.

Input on Polar Star science equipment- AICC still needs to provide this input.

Foreign Cruise Data

Foreign cruise data and where the data is archived were discussed. Question asked if R2R would be willing to take data off of foreign ships which are collected by U.S. researchers was asked.

Icefloe

AICC has provided some input on the new Icefloe web site.

Photo Lab

Scott Hiller reported the renovations to the photo lab have been completed. The MST is presently using it as an office, but it can be repurposed to serve the needs of science.

CTD operations

The CG reported that there were some equipment issues during the season last year which have been repaired. CTD winch operators are receiving training and things should go more smoothly this season.

Packet of Information to local communities

Some data and outreach material for the 2013 cruises has been sent, although it is still best to go in person. Karl Newyear/UMIAQ offered again to assist in helping to distribute this outreach material.

Samplers

The installation of semi-permanent samplers was discussed. The PCO₂ installation is complete. The methane samplers from USGS to be used on the Pickart cruise have been proposed. STARC doesn't see any issues or problems with various systems.

Accept the January 2013 Meeting Minutes

Lee asked for a motion to accept the winter meeting minutes. Motion was made by Bob Campbell and seconded by Don Perovich. There were no objections and the minutes were accepted as written.

Agency Reports

NSF/GEO/PLR

Renee Crain provided the NSF report and started by thanking the Coast Guard, STARC team, and the Healy personnel for working hard to meet all the challenges. STARC has done a great job and many improvements have been realized. The tech rate for the Healy for 1-3 techs has been set.

For the logistical support at Barrow, NSF would like to put it into the science plans to be able to track costs. An agency can contract directly with UMIAQ. Details on what is required in the way of shipments, hotel requirements, personnel handling needs to be clearly defined up front. For minimal logistical support, NSF can cover the costs.

Jonet Johnson has recently been assigned to work with Renee as an inter-agency resource. Jonet will be working on various Arctic initiatives, working to understand who is using the ships and the different assets. Tracking foreign ships working in the Arctic continues to be of a concern.

This web site tracks research vessel activity in the Arctic and will help the AICC.

<http://www.aos.org/alaska-platform-of-opportunity-portal-apop-launches-in-time-for-field-season-planning/>

ONR

Mike Prince and Martin Jeffries provided the ONR update. Mike stated that there will be budget challenges ahead.

Martin is directing the ONR Arctic and Global prediction program which is in the second year.

The goals of the program are:

- Developing integrated ocean-ice-wave-atmosphere Earth system models for improved prediction at a variety of time scales

- Improving understanding of the physical environment and processes in the Arctic Ocean
- Investigating new technologies, e.g., sensors, platforms and communications, for sustained operation and observation in the challenging Arctic environment

There are 2 departmental initiatives. The Marginal Ice Zone experiment planned for March 2014 is a large array to be placed in the Beaufort Sea, in the Canadian EEZ. The second is an Air/Ice Interaction in the Marginal Ice Zone project in the US EEZ to gain a better understanding of sea state, waves and swells as the ice retreats and impacts to the ice cover. A program is proposed for the R/V Sikuliaq in the early fall of 2015. Planning letters should be sent to Dr. Martin Jeffries.

US Coast Guard Report

LCDR Doug Wyatt provided the CG report with a Power Point.

The Coast Guard will continue the CV-130 flights from March through December to support various science missions.

Operation Arctic Shield which brings education, outreach, health service support, and safety training to Arctic communities will continue in 2013.

NOAA and the Coast Guard are working cooperatively on a 5 day cruise off Barrow to deploy moorings. The Polar Star is currently underway to the Arctic for ice trials and is scheduled to conduct Antarctica-Operation Deep Freeze in 2013. The Polar Sea is still in caretaker status in Seattle awaiting final disposition. The Coast Guard did receive 7.6 million dollars in funding to do preliminary designs for a new icebreaker.

Operations, scheduling, planning for 2013 operations

The meeting then went onto a discussion on actual operations for the three cruises in 2013 for Lloyd Keigwin/WHOI, Lee Cooper/Univ. of Md. & Bob Pickart/WHOI. All three Chief Scientists have conducted their pre-cruise planning meetings and generally things are in good shape and cruise planning is going well.

Logistics- There had been some concern on the narrow window for cargo to arrive at the base in Seattle and the departure of the Healy. The Coast Guard reported they have located some storage space in the warehouse and can back off a little on the specific date for when gear had to arrive.

Knuckle Crane- The knuckle crane has been repaired.

Permitting- Lloyd Keigwin shared that the biggest surprise has been the amount of time and complexity in complying with the Canadian permit process. Each Canadian entity requires different forms. The Northern Territories are semi-autonomous and each form is different. The Canadian offices handling these applications and permits are swamped with the number of requests coming in. The AICC committee members suggested a "road map" be added to Icefloe to share lesson learned on this permits process.

Helo Ops- Successful helo ops requires good communications among all stakeholders. Operational funds can be saved if we can efficiently schedule the flights, personnel, and cargo going off and coming on the ship. Normally 2 days are set aside, but schedule allows doing it in

one day saves money. Karl Newyear/UMIAQ offered that they can help with some of the helicopter coordination

Various Issues Openly Discussed

The AICC recognized the recent change in command on the Healy. Captain John Reeves took command this spring 2013 and the AICC welcomed him to our meetings and look forward to working with him.

Healy Berthing Issue-

Doug Wyatt explained that the Coast Guard is receiving a lot of requests to make berths available from various groups with legitimate reasons for getting to the Arctic. This includes, film crews, documentary writers, educators and outreach groups. The ship doesn't have many extra berths which is the reason for the CG to ask to be able to use science berths. The revised berthing policy recently distributed to the AICC raised some concerns in regards to identifying your science party 30 days before a cruise. Often there are changes to the science party within days of a cruise. Gender make-up, family emergencies, travel delays all need to be considered in the policy. The Coast Guard agreed to discuss this with the AICC and Lee Cooper/AICC Chair offered to collect feedback and will then work with Doug Wyatt. The policy is in draft form and Lee can edit in track changes and will work with Doug. The Coast Guard will ask the Ch. Sci. if having this person or group on board would interfere with the science objectives of the planned research.

Question was asked if the Ch. Scientist or funding agency feels it will interfere, but the Coast Guard doesn't agree, is it going to be a case where the CG overrides the Chief Scientist or funding agency. The Coast Guard assured us that this wouldn't be the case.

Recognize Steve Roberts for service to community- Steve dedicated many years to serving science on board the Healy and had over 700 plus days at sea. Steve's Mapserver tool was appreciated by many. Steve has gone onto other work and the AICC wants to show their appreciation. AICC will present a certificate of appreciation and Larry Mayer offered to help work on this with Dave Forcucci.

Welcome Bernie Coakley-Bernie Coakley/UAK-Fairbanks is now an ex-officio member to the AICC and is a member on the University of Alaska's Sikuliaq Ship Committee.

Sikuliaq update

Steve Hartz provided an update on the Sikuliaq. The ship is presently in a dry-dock in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin installing sonars, and repairing some hull plating which was damaged during the launching. There was a z-dive casting issue which has been repaired. Sonars will include ADCP's 150 & 75 kHz. In addition to a well for a future 38 kHz. Date for delivery is now November 1st.

STARC

Scott Hiller presented a Power Point on all the projects completed so far in 2013 and projects planned for 2014. They hope to finish the plan to carry (2) 20 ft. containers on the “front porch, 02 level. The work order is in Coast Guard review now.

The computer renovations are all complete with all new computer racks.

For STARC technical support, they are planning on having two techs on all cruises.

For the Polar Star, Scott stated they are ready, willing, and able to assist in bringing any science systems back online if STARC is needed.

On the STARC team, Dave O’Gorman from OSU has replaced Daryl Swenson.

Mapserver- Dave Forcucci is working on ideas with STARC to see what parts of the system can be used. They are also exploring Google Map interface. Google techs will ride the sea trial and STARC will decide in the next few weeks which direction to take. Historical mapserver records will be preserved.

UMIAQ Update

Karl Newyear provided the Power Point report from UMIAQ and covered the challenges for 2012. In 2013 logistics should be a little easier with less demand on infrastructure as there will be less oil company activity at Barrow this summer. Regarding helicopter operations, Karl stressed the importance of early and frequent communications between ship, Coast Guard, STARC, UMIAQ, and the science parties.

For 2013 UMIAQ is working on improved information exchange for their clients in Barrow. For community observers, UMIAQ has contacts in the area and can assist with this if needed. For marine mammal/protected species observers, this is the responsibility of the researchers but again UMIAQ can assist.

The AICC suggested that more information on Barrow should be posted on the Icefloe web site.

New Business

The AICC needs to set a date for the winter meeting. We are considering holding it in the Arlington/Wash DC area. Renee cautioned that if we want to hold it at NSF, we need to plan well in advance to be able to reserve a room.

The UNOLS office will set up a doodle poll to check availability of AICC, CG, and agencies representatives.

Meeting Adjourned: 4 pm EDT, 18 June, 2013