

**DRAFT**  
**UNOLS COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Web Conference**  
**Thursday and Friday, July 18 & 19, 2013**

**Meeting Minutes**

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**Thursday, July 18, 2013**

**Call the Meeting:** Peter Ortner, UNOLS Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm EDT and provided an opportunity for participant introductions. The meeting agenda is included as *Appendix I* and the participant list is *Appendix II*.

**UNOLS 2013 Fleet schedules and science operations, estimated operation costs, and 2014 ship scheduling** – Jon Alberts gave the report. His slides are included in *Appendix III*.

Jon provided a review of ship operations in **2013**. The 2013 ship schedules currently show 3599 days for the UNOLS fleet. All UNOLS ships are in full operation at present. Details about specific ships follow:

- The R/V *Marcus Langseth* suffered an engine casualty in June during Dale Sawyer’s cruise, which resulted in the ship having to return to Vigo, Spain while engine repairs were made. This resulted in about a two-week delay to the Sawyer cruise, but the *Langseth* schedule will allow days to be added at the end of the cruise.
- *Atlantic Explorer* - 149 days are scheduled. All work is in/around Bermuda, mostly supporting BATS/Hydro Station “S” work.
- *Atlantis* - 230 days are scheduled. *Alvin* was loaded onto the ship in May and the ship transited to Juan de Fuca to support *Jason* cruises this summer. The *Alvin* certification/paperwork process continues and *Alvin* certification dives are set for September, followed by a science verification cruise planned for November.
- *Blue Heron* - 68 days are scheduled with all work in the Great Lakes.
- *Barnes* - 111 days are scheduled working in/around Puget Sound.
- *Walton Smith* – A light schedule of 115 days is planned. This is a lighter schedule than normal.
- *Hugh Sharp* – A strong schedule of 221 days is planned with work off Lewes, Delaware as well as work in the Gulf of Mexico.

- *Knorr* - 256 days are scheduled. Operations began the year off Cape Town, and then worked off Montevideo, up to the mid-Atlantic. There are two cruises off Greenland. The ship will finish the year with an OOI cruise to the Pioneer Array.
- *Langseth* - 187 days are scheduled. The ship is working in the Atlantic Ocean this year doing seismic and multibeam survey operations. The ship will finish the year on the U.S. east coast.
- *Melville* - 309 days are scheduled and represents a strong schedule. Operations include the CLIVAR cruise from Yokohama to San Diego. An OOI Station Papa cruise is scheduled in the Gulf of Alaska.
- *New Horizon* - 172 days are scheduled working out of San Diego. This is a moderate schedule.
- *Oceanus* - 182 days are scheduled working in/around Newport, Oregon. The ship will also support an OOI cruise for the Endurance array.
- *Pelican* – A strong schedule of 232 days is planned. Joe Malbrough wins the award for diverse funding sources with seven different sources this year.
- *Point Sur* has a strong schedule of 196 days. The ship returned from the Antarctic Peninsula in May and will be working out of Moss Landing the rest of this year.
- *Sproul* – The ship has a weak schedule of 43 days working out of San Diego.
- *Revelle* - 255 days are scheduled. The ship began the year with a scheduled shipyard period which included installation of a new CTD handling system. Work followed at Kao-hsiung for ONR programs. Operations are planned around Suva, Manila, and then out to the Indian Ocean for a new ONR program.
- *Savannah* - With 117 days, this is a light schedule, working in/around Savannah, Georgia.
- *Thompson* has a strong schedule of 263 days, working around Seattle, Honolulu, and then OOI cruises in the summer followed by a GEOTRACES cruise this fall ending in Tahiti.
- ROV *Jason* has a strong schedule this year with 203 days, operating on the *Ron Brown*, *Thompson* and *Atlantis*.
- AUV *Sentry* also has a strong schedule with 140 days.

The Ship Scheduling Committee has had some recent changes. Stewart Lamerdin moved to Oregon State University as their new Marine Superintendent in late May and Elizabeth Brenner (SIO) moved from the SSC Chair-Elect position to SSC Chair. Doug Ricketts (Univ. of Minnesota) was voted in as the new SSC Chair Elect.

Next Jon provided the 2014 ship scheduling outlook. For 2014, the Letters of Intent currently total 2275 days funded and 856 days pending. Funding decisions on the pending days are coming in now. There have been several scheduling meetings and they will continue with telcons as the weeks progress.

**Agency Recommendations for 2014 Operations** – Jon reported that the 2014 U.S. Academic Research Fleet Operations Support Findings and Recommendations letter was submitted to Peter Ortner/UNOLS Chair on 25 June 2013.

The Non-Operators Committee, (Deb Steinberg/VIMS and committee chair, John Morrison/UNCW and Greg Cutter/ODO) met on Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> via telcon to discuss their preliminary report back to the agencies. The Non-Operators report will be reviewed by the Council and then forwarded onto the agencies.

There was a great deal of discussion on how the 2014 ship day projections were developed. Jon Alberts explained the process used in arriving at these numbers. We take a snap shot on a

particular day of all the posted letters of intent which the schedulers have developed. The total funded days and the pending days are tallied up. A 20% success rate for the pending days is applied. The funded and expected pending days are totaled to arrive at the projection. We realize that by drafting the letter in late May or early June there are a lot of funding decisions yet to be made. Also, there are a number of days that the schedulers haven't yet posted on their letters of intent. Last year, in the "other funding" days category, the projections were 91% lower than the actual days utilized.

There is some concern in the community that the one target NSF proposal date for ship time requests in August may discourage PIs from submitting ship time requests. NSF stated that they have not dictated that there be only one proposal date, but August is the target date. The Council will discuss this further.

The initial findings of the Non-Op Committee were presented:

- Demand is relatively stable, although there is a perception that demand has gone down. We need to be careful to manage this perception as it will become a self-fulfilling prophecy.
- We do need to improve our process in making predictions of schedule totals.
- The *Point Sur* retirement raises concerns that we will be unable to meet the regional needs. There is no assurance that the regional ships will be built. The target date for the first RCRV is 2019.
- The cost savings to the overall budget is very low by removing the *Point Sur* from the Academic Research Fleet.

Next Jon reviewed the Agency recommendations for 2014 fleet operations as recorded in the Agency letter (see *Appendix III*):

- R/V *Cape Hatteras* retired/sold to Cape Fear Community College - March 2013
- R/V *Clifford Barnes* revised Projected End of Service Life to 2017
- R/V *Point Sur* - NSF sent a letter to MLML in June 2013 with their decision to retire *Point Sur* from service during CY 2014.
- R/V *Knorr* & R/V *Melville* - ONR continues to de-activate ships in conjunction with delivery requirements for R/V *Neil Armstrong* & R/V *Sally Ride* and scheduling demands in 2014.
- R/V *Thompson* - ONR identified funds for mid-life engineering designs. Plans are in the works for a mid-life shipyard overhaul in late 2014
- NSF & ONR recommends that operators find ways to reduce costs and seek opportunities for support from other sources, including institutional funds.

Jon reviewed the charts (see *Appendix III*) for:

- UNOLS Fleet Utilization (2005-20//14)
- Ship Days funded/pending and days available.
- Ship utilization by class
- Ship Time Request Demand

**Agency Recommendation for 2014 Fleet Operations** – Bob Houtman reviewed the Agency Recommendations. He explained that the ship time numbers that were presented today already show the challenges in making a projection on the number of funded days. The new number estimate for 2014 is now 3130. The agencies are always interested in finding new ways to make projections and determining the best time of the year to make the ship time projections. In the fall the funding decisions are better known, but that gives less time for making preparations for any recommended changes, such as ship retirements.

NSF is working to determine the amount of ship time that they can afford to support.

Discussion:

- Debbie Steinberg - With NSF going to one ship time proposal deadline, will this change things? Bob – NSF has not made an official change requiring all ship time proposals to be submitted for the August deadline. This is just a recommendation.
- Craig Lee – Although NSF has indicated that this is just a guideline; the community feels that they need to abide by it.
- Rose Dufour – NSF felt that by moving to one deadline well in advance of the operating year it would help in making better projections. They looked at the projections from 2013 and found that there was a 91% change in the “other day” and about 22% for NSF.
- Clare Reimers – There is a lot of confusion within the community regarding the ship time request deadline. She recommends that the Council make a recommendation that NSF clarify this issue.
- Peter Ortner – There are two issues: 1) The ship time request deadline issue and 2) The need to get better projections. We have yet to see how useful it will be for NSF to have a longer lead-time for ship time requests.
- Craig Lee – Switching all ship requests to one panel will have a chilling effect on ship demand.
- Bob Houtman – The Council has the ability to provide written recommendations. So you might want to provide additional input.
- Peter Ortner – We would like some feedback on the impact of going to one deadline. This topic will be included on the Fall Council Agenda

**Non-Operator Committee Preliminary Report for 2014 Fleet Operations** – Deb Steinberg provided the non-operator committee report. The committee includes Deb, Greg Cutter, and John Morrison. Deb’s slides are included as *Appendix IV*.

The main themes of the community response and committee considerations, so far are:

- Ship time request demand has actually been steady (at least since 2008)
- We need a better way of forecasting ship time demand, and possibly revert back to agencies reporting in September (after funding decisions made)
- Retirement of R/V *Point Sur*

A table with statistics forecasting ship time demand in the spring versus the fall compared to the actual ship day utilization is included in *Appendix IV*. When ship days were projected in the fall, the difference with the actual utilization is less than 20%. When the projection is in the spring, the difference rose to >30%.

In regard to *Point Sur*, its annual operating days have gone down. However concern has been expressed about taking the ship out of service years before the first new RCRV will go into service.

Discussion:

- Peter Ortner – When will the RCRV enter the fleet? Bob Houtman – If all goes as planned, the first ship will be delivered in 2019.
- Kenneth Coale – Are the responses posted on the UNOLS website? Peter Ortner – The responses have been delivered to the non-op committee.

- Debbie Smith – Did you want a consensus response from institutions, or ad hoc response? Deb Steinberg – The non-op committee is happy to hear from individuals or consensus response.
- Peter Ortner – Perhaps there should be another letter to the community that asks specific questions to help the non-op committee draft their responses.
- Clare Reimers – She senses the perception that unless some of the ship retirements happen, it could jeopardize the construction of the three RCRVs vessels. Bob Houtman – This is a misconception. The agencies are basing their decisions on utilization, science demand and geographic distribution.
- Wilf Gardner – Did the non-op committee get any feedback that without the *Point Sur*, the scientists would not be able to get their science accomplished? Deb Steinberg - They haven't received any specific comments like this. That is another question that could be asked. Is anyone planning major activity that needs a ship like *Point Sur*?
- Kenneth Coale (MLML) stated that he has a vested interest in the *Point Sur*, but wanted to make the following comments.
  - He just had a program funded to use *Point Sur* in 2014 and 2015 (two weeks a year) to collect fog samples using passive sampling gear. This is perfect work for a regional ship and the cost of a larger ship would not be justified. They need to go out in June and this is when ships are in heavy demand.
  - Without the *Point Sur*, the Fleet will lose its surge capacity.
  - We may be in a short-term budget oscillation and when things improve, this ship will be needed.
  - This is a year of great budget uncertainty. The sequester has made things very challenging. This Congress isn't in a good position to appropriate funds for three ships. Decommissioning *Point Sur* now would be a problem.
- John Morrison – The *Oceanus* could meet these needs, but would be too expensive.
- Wilf Gardner – Will the first RCRV replace *Oceanus*? Brian Midson – It should not be implied that the West Coast will be location of the first vessel.
- Peter Ortner – Does the non-op committee have time to send out a carefully worded letter requesting specific data? Deb Steinberg – UNOLS is required to respond to the agencies within 30 days of receiving the agency recommendations. If the non-op committee seeks additional feedback from the community the 30-day deadline will need to be extended. Rose Dufour – The agencies are willing to extend the deadline to September 1.
- Debbie Smith – Why does UNOLS have the policy that the committee be made up of non-op representatives? Peter Ortner – He agrees that it makes it tricky putting the burden on all of the non-op Council members. Debbie Smith – If the operators already have input why can't they be on the committee? Peter Ortner – This is something that can be revisited at the next meeting.

### Agency Reports:

**ONR** – Tim Schnoor reported that there is approximately 1300 days scheduled on the Navy-owned ships. *Thompson's* z-drives have been repaired. They have completed a lot of maintenance on the Navy vessels and now they are all supporting science operations.

The Navy use of UNOLS vessels bumped up a bit in 2013, but 2014 will be back to normal levels. Some of the Navy funded ship time is in international waters, including the Indian Ocean. As clearances are granted, there will be a better understanding of the transit days needed, but it takes a while to work these things out.

Tim is happy to report that they have always been able to find the funding support to get the planned Navy ship time to sea.

Full ship schedules will keep *Knorr* and *Melville* operational through the end of 2014. After removal from the UNOLS Fleet, the ships will likely see foreign military sale or transfer. Plans for these activities are underway.

Peter Ortner – By extending the ship schedules for *Knorr* and *Melville* until the end of 2014, did this impact the crew training and cross-decking for the new vessels? Tim – The ship operators say that they can cover everything.

**NOAA** – Tracy Miller provided the NOAA report. Her slides are included as *Appendix V*.

Jon Alberts welcomed Tracy to the group. She is replacing Ralph Rogers who retired.

Tracy reported on the FY 2014 budget projections. The OMAO base funding planned for 3,123 days at sea on 16 active ships. Base funding is also available for charters. OMAO is formulating a “worse case” budget scenario (FY13 Omnibus with 5% decline ~\$23.2M) for base funding. A chart showing the draft FY2014 Presidents Budget Fleet Allocation Plan is included in the slides.

In other news:

- *Ron Brown* departs on a 10 month deployment to Pacific, potentially working in the Pacific until 2016. She anticipates a lot more UNOLS charters in the Atlantic.
- There is a delayed delivery of about five months for FSV *Reuben Lasker* to NOAA by Marinette Marine Corp.
- NOAA Ship *Delaware II* was recently sold. It stopped operating in 2012. It was a long process getting her sold.
- NOAA is considering the AGOR Ocean Class of ships.

**Ocean Class AGOR Acquisition Status** – Mike Prince provided the report. His slides are included as *Appendix VI*. Mike’s status has now changed and he is officially a contractor for ONR.

Production continues at a good pace on both vessels. R/V *Neil Armstrong* (AGOR 27) is on schedule and R/V *Sally Ride* (AGOR 28) is about five weeks ahead. Factory acceptance tests are taking place for many major pieces of equipment. The launch of *Neil Armstrong* could take place as early as this December. *Sally Ride* launch is still planned for fall 2014. The Navy is working with DCI and the Operating Institutions on dates and plans for christening ceremonies. They are tentatively looking at March/April 2014 for *Neil Armstrong* and July/August 2014 for *Sally Ride*. Overall progress and quality of construction are very good. Support from WHOI and SIO contribute greatly to the success of the program.

The slides include some of the released ship construction images. The pilot house had internal mock-ups that were very helpful.

**Break**

**Global Class Mid-Life Refits** – Tim Schnoor provided the report and said that the plan is to do mid-life refits starting with the *Thompson*. They would like to extend the service life for each of the Navy-owned vessels. There is funding available for *Thompson*'s refit. UW has sent a proposal to ONR which has been awarded. The proposal is for detailed design, a six-month effort. The next opportunity for a shipyard will be after the 2014 field season. Navy is working to identify all of the AGOR mid-life refit needs. These will all be incorporated into the detail design. The service life extension mid-life refit is estimated to take 12 months to carry out. The Navy is sharing information with NOAA / *Ron Brown*.

**UNOLS Charter Review** – The current UNOLS Chart is posted at: <http://www.unols.org/info/ucharter.html>. Every three years a review is required. Peter Ortner reported that a small group including him, Dennis Nixon, and Dan Schwartz reviewed the Charter, but also relied on the Committee Chairs. There were very few if any changes to the Charter body. Annette displayed the proposed revisions to the Charter.

- Wilf Gardner – Why is an additional member added to SCOAR? Annette – This was suggested at the recent SCOAR meeting. Currently the SCOAR is a small group and the work load is increasing with growing interest in Unmanned Aerial Systems.
- Debbie Smith pointed out that there are some format inconsistencies.

It was agreed that UNOLS will reformat the Charter for consistency and then redistribute to the Council for one more review.

**Nominating Committee Report** – Craig Lee provided the Nominating Committee report. One non-operator position opens in 2013. A call for nominations was distributed earlier in the year. The Nominating Committee members, Craig Lee (Chair), Bruce Appelgate, and Lee Cooper drafted a slate from the nominations submitted. The draft slate includes three candidates:

- Jared Kluesner - University of California Santa Cruz (Marine Geologist)
- Scott Nooner – University of North Carolina, Wilmington (MG&G)
- Tammi Richardson – University of South Carolina (Biological Oceanography)

A motion was made and passed to endorse the slate (Lee/Gardner). The slate will be provided to the membership for vote in the fall.

#### **Academic Fleet Modernization Activities:**

**Regional Class Research Vessel (RCRV) Design and Construction Solicitation** – Brian Midson reported that the RCRV project refresh is proceeding. The science oversight committee is well represented. The Conceptual Design Review (CDR) will be in December. They will work to get approval so that they can move to the next phase. There are no changes in the project schedule. The vessel operator selection won't happen until after the number of vessels to be built is known.

**Sikuliaq Update** – Brian Midson reported that the project is a bit behind schedule, but still progressing. Builder's trials will take place in August and acceptance is in November 2013. The vessel must be through the locks by mid December. The ship will stop in WHOI, D.C., Puerto Rico, and Newport, OR on its way to Alaska.

Discussion:

- Bruce Appelgate – It would be nice if the ship could stop in San Diego. They could carry out trials with some of the specialized equipment. Rose Dufour - No stop is planned in California. She thinks that there might be a fuel issue with stopping in CA. Brian said that he would look into this.
- Clare Reimers – It might be better to do the coring trials off California as suggested by the Marine Techs. Working off OSU late in the year could be challenging.

### **NSF Report:**

Long Corer System – NSF plans to make phased investments in evaluating R/V *Langseth* for accepting the Long Core System. Peter Ortner provided a brief background into the *Langseth* situation. NSF requested UNOLS feedback regarding the option to install the Long Core System on the *Langseth*. UNOLS/FIC held a webinar and invited past and potential users of the Long Corer. After considerable review, UNOLS/FIC recommended that NSF not pursue continued investments to transition the Long Corer to the *Langseth*.

### Discussion:

- Rose Dufour – It might be premature to speak about the future of the Long Corer.
- Clare Reimers – There are concerns that NSF made the decision to over-rule the community recommendation. Everyone is looking for an explanation.
- Rose Dufour – UNOLS sent their recommendation to NSF, but there was no input from the Long Corer users. Clare – UNOLS then had a webinar with the users. The users were forewarned that the system would go away.
- Brian Midson – NSF will provide a more complete explanation that considers internal and external input as well as NSF’s capability to maintain a portfolio.
- Jim Holik – Lets wait until NSF has a statement.

NSF Decadal Review – Rose Dufour reported that there were about 300 nominations for committee members for the Decadal Review. The result of the review will be available in May 2015.

Ocean Observatories Initiative - Bob Houtman reported that there are multiple OOI installation cruises underway. On the down-side, problems have been experienced with the Regional Node main cable system isolation relays. They will not plug in the secondary nodes until this issue is resolved. This means that they won’t have data from the secondary node flowing for a while.

In other issues the Cyber Infrastructure (CI) is behind on the completion of Release 2. The goal was to have Release 2 in place before system deployments were planning. They are working on the issues and work-around options for Station Papa.

### Discussion:

Clare Reimers – The community is not submitting proposals for instruments. They don’t know how to do this.

Other NSF News– Bob Houtman encouraged everyone to read David Conover’s article in Making Waves. The infrastructure projects have had to absorb a 5% budget reduction in FY13. Rose, Jim, Matt and Brian are working these issues out. NSF is now working on the FY15 budget. NSF will create three budgets: 5%, 10%, and an NSF preferred budget (probably level or up).



**Interagency Working Group on Facilities (IWG-FI)** – Bob Houtman reported that:

- The IWG-FI completed their Federal Fleet Status Report. There is link to it on the UNOLS website.
- Bob Winokur retired in May 2013.
- Brian Midson is now on the IWG-FI Subcommittee for Unmanned Systems.

**UNOLS Annual meeting** - The dates and tentative locations for the UNOLS Meetings in October are:

- October 8<sup>th</sup> – Fleet Improvement Committee Meeting - U.S. Naval Observatory 3450 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Washington, DC
- October 9<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Inn Conference Room
  - AM – Council Meeting
  - PM – Annual Meeting
  - Evening Reception – Location TBD
- October 10<sup>th</sup> – Annual Meeting - Marymount University – Ballston Campus

Suggestions for a featured speaker are needed. This will be a topic for discussion on Day-2.

**1600 *Adjourn Day 1***

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### **UNOLS Council Meeting Day 2 - Friday, July 19, 2013**

**Call Day-2 of the Meeting:** Peter Ortner, UNOLS Chair, called Day-2 of the meeting to order.

**UNOLS Charter Review** – Debbie Smith sent the UNOLS Office grammatical corrections to the UNOLS Charter. Annette has incorporated the revisions and also reformatted each Annex so that they are in a more consistent format.

**UNOLS Membership Application Form** – Last year the Council recommended that the UNOLS Membership Application Form be updated to request additional information about the applicant’s organization. The additional information will be helpful to Council in future application reviews. Annette DeSilva drafted a new form and presented it to the Council.

Debbie Smith suggested one change; replace “Respectfully submitted” to “Submitted by.”

A motion was made to accept the new membership application form pending the incorporation of the suggested change (Schwartz/Coale). The motion passed.

Annette will send the Council for finalized Application Form for one last review.

### **Committee Nominations:**

**SCOAR Nomination** – The SCOAR nominates Rosanne Bailey (UAF) to fill one open position. The Council passed a motion to appoint Rosanne Bailey to SCOAR (Gardner/Coale).

DESSC nominations – The DESSC recommends the reappointment of Peter Girguis for a second term as DESSC Chair. Peter Ortner remarked that Pete has done an incredible job as DESSC Chair and he is very pleased that Pete is willing to stay on. The Council passed a motion to reappoint Peter Girguis as DESSC Chair (Gardner/Coale).

### **UNOLS 2012/2013 Goals:**

UNOLS Goal - To nurture the next generation of seagoing oceanographic scientists – Annette DeSilva provided an update on UNOLS Early Career Scientist activities. Her slides are included in *Appendix VII* and include details about the:

- Early Career Investigator Oceanographic Research Cruise Training Opportunity
- FIC Early Career Scientist (ECS) Workshop
- DESSC ECS Workshop
- MLSOC ECS Workshop
- EarthCube Workshop

Plans for the 2013 Chief Scientist Training Cruise are well underway. This program is lead by Clare Reimers and was supported by a Rapid Award (3-Year program). In 2011 there were two *Wecoma* cruise opportunities and in 2012 there was a cruise on *New Horizon*. The 2013 cruise will take place on *Endeavor* in mid-October. There were 44 applicants for the opportunity.

Clare Reimers reported that the final group has been selected for the 2013 cruise and there are 2 co-chief scientists. Bill Fanning (URI) is working with Clare to organize the cruise. A cruise track has been planned. A variety of institutions are represented by the science party. An orientation for the participants will be held on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. Clare has extended an invitation to Rose Dufour and Tim Schnoor.

Clare opened a discussion on the future of the Chief Scientist Training program. This is the last year of Clare's 3-year grant. Clare has been contacted by Mike Prince who has suggested bringing the program to MLML and using the *Point Sur*.

- Kenneth Coale – MLML is putting together plans for two cruises. The faculty is supportive of the program. One cruise would be modeled after Clare's program. The proposal has not been submitted yet. The cruise would focus on coastal processes and use of Regional vessels.
- Clare said that she is happy to hear that another group has expressed interest in continuing the program.
- Rose Dufour thanked Clare for organizing and running the Chief Scientist Training program.

The Fleet Improvement Committee is organizing an Early Career Scientist Program that will coincide with the UNOLS Annual meeting. The opportunity would be for participants of the 2011 and 2012 Chief Scientist Training Cruises. Applications are due August 1, 2013 with selection by August 15<sup>th</sup>. The participants will have time to introduce themselves at the UNOLS meeting, present a poster at the evening reception, and meet NSF and ONR Program Officers.

DESSC conducted Early Career Scientist Workshops in December 2011 and 2012. There were approximately 30 participants at each workshop. A workshop is tentatively planned for December 2013. We have already seen some outcomes from these workshops. Early Career Deep Submergence scientists are submitting proposals. Early Career Scientist, Jeff Marlow, has

organized an Ocean Interest Group for past workshop participants. They will have webinars. The first webinar is planned for July 24<sup>th</sup> with Sylvia Earle as the speaker.

MLSOC also is coordinating Early Career activities. There was Early Career Scientist participation at the December 2012 MLSOC Meeting. A workshop is planned for December 2013 that will mirror the DESSC workshop.

Annette reported on the EarthCube Workshop, Deep Seafloor Processes and Dynamics Community Workshop, held on June 5-7, 2013 at URI/GSO. The workshop was attended by about 50 participants with a strong Early Career Scientist (ECS) component. On the final day, there was a break-out session for ECS. They were asked to provide feedback and EarthCube recommendations. The group prepared the following list of limitations and potential solutions:

#### Limitations:

- Supply (PhD's) exceeds demand (jobs)
- Funding rate is low, particularly for early career
- Ship-time is limited; Field excursions are expensive
- Once landing a Tenure Track (TT) position, start-up budget is relatively small
- Because of a low hiring rate, there will be fewer TT positions for early career scientists, therefore efficiency will need to increase
- Insufficient integration of early-career scientists with established network

#### Solutions:

- Data that is deposited in individual databases is often inaccessible or rarely updated (e.g., InterRidge, IODP), EC can provide a single data discovery portal or platform
- EarthCube can facilitate the use of well-documented data that has been collected to continue to publish during the first years of a TT position
- EarthCube can provide access to data and collaborations during gaps in academia
- Encourage collaboration and 'zigzagging' between sectors
- Encourage integration of early-career scientists with established network
- Focus has been on data collection, not data processing or programming. Computer literacy is lacking in our training.
  - Short courses or summer institutes are needed
  - Adopt newer programming paradigms
- Credit for data produced for all scientists involved
  - Same model as papers with authorship ranking

Karyn Rogers was one of the co-organizers of the EarthCube Workshop and she participated in the DESSC Early Career Workshops. She did an outstanding job organizing the meeting.

Peter Ortner – These early career activities are very important and should continue to be supported.

UNOLS Goal - To develop and implement a systematic and transparent process (or processes) to facilitate our agency sponsors in responding to the changing realities both in ocean science and the U.S. economy/federal budgets specifically addressing the difficult tradeoffs that almost certainly will need to be made – Peter Ortner opened the discussion:

- Peter Ortner – UNOLS has been engaged in these activities. Recent examples include:

- UNOLS feedback regarding continuation of the UNOLS Office at URI with a smaller budget.
- The Long Core recommendation provided by UNOLS.
- UNOLS endorsement of an NSF Decadal Study.
- During yesterday's session there was discussion on the optimal time for forecasting ship time levels. We also heard the NSF recommendation (but not mandatory requirement) to submit ship time for the August deadline. Peter would like to have a subcommittee to draft a recommendation for NSF. Volunteers should respond by email.
- Rose Dufour recommended that we wait until after the August deadline so that we will know better how the recommended deadline might (or might not) impact ship time demand. Peter Ortner – He agrees that UNOLS should wait until a few months after the August deadline.
- Clare Reimers – She sees it as unsettling that UNOLS cannot be kept in the loop on topics such as NSF's decision regarding the Long Corer System and *Langseth*. Jim Holik – Things are in transition at NSF and internally they are not in the loop themselves.
- Bruce Appelgate – It could be useful if NSF communicated some of the transition options so that community feedback could be taken into effect now as decisions are being made.
- Rose Dufour – Ships are just one item in the mix of NSF issues. It would be good to get community input, but we haven't seen the outcome of shifting the ship time deadline. The budget hasn't changed; the new deadline is simply to give a longer timeline for cruise planning, scheduling and timelines.
- Craig Lee – The community is concerned that the ship time would be competing for half the funds during one proposal deadline.
- Rose Dufour – She recommended that everyone revisit David Conover's letter; however she agrees that we need to do something about correcting the perception.
- Matt Hawkins – Has UNOLS submitted concerns and questions to NSF formally? Maybe it would be better if the community/UNOLS put these concerns together and submit them to David for response.
- Clare – Everyone reads the NSF newsletter. Can UNOLS submit topics for the NSF Newsletter? Rose Dufour – UNOLS can submit topics for David Conover's review/consideration. However, the timing of the newsletter release is uncertain, they tend to run late.
- Matt Hawkins – He feels that it would be best to send specific questions to David Conover. Peter Ortner said that he would follow-up by email with sub committee volunteers.

UNOLS 2014 Goal - Peter Ortner asked the Council for suggestions for a new goal for 2014? It would be presented to the Membership at the Annual Meeting. Debbie Smith suggested that UNOLS implement a process for communicating with the scientific community. Peter – asked Debbie to come up with a statement and provide it to the UNOLS Office.

Bruce Corliss asked about the status of UNOLS Coastal/Local vessels. There is still the need for coastal vessels and infrastructure. Clare – This topic was discussed by FIC and is still an action item.

### **The Status of UNOLS On-Going Activities, Issues, and Items of Council Interest:**

**UNOLS Vessel Usage Survey** – Debbie Smith made a presentation at the last Council Meeting. The UNOLS Vessel Usage Survey results are posted on the UNOLS web site at: [http://www.unols.org/info/2013\\_Vessel\\_Usage\\_Presentation.pdf](http://www.unols.org/info/2013_Vessel_Usage_Presentation.pdf).

- Debbie stated that we need to tell the community what we are doing with the survey results.

- Peter Ortner – When we initiated the survey, it was stated that the decline can be expected to continue into the future. Well as it turns out, the decline from 2008 forward goes away. Demand is constant.
- Debbie Smith – People really believe that ship time proposals do not get the same success rate as other proposals. Peter Ortner – The agencies continue to say that is not the case.
- Debbie Smith – Should we prepare an EOS article?
- Wilf Gardner – Lets wait a couple of months to see how things change within NSF.
- Rose Dufour – There is a final report of an internal NSF study that might provide data on proposal success rates. She will try to obtain data that is cleared for release.
- Wilf Gardner – Bob Duce published an EOS article about proposal pressure and related myths. The article states that ship time does not impact proposal success rates. Debbie Smith wonders if the data from the Duce report was influenced by the Stimulus funds.

**Post Cruise Assessment Report (PCAR) Subcommittee Report on current activities** – Jon Alberts provided the report. His slides are included in *Appendix VII*.

The current PCAR Subcommittee membership includes Wilf Gardner (TAMU) Chair, Joe Malbrough (LUMCON), and Scott Ferguson (Univ. of Hawaii). They had a phone meeting on June 28, 2013. A review of the PCARs for R/V *Savannah*, *Atlantic Explorer*, and *Point Sur* was conducted. They focused the review of the 2012 post cruises reports on identifying trends, strengths, and any possible issues that need to be addressed. There was a drop by 25 % for Captain and Ch. Scientist in overall fleet rate of return of PCAR reports. Techs reports dropped by 10%.

Jon showed a chart with the Fleet rate of submittals of the PCAR from 1999 to 2012 and another chart with statistics by ship for 2012.

- David Fisichella – With internet at sea, we should encourage the scientists to complete the form on the way into port.
- Debbie Smith – She has been on two cruises and hasn't been approached to fill it out the form.
- David Fisichella – At WHOI, they have the policy of sending a chief scientist a reminder to complete the form. The facilities director calls each chief scientist to follow-up on PCAR issues.

Jon displayed additional charts with statistics on the feedback received from the PCARs.

**Federal Fleet Scheduling Portal** – Jon Alberts provided the report. Details are included in *Appendix VII*. UNOLS was requested by the Interagency Working Group on Facilities and Infrastructure, (IWG-FI) to develop a federal fleet ship schedule portal. The portal development was funded by NSF, ONR, and NOAA. The Portal will expand the scheduling information available to the scientific community beyond the UNOLS Fleet. It is designed to display existing federal research ship schedules from participant agencies/organization that initially will include UNOLS, NOAA, EPA, USAP, and USCG. Quotes to develop the Portal have been received from programmers and a consultant has been chosen. The project should begin in August and take six months to complete.

**Gender Climate at Sea** – Jon Alberts reported that a film has been produced by Maritime Training Services-[www.maritimetraining.com](http://www.maritimetraining.com)

“Sexual Harassment Prevention - For the Maritime Industry” and was released June 2013. Jon was interviewed for the film. Thanks are extended to:

- Doug Russell, Bill Rall, and the crew of R/V *Thompson*
- Joe Malbrough and the crew of R/V *Pelican*
- Kenneth Coale/ MLML for guidance and encouragement
- NSF and ONR for funding the pilot program and for use of ships for filming

Community feedback to the video is included in *Appendix VII*.

The video costs \$250/copy.

Craig Lee – A standard chain of command for reporting incidences of harassment is needed and should be provided to the science party and crew. Jon Alberts – The safety committee should be asked to address this.

**Research Vessel Safety Orientation Video** – Jon Alberts provided an update on procurement of a new safety orientation video. NSF and ONR have provided funds for a new video. John Sabella has been selected as the vendor and he has 30 years experience in the business. HighDef video footage from the UNOLS vessels is requested for inclusion in the Safety Video. The video will be 20 minutes in length and will address survival, drills, etc. The project should be complete in 3-4 months. John Sabella is located in Port Townsend, WA.

**Heightened Security- Password Protected Ship Schedules** - Earlier in the year ONR requested that the Navy owned vessels have secure schedules. NSF has followed with the same request for their vessels. The public will now only see limited scheduling data for the UNOLS Fleet. To see the full ship schedule, individuals can request the common username and password that will provide access to the published scheduled. The secure schedules have impacted our outreach efforts, but the UNOLS Office is working to assist individuals or groups who require detailed ship schedules.

**UNOLS Membership Status and Dues** – Jon Alberts has contacted UNOLS Members who have not paid their dues in the past year or more. University of Wisconsin at Superior has dropped their membership. We might also lose another member. However, Penn State was added as a member this year and there is interest from another institution.

**Update on UNOLS meetings with NOAA, NSF, and Navy** - Peter Ortner reported that he met with NOAA, NSF, and Navy reps during the RVOC Meeting in Solomons Is, MD. They discussed the UNOLS budget. The group plans to meet again at the Annual meeting.

**UNOLS Greening the Research Fleet Initiative** – Bruce Corliss gave an overview of activities at the last Council Meeting and he reported that he will give another update in the fall. Plans are underway for a Green workshop focusing on the maritime industry in RI and will include recreational vessels.

At the Annual Meeting, Bruce will report on the environmental sustainability issues under consideration.

There is a Global GreenShip Conference on Sept 24-25 in DC. It is a meeting of commercial operators but might be of interest. Annette will post the link to the conference on the UNOLS webpage.

**UNOLS and Tele-presence** – Annette DeSilva reported on the 2013 Telepresence/UNOLS Pilot Program. Her slides are included in *Appendix VII*. The telepresence capability was selected for two *Atlantis* cruises (PIs Toomey and Fisher). Both cruises included *Jason* operations. Images of the installation on *Atlantis* are included in the slides. The live feeds from the cruise are available on <[explorationnow.org/atlantis](http://explorationnow.org/atlantis)>. After the cruises there will be Post Cruise Debrief process with the PIs. Lesson learned from the pilot program will be compiled.

**New UNOLS Website** – Annette DeSilva reported that as soon as funding is awarded UNOLS will move forward with the new website development.

**UNOLS Speaker Series: Progress Report** – Annette DeSilva reported on the status of the UNOLS Speaker Series. The speaker series was established to highlight UNOLS ships and oceanographic research and to serve as an outreach activity to non-UNOLS colleges and universities, with particular attention given to institutions with under-represented minorities in the marine sciences. The Regional Coordinators include:

- Great Lakes: Doug Ricketts (Univ. of Minn.)
- Northwest: Bob Collier (OSU)
- Southwest: Bruce Applegate (SIO)
- Northeast: Mary Jane Perry (Univ. of Maine)
- Southeast: Peter Ortner (RSMAS)
- Gulf Coast: Vernon Asper (Univ. of Southern Miss.)
- Hawaii: Marcie Grabowski (Univ. of Hawaii)
- Alaska: Terry Whitley (Univ. of Alaska)

Lectures have been conducted and more are planned. SCOAR members are willing to provide input to Regional coordinators to highlight aircraft capabilities. An additional speaker was recruited for the Northeast region, Tom Wilson (SUNY). Tom has been giving lectures for years. The next phone meeting is planned for August.

**Risk Mitigation and a Possible Pool for Over-the-Side Insurance** – David Fisichella has suggested that we invite an insurance agent and underwriter to the fall Council meeting. WHOI's agents have suggested that UNOLS institutions pool over-the-side insurance to lower costs. They are willing to speak to the Council.

As an action item, David was asked to follow-up and plan for a presentation at the Fall Council meeting.

**Break**

**Committee Activities and Issues requiring Council Attention:**

**Fleet Improvement Committee (FIC)** – Clare Reimers reported that an outline and assignments have been made for the Fleet Improvement Plan update.

**Ocean Observing Science Committee (OOSC)** – Larry Atkinson prepared an OOSC report. His slides are included as *Appendix VIII*. The report include an OOI update:

- Station Papa hardware is enroute to site now for installation
- UW is installing secondary cables and nodes and power on RCN. This is in acceptance phase.
- Cyberinfrastructure is behind schedule with ‘issues’. They are apparently hosting webinars
- Irminger Sea community is organizing a workshop
- An OOSC workshop in 2014 is welcome by NSF.
- OOI Installation Schedule – things have been pushed into 2014 and 2015

Discussion:

- Wilf Gardner expressed some concern with OOI. There is community concern over OOI data quality. There is also a disconnect between OOI and program officers. The program officers have expressed a lack of enthusiasm for supporting OOI science
- Annette – OOSC has made NSF aware of these concerns.

**Research Vessel Operators' Committee (RVOC)** – Joe Malbrough provided the RVOC report. His slides are included as *Appendix IX*.

The RVOC 2013 meeting was hosted by U. Maryland’s Chesapeake Marine Laboratory and was well attended by 62 participants. Doug Russell (UW) was elected as the next RVOC Chair. Joe Malbrough’s term will expire in September 2013.

There have been a few RVOC group purchases:

- Maximum Capability Document- going well
- Bridge Watch Alarms-first phase completed
- Markey Desh 5 winch upgrades
- Glosten Ship Stability Program completed

The Safety Committee has been busy. Two new members have been added, Michael Hulme (CBL) and Richard Behn (RSMAS). The Research Vessel Safety Standards is being review by committee members. The RVOC Training Manual Chapter 1 will be replaced with a more vessel specific document.

The 2014 RVOC meeting will be held at Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, Savannah.

**Research Vessel Technical Enhancement Committee (RVTEC)** – Dave Fisichella reported that the Committee is starting to look into long-term plans for satellite communication.

The 2013 RVTEC meeting will be held during the week of Nov 18<sup>th</sup> at TAMU. Wilf Gardner has been instrumental in helping plan the venue. They wanted to hold the meeting at a non-operator institution and get new participants.

We are in the planning stages of the 2014 INMARTECH Symposium which will be hosted by OSU and NOAA at OSU.

- Peter Ortner – Will NOAA provide facility tours and support? Annette – There will be a one-day field trip to Newport. Not sure about financial support



**Marcus Langseth Science Oversight Committee (MLSOC)** – Jon Alberts provided the report. Dale Sawyer, the MLSOC Chair, is at sea on the Langseth. When he returns they will begin plans for an Early Career Workshop in December.

**Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee (AICC)** – Peter Ortner reported that he worked with AICC in addressing the berthing situation on *Healy*. A solution has been reached. Lee Cooper put a lot of time into this.

Jon Alberts added that *Healy* is getting a lot of requests from various groups, which may impact the allocation of science bunks.

**Scientific Committee for Oceanographic Aircraft Research (SCOAR)** – Dan Schwartz provided the SCOAR report. His slides are included as *Appendix X*. SCOAR held a meeting on 27-28 June 2013 hosted by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Some of their action items include:

- UAS/Vessel integration
- Draft Best Practices/RVSS
- Add a Committee member
- Carry out technology demonstrations

Scripps Institution of Oceanography has been suggested as the venue for the 2014 meeting.

**Deep Submergence Science Committee (DESSC)** – Annette reported that much of DESSC's activities this year have been focused on plans for the Science Verification Cruise and early career scientist activities. Another focus area has been on data management. DESSC member, Vicki Ferrini, is working on this action with Scott McCue.

**Annual Meeting Featured Speakers** – The Council discussed suggestions for featured speakers.

Bruce Corliss suggested Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (RI) as he introduced the Bill for the National Endowment for the oceans. He would give an interesting talk.

Other suggestions:

- Dan Walsh
- A leader involved in the Gulf of Mexico and Rapid Response.
- Rita Colwell

Council members indicated that a talk by Senator Whitehouse would be timely and they were in favor of contacting him. Bruce Corliss offered to contact Senator Whitehouse.

***The Meeting adjourned at 1605.***