

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: UNOLS Fleet Improvement Committee MEETING  
POSTPONED  
POSTED: October 4, 2013**

Dear UNOLS Community,

Due to the U.S. Government shutdown and the uncertainty as to when the current impasse will be resolved, we feel it is prudent to postpone the UNOLS FIC, Council and Annual meetings which had been scheduled for October 8-10, 2013 before any additional costs are incurred and individuals further inconvenienced. Without key federal agency representatives many of whom are on furlough, we will be unable to accomplish many of our objectives. We will endeavor to reschedule the FIC, Council, and Annual Meeting until a later date to be announced when arrangements can be finalized. Because pressing issues confront our community we will arrange web conferences for the Council and the Fleet Improvement Committee as soon as possible.

We will endeavor to cancel the block of hotel rooms reserved for UNOLS at the Holiday Inn in Arlington but those of you who booked on your own rooms therein or elsewhere will have to cancel individually. Flights will also have to be cancelled individually. For travelers supported by UNOLS, instructions for cost reimbursements associated with this cancellation will be provided as soon as possible. We sincerely regret any inconvenience or expense this has occasioned and we appreciate your patience and understanding.

**Flight Reservations** - Flights should be cancelled as soon as possible and before your scheduled departure. For non-refundable tickets, airlines will typically apply a credit for the cost of the ticket on a future flight (plus change fees). We suggest that you ask your airline if they will waive the change fee due to circumstances outside of your control.

**Hotel Reservations** - The UNOLS Office will contact the Holiday Inn to cancel the block of rooms. However, you are encouraged to also cancel the reservation at the Holiday Inn 72 hours before your scheduled arrival to ensure that your credit card will not be charged.

**Please contact the UNOLS Office with any questions.**

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***Tentative Agenda***  
**UNOLS FLEET IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Washington, D.C.**

**0830** *Coffee and Pastries*

**0900** **Call the Meeting:** Clare Reimers, FIC Chair, will call the meeting to order and provide an opportunity for introductions.

**0915** **Opportunity for Agency Comments**

**0930** **Ship Design, Construction, Acquisition, and Refit Activities:**

- **Ship Construction Projects:** Full reports on federal construction efforts will be provided during the Annual Meeting on October 23-24. However, Agency representatives and FIC

meeting participants are welcome to discuss any issues or questions regarding the following efforts:

- Regional Class Research Vessel (RCRV) (10 minutes)
- RV *Sikuliaq* (10 minutes)
- Ocean Class Research Vessel (OCRV) – R/V *Neal Armstrong* and R/V *Sally Ride* (10 minutes) – Mike Prince
- **R/V Barnes Replacement Plans** – Doug Russell (10 minutes)
- **Mid-Life Refit Plans for *Thompson, Revelle, and Atlantis*** (and status of the Thompson Z-Drive Repairs) (10 minutes) – Tim Schnoor and Doug Russell

**1020 Break**

**1035 R/V Langseth & MLSOC/FIC Liaison Report** - Sandy Shor

**1050 New Technologies and System Evaluations:**

- **Long-Coring System** - Status of NSF repositioning plan to R/V *Langseth* - Bob Houtman
- **Load Handling Systems (LHS)** – Updates on new LHS in or planned for the Fleet

**1115 FIC Early Career Investigator Programs:**

- **Chief Scientist Cruise Training Program** – Clare Reimers
- **Early Career Scientist Program at UNOLS Annual Meeting** – Miles Sundermeyer

**1135 Vessel Optimal Usage Definitions** – FIC was requested to define optimal windows of usage for ships by class rather than single fixed number of days. FIC and UNOLS Office developed a survey for operator feedback to arrive at ranges for optimal usage estimates.

- Survey results – Annette DeSilva
- Discussion

**1155 Review Fleet Projected Service Life End Dates** – Clare Reimers

- Point Sur Status – Bob Houtman

**1210 Autonomous System Requirements** - FIC is tasked to integrate autonomous systems requirements into SMR documents so these needs are fully considered in future ship designs, and operations. Effort needs to be linked to improved communication systems. Form a subcommittee?

**1225 Lunch**

**1310 Coastal/Local Vessel Class Evaluation**– FIC has been tasked to evaluate a new class of coastal vessel concept and propose a systematical approach for replacement of the aging Local class of ships. Also, FIC is requested to evaluate how the Local Class fits into the UNOLS fleet renewal plan.

- Subcommittee (Al Devol, Sandy Shor, Greg Cutter, and Clare Reimers) recommendations for committee consideration.
- Discussion

**1320 Fleet Improvement Plan (FIP):**

- Review Status of Assignments – Clare Reimers
- Review Format Options – Annette DeSilva
- *15-minute Break*
- Discussion on Draft Material
- Timeline Check – Clare Reimers

**1545 Other Business**

- FIC Membership Status and Vote – Applications have been received for one open position. FIC vote.
- FIC Guest Speakers – Identify special topics and speakers of interest.
- Opportunity for Additional Reports

**1600 Review FIC Action Items and Assignments** (Clare Reimers)

**1610 Adjourn**

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**1620 FIC Executive/Working Session** – The remainder of the day is reserved for FIC members to address tasks and follow-up on activities addressed early in the day. Participation by FIC members only is requested.

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