

# AICC Chair (Lee Cooper) Report

Provided by Jon Alberts at UNOLS  
Council Meeting, March 13, 2014,  
Arlington Virginia

# Meeting, January 14-15, 2014

## Arlington Virginia

- \* Review of 2013 Activities
- \* First teleconference meeting, June 2013
- \* National Ice Center participation on Healy cruises
- \* Risks for using Barrow as science team transfer point
- \* Icefloe website improvements
- \* Healy photolab conversion
- \* CTD operations
- \* Continuous samplers
- \* Agency, STARC and Coast Guard reports

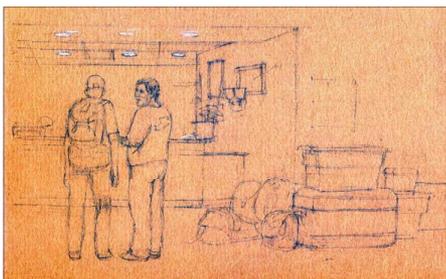
# New Berthing Policy on Healy

- \* Gives guidelines for how to accommodate scientists, artists, writers, teachers, news media and others on a not-to-interfere basis with funded deployments
- \* Separate from funded science party decisions to accommodate science party members that are not critical to the funded mission
- \* Policy posted on [icefloe.net](http://icefloe.net)
- \* Application to join ship also on [icefloe.net](http://icefloe.net)

# USCG Artist in Residence

## Artist's Sketchbook U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Healy's Deployment to the Chukchi Sea July 29—August 15, 2013 Drawings and text by Bob Selby

From July 29 to August 15, 2013, Coast Guard Cutter Healy, the service's largest ice breaker and research vessel, deployed to the Arctic Ocean under Capt. John Reeves with 44 scientists aboard. Under the aegis of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Healy scientists probed the water column and ocean floor in order to establish a basic understanding of the Chukchi Sea ecosystem. With a grant from Champlain College in Burlington, Vt., where he teaches, Coast Guard artist Bob Selby was able to arrange a trip to the Healy to be aboard the cutter during this deployment. His sketches provide vivid portraits of the cutter's crew and scientists' daily life aboard the ship.

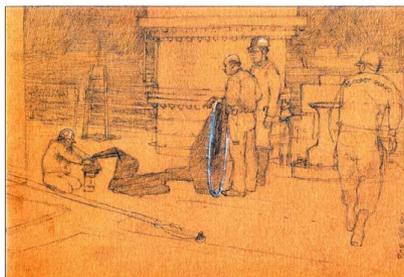


### Stress

The lobby of the Grand Aleutian hotel in Dutch Harbor, Alaska, is stacked with baggage and gear for scientists preparing to ship out on the USCGC Healy, an ice breaker that doubles as a research vessel. On our last evening before shoving off, chief scientist Lee Cooper and a colleague are more concerned with what's not here. The tiny airline that serves this island lost twenty pieces of luggage. Subsequent flights produced only some of the missing bags, delaying departure for the Healy and sending harried scientists scrambling around the village for boots, sweatshirts and underwear. Logo wear for Dutch Harbor, Alaska becomes ubiquitous aboard ship.

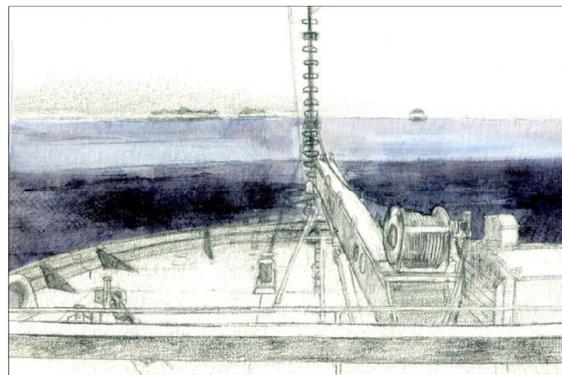
### Preparation

Although the first day aboard the Healy is spent in harbor, the day is a busy one for the 44 scientists and the Coast Guard personnel charged with their support. As the crew sorts out berthing details and prepares for sailing, the scientists prepare for 15 days of research in the Arctic Sea. On the Healy's fantail, a Ring Net sprawls out as Dr. Philip Alatalo of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute directs Heather McEachen of the University of Alaska at Fairbanks and Stephen Elliott, a Coast Guard officer currently completing his Masters in oceanography in the assembly. The net will be used to gather zooplankton specimens for later study.



### Underway

At the center, Lt. Cmdr. Jacob Cass directs the operation on the Healy's bridge. After frustrating delays caused by missing luggage, the July research cruise to the Arctic has begun. A barge anchored nearby makes it tricky to get out of our parking spot, but we edge out smoothly as we exit Dutch Harbor and set our course for the Arctic Circle. Between orientation sessions and safety drills on the flight deck, the scientists prepare the labs and conduct whale and wild life watches. Crew and scientists alike seem excited to be under way at last.



### Sailing the line

Thursday, the first of August. Our first glimpse of Big and Little Diomed islands occurs in fair weather with good visibility. A ribbon of mist graces the rocky escarpments as we approach on seas smooth as glass. Big Diomed on the left is Russia. Little Diomed on the right is the United States. Further to the east we can make out mainland Siberia. The International Date Line makes an odd jog here in order to parse the strait between the islands precisely so we are, in effect, sailing the line between today and tomorrow. At Little Diomed we tack into American waters and pause. In the light of the midnight sun, the scientists and crew test the winches and apparatus before sailing on to our first station.

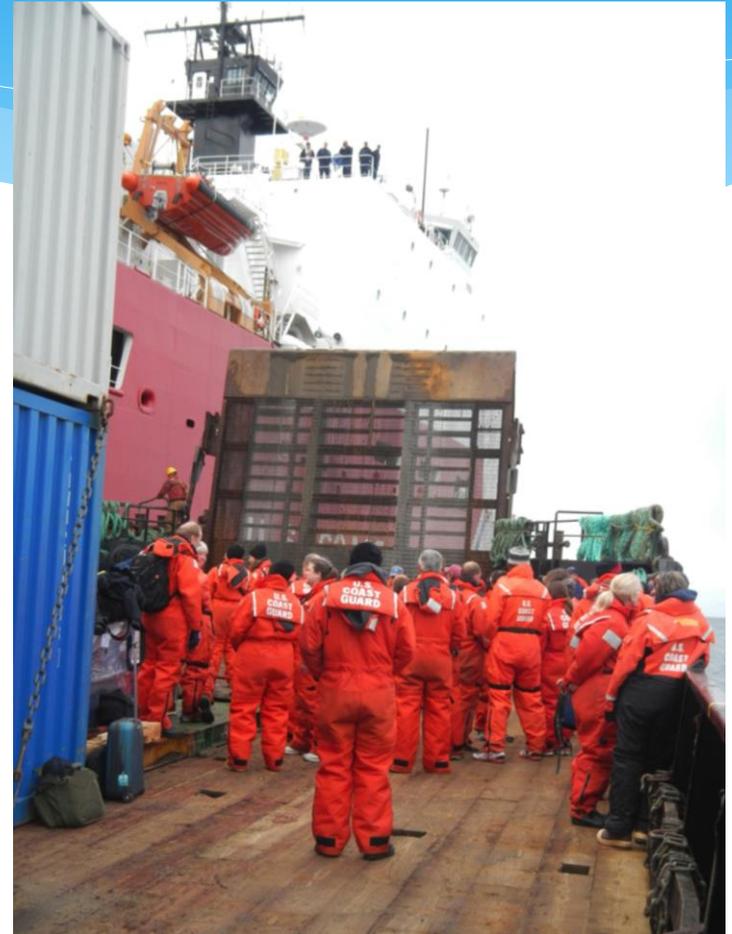
# Commissioned Painting by Bob Selby



# Healy Cruises

All three Healy research cruises in 2013 undertook work in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas; one was supported by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and two by NSF. A fourth short cruise for demonstrating unmanned aircraft systems and unmanned underwater vehicles for oil spill applications, was supported by the Coast Guard, NOAA, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, and the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology unit. Photos show barge offload at Barrow between HLY 1301 and 1302

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# Polar Star

- \* Deployment to Antarctica for Operation Deep Freeze at McMurdo
- \* High visibility deployment in news media due to challenges incurred by other icebreakers
- \* Polar Star was asked to assist, but was not ultimately necessary

# Issues Addressed During and Since Last Meeting

- \* Mapserver software on Healy
- \* 2013 Cruises De-briefs
- \* Mid-life re-fit of Healy will remove it from service for one field season, year not set yet
- \* Improvements to science berthing
- \* Lab bench re-configuration on Healy approved
- \* Concerns expressed by Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission about May-June cruise, 2014
- \* Two NSF-funded cruises in 2014; Coast Guard and other agencyfunded oil spill funded contingency planning cruise