

NSF Coring Workshop

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“RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SEDIMENT CORING ON UNOLS VESSELS”

Workshop to evaluate the state of long sediment coring in the UNOLS fleet

Make recommendations to the National Science Foundation (NSF) about the facilities needed to sustain the highest quality science based on ocean sediment cores.

Attendees list has been compiled to achieve a balance among gender, seniority, geography, coring experience, and scientific interest.

To be held at the NSF with NSF personnel, and representatives of other organizations such as the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Office of Naval Research.

This workshop is prompted by several recent events, including the retirement of two Global Class research vessels, the recent or imminent delivery to the fleet of three new Ocean Class research vessels, and the recent release of the “Decadal Survey of Ocean Sciences” (DSOS) report. This report concludes that, in a time of declining or level funding, the best way to realign core science spending with respect to facilities spending within NSF’s Ocean Sciences Division is to make cuts to major facilities, including research vessels. Yet at the same time, it is expected that the new Ocean Class vessels will need some expensive modifications to make it possible to safely launch and recover sediment cores of at least 20 m length.

The workshop will focus on two main issues: the science priorities the participants envision for the next decade and beyond, and issues involved with long sediment coring from UNOLS vessels needed to carry out those priorities.