



University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System ~UNOLS~

**Research Vessel Technical Enhancement
Committee (RVTEC) Meeting
November 3-5, 2015**





UNOLS Chair at the North Pole

U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Reaches North Pole



The Coast Guard Cutter Healy's crew poses in front of the cutter after reaching the North Pole September 6.

By [MarEx](#) 2015-09-08 19:14:07



UNOLS Fleet News – Vessel Retirements

- R/V *Knorr* – December 2014
- R/V *Melville* - Retirement ceremony held February 21, 2015
- R/V *Point Sur* - Sold to University of Southern Mississippi & departed Moss Landing March 5, 2015
- *New Horizon* retired in 2015





UNOLS Fleet News - Design and Construction activities

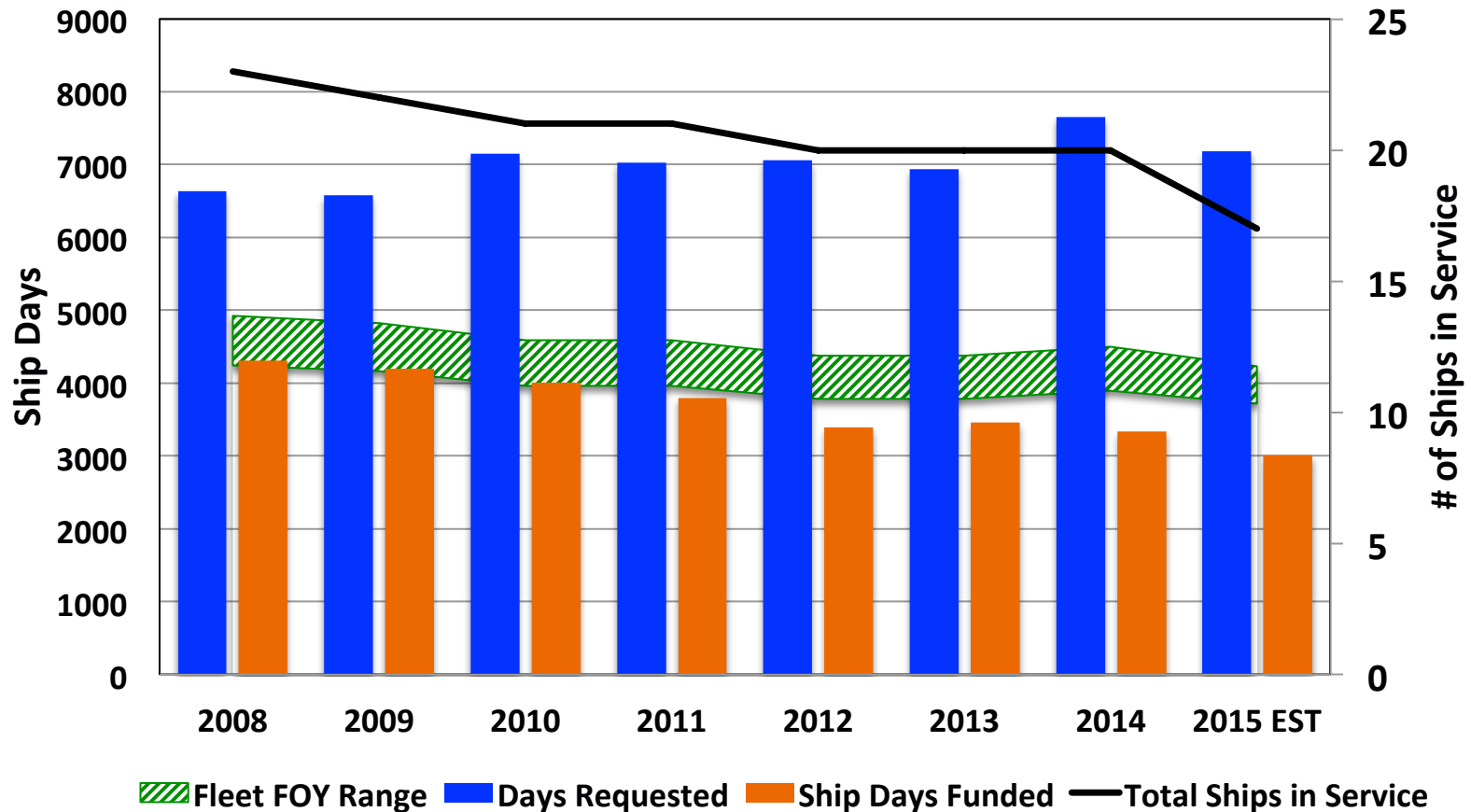
- **Sikuliaq entered service in fall 2014**
- **Two new Ocean Class Ships:** R/V *Neil Armstrong* (WHOI) and R/V *Sally Ride* (SIO) will enter UNOLS service in 2016
- **Regional Class Research Vessels**
 - Sea Change Report recommended 2 vessels be built.
 - Operator selection is planned for mid-2017.
 - First ship enters service in 2021





UNOLS Fleet Utilization

UNOLS Fleet Utilization and Ship Demand





Medical Questions/Medical History Form/Pregnancy at Sea

- **Issues:**

- In May-July 2015, the UNOLS office has received e-mails and comments from the community that the policies regarding pregnant women as members of cruise science parties could be more clearly stated and readily accessible.
- The UNOLS Council also considered a relevant article published in Oceanography magazine: (http://www.tos.org/oceanography/archive/27-4_supp_orcutt.pdf.)
- Questions were also raised on the accommodations that UNOLS vessels provided for nursing mothers.
- Questions about the types of protected personal information on medical history forms have also been asked.



Medical Questions/Medical History Form/Pregnancy at Sea

- UNOLS strives to provide clear policy information on all these issues with an aim toward promoting a safe and friendly work environment on all ships in the fleet. Presently UNOLS has taken the approach that these various policies are best determined at the institutional level however UNOLS can make suggestions to improve and better communicate this process.



Medical Questions/Medical History Form/Pregnancy at Sea

- An ad hoc committee of UNOLS Council members has been created to evaluate these issues and provide recommendations that will help to resolve them.
- **Committee Members:**
 - Debbie Steinberg/VIMS
 - Clare Reimers/OSU
 - Scott Ferguson/UH
 - Bruce Appelgate/SIO
 - Jon Alberts/UNOLS Office (facilitator)



New Publications

- **Reissue of Research Vessel Safety Standards (RVSS)**
https://www.unols.org/sites/default/files/RVSS_Edition_10_July2015.pdf
- Changes made since last revision:
 - Appendix A: Revised: UNOLS Rope and Cable Safe Working Load Standards
 - Appendix B: Added UNOLS Overboard Load Handling Systems Design
 - Chapter 19: Added Ship-based Aircraft Operations
 - Extensive review and update of references and content throughout the RVSS
- **Eos Project Update:** Dr. Debbie Smith of WHOI recently authored an article describing UNOLS' history and future, explaining the importance of our consortium and detailing ways for the scientific community to get involved.





Chief Scientist Training Cruises: 2015 & 2016

- *Blue Heron* – August 24th to August 29th, 2015 - Doug Ricketts/UMN
 - Included a 3-day NSF funded cruise on Lake Superior.



- R/V *Hugh Sharp*- November 15-21, 2015- Mark Moline/UDEL
 - ONR 2 days funding & NSF 5 days funding
- R/V *Thompson* - February 11 – 20, 2016 – Al Devol and Evelyn Lessard /UW
 - 7 day cruise starting in San Diego
 - Deadline, November 30th.





UNOLS Meetings and Workshops

Nov 8-13	Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) 2015, Portland, OR Workshop: <i>“New Research Vessel Infrastructure for Estuarine and Coastal Science”</i> Clare Reimers/OSU, Doug Russell/UW, & Alberts & DeSilva/UNOLS
Dec 1-3	Workboat Show, UNOLS Booth – New Orleans, LA
Dec 2-4	FIC, Council, and UNOLS Annual Meetings, Arlington, VA – Featured Speaker: Sherri Goodman, CEO Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Dec 12-13	DeSSC New User Program, San Francisco, CA
Dec 13	DeSSC Annual Community Meeting, San Francisco, CA
Dec 13	Marcus Langseth Science Oversight Committee Meeting, San Francisco, CA
Jan 5-7, 2016	UNOLS/OOSC Coastal Observatories Venue: NSF
Jan 14-15, 2016	DESCEND-2, Harvard University, Boston, MA
Feb 21-26	Ocean Sciences Meeting, UNOLS Booth – New Orleans, LA



