

Marine Scientific Research (MSR) Diplomatic Authorizations: Updates and Trends

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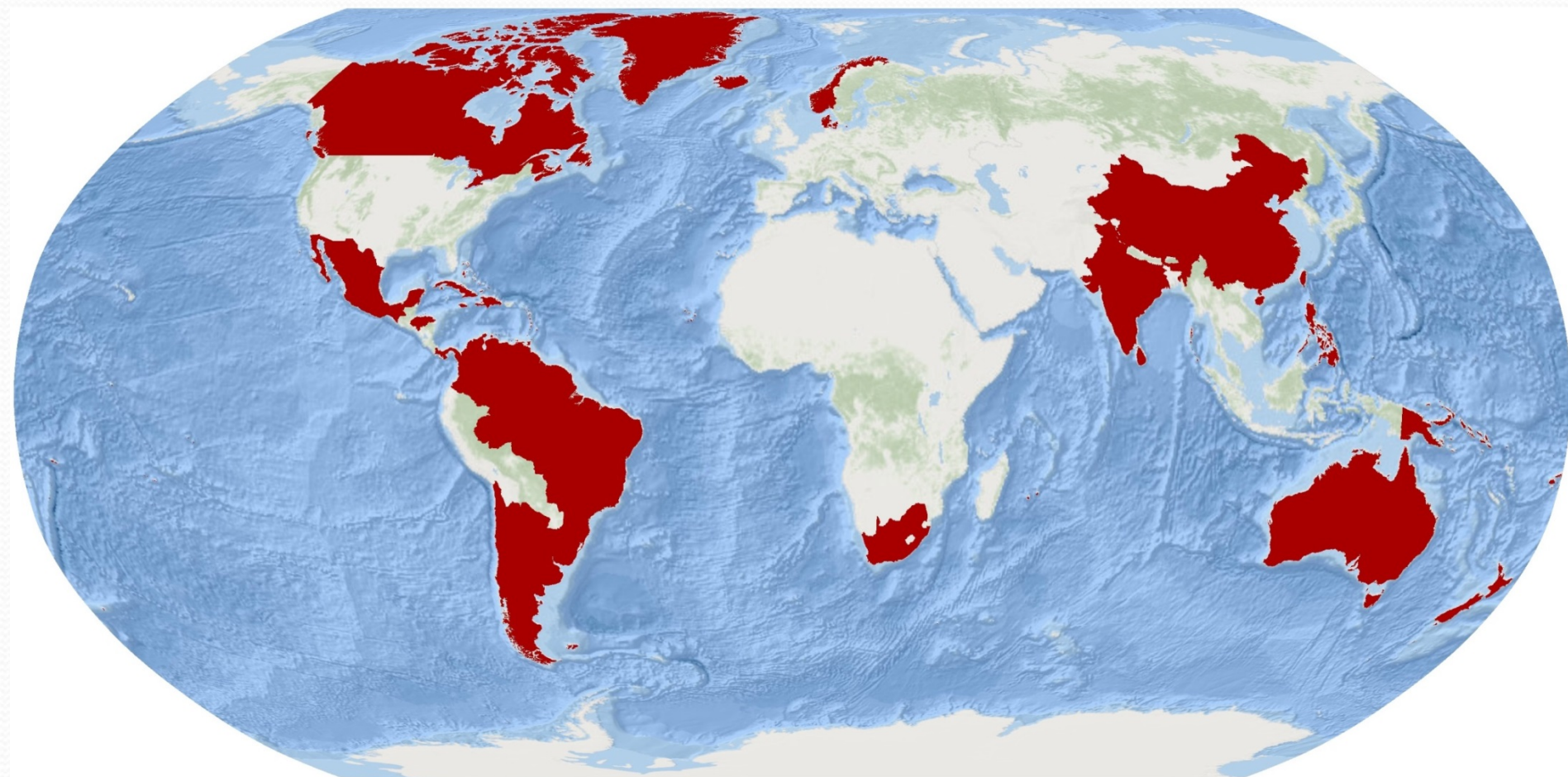
U.S. Department of State, Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs

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UNOLS Annual Meeting

U.S. Scientist MSR Applications (CY2017)

Region	Count
Africa	9
East Asia and Pacific	51
Europe and Eurasia	61
South and Central Asia	3
Western Hemisphere	132



2017 U.S. Scientist MSR Applications, by Country

Trends in Coastal State Processes

- No uniform system, increasing bureaucracy, evolving requirements, firm 6 months (so 7 months to State)
- Data and Reporting
 - Lack thereof = future denials?
 - NZ, Mexico, France, Costa Rica
 - Glitches in RATS
- Maritime Boundary Disputes
- Differing Requirements:
 - UK, Iceland: Flag State of Vessel
 - US: Nationality of Chief Scientist
 - Canada: Owner of the Data
 - Does it matter? YES! (NATO ship)



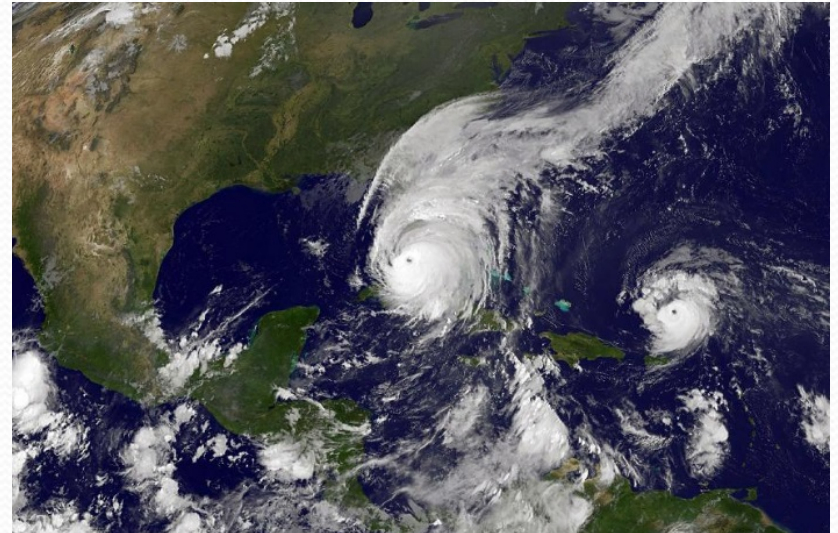
Other Emerging Issues/Challenges

- Optics (type of ship, nature of research)
- Biofouling in NZ, possible trend in Pacific?
- AUVs/Drifters/Gliders/Saildrones
 - Addition of BGCs – no longer operational oceanography?
 - Non-MSR vessels collecting MSR (e.g. cruise ships)
- Changes in U.S. policies
 - Cuba
- Public Vessel Status
- Arctic Science Cooperation Agreement
- Extreme Events (e.g. Hurricanes)



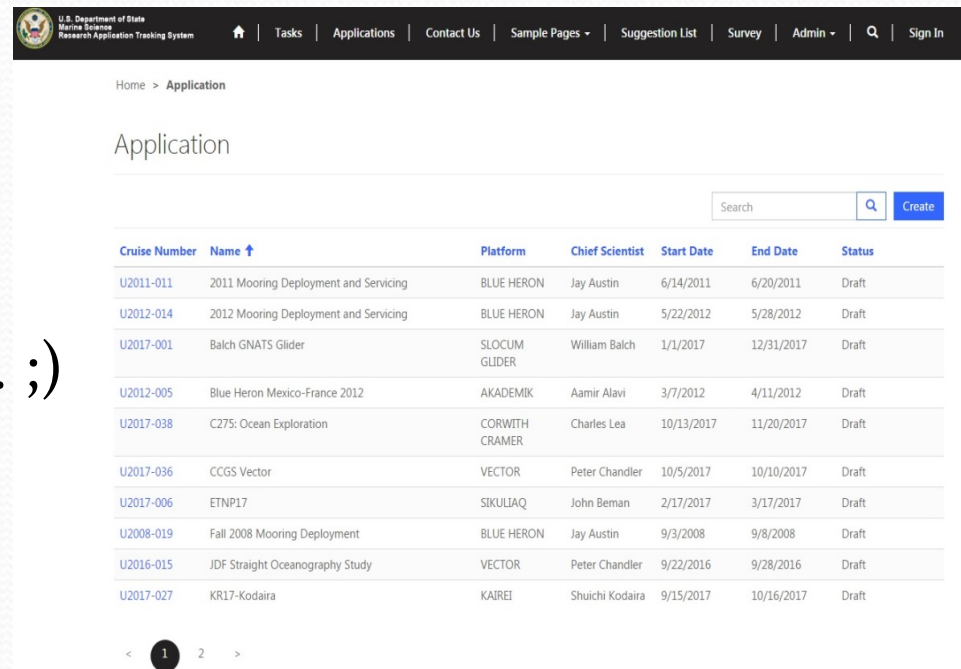
2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season

- Many Caribbean nations have been severely impacted in their local capacity to prioritize MSR applications.
- If conducting research in waters of an affected coastal State, allow extended time for processing and approvals.
- Be aware that research may be denied if there is not appropriate infrastructure for port calls or emergency services.
- Safety and security remain top priorities.
- Research vessels are encouraged to seek taking part in humanitarian aid to the affected areas.
- Research may also provide a new baseline.



RATS 2.0 Redevelopment

- Building off Microsoft Dynamics platform
- More user-friendly
- Frequent alerts: emails and in-app notifications
- Better search capabilities
- Training Modules
- Troubleshooting built-in
- Early April 2017
- Beta Testing Volunteers !!
- Will solve all MSR problems. ;)
- Renaming RATS to ??



The screenshot displays the 'Application' page of the RATS 2.0 system. The page header includes the U.S. Department of State Marine Science Research Application Tracking System logo and navigation links: Home, Tasks, Applications, Contact Us, Sample Pages, Suggestion List, Survey, Admin, and Sign In. The main content area shows a table of applications with columns for Cruise Number, Name, Platform, Chief Scientist, Start Date, End Date, and Status. A search bar and a 'Create' button are located at the top right of the table area. The table contains 12 rows of application data.

Cruise Number	Name ↑	Platform	Chief Scientist	Start Date	End Date	Status
U2011-011	2011 Mooring Deployment and Servicing	BLUE HERON	Jay Austin	6/14/2011	6/20/2011	Draft
U2012-014	2012 Mooring Deployment and Servicing	BLUE HERON	Jay Austin	5/22/2012	5/28/2012	Draft
U2017-001	Balch GNATS Glider	SLOCUM GLIDER	William Balch	1/1/2017	12/31/2017	Draft
U2012-005	Blue Heron Mexico-France 2012	AKADEMIK	Aamir Alavi	3/7/2012	4/11/2012	Draft
U2017-038	C275: Ocean Exploration	CORWITH CRAMER	Charles Lea	10/13/2017	11/20/2017	Draft
U2017-036	CCGS Vector	VECTOR	Peter Chandler	10/5/2017	10/10/2017	Draft
U2017-006	ETNP17	SIKULIAQ	John Beman	2/17/2017	3/17/2017	Draft
U2008-019	Fall 2008 Mooring Deployment	BLUE HERON	Jay Austin	9/3/2008	9/8/2008	Draft
U2016-015	JDF Straight Oceanography Study	VECTOR	Peter Chandler	9/22/2016	9/28/2016	Draft
U2017-027	KR17-Kodaira	KAIREI	Shuichi Kodaira	9/15/2017	10/16/2017	Draft

Resources

U.S. MSR Policy General:

<https://www.state.gov/e/oes/ocns/opa/rvc/>

About the Research Application Tracking System (RATS):

<https://www.state.gov/e/oes/ocns/opa/rvc/rats/index.htm>

****Documentation Required by Coastal State**:**

<https://www.state.gov/e/oes/ocns/opa/rvc/country/index.htm>

Thank you!

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