

UNOLS Fleet Improvement Committee – Report UNOLS Annual Meeting, NOV 2017

Membership:

Joan Berhard WHOI (Oper. Rep)

Byron Blomquist, CU-Boulder (Non-Op Rep)

Suzanne Carbottle, LDEO (At-Large Rep)

Greg Cutter, ODU (Non-Op Rep)

Rick Keil, UW (Oper. Rep)

Amanda Netburn, HBOI (Non-Op Rep)

Nancy Rabalais, LUMCON (Oper. Rep)

Ethan Roth, UAF (ex-officio, RVTEC Liaison)

Al Suchy, WHOI (ex-officio, RVOC Liaison)

Jim Swift, SIO (Chair)

The FIC last met on 31 May - 01 June 2017 in Seattle, Washington.

FIC has asked NSF whether or not a FIC member could be added to the RCRV Oversight Committee. Whether or not a FIC member is added, the FIC would like to be kept updated.

An observer for the FIC will participate in R/V *Thompson's* post mid-life refit shakedown cruise.

The UNOLS Office, with FIC guidance, continues examination and adjusting of fleet projected service life end dates.

The UNOLS Office, with FIC guidance, continues examination and adjusting of Full Optimal Year (FOY) definitions, intending to improve these via increased contact with the ship operators.

New Vessel Debriefs

Summary report for *Sikuliaq* – now in draft form

Continue debriefs for *Armstrong* and *Sally Ride*

On-line form for debriefs

NSF is considering how the FIC can provide input/feedback to the NSF Polar Research Vessel Replacement Program.

Update the Fleet Improvement Plan:

Post the FIP in a Google Drive; Review and update as needed.

The FIC is coordinating with the AICC on polar research ship issues.

The FIC stays abreast of refit plans for the Global-class ships.

Develop Science Mission Requirements for the next generation of Global-class research ships:

Develop the mission scenarios / science drivers.

Compare these to the Global-class capabilities.

Collect lessons learned from recent vessel construction.

Gather UNOLS Community input (discuss survey at November 2017 FIC meeting).

Engage federal agencies.

Compile a list of international Global R/Vs.

Turn qualitative data into quantitative knowledge via data mining or reorganization of the post-cruise assessments to answer specific questions.

Hold Town Hall Meeting at the 2018 Ocean Sciences Meeting

Ongoing examination of the UNOLS Fleet Improvement Plan. The academic fleet in 2025 is envisioned to provide 16 ships of diverse capabilities. To plan for the future, the plan specifically recommends:

Determine a course for building future global vessels capable of supporting large (>30) interdisciplinary or discipline-focused science parties.

Support developing plans to renew and utilize the capability of coastal/local class vessels as components of the UNOLS Fleet.

Support the acquisition of new ice-breaking capabilities for science community access to the high latitudes.

Considerations are many, such as:

Ability to adapt to and meet future research needs.

Both academic research ships and other research ships used for academic research.

Long-term research fleet support and sustainability.