

UNOLS Fleet Improvement Committee (FIC) Report to the UNOLS Council
J. Swift - 12 March 2020

The FIC last met in person in Alexandria, VA, on 20 November 2019. Since that time there have been various emails mostly regarding the Global-class SMR document and a well-attended FIC teleconference concerning membership. (Persons nominated for FIC membership have been very well qualified.)

Recent FIC business has included progress reports on the Global-class vessel upgrades & refits, a report on RCRV progress, and reviews of issues regarding other research vessels. The FIC is making a renewed emphasis on understanding how it can best help support the operators of the coastal/local vessels.

Having completed the 2019 Fleet Improvement Plan, other FIC business has included continued review of fleet projected service life end dates, ship utilization stats, and Full Operating Year ranges; Antarctic polar research vessel updates; and a USCG update on the National Security Icebreaker. The FIC is keeping informed on plans and needs for future marine seismic capabilities for the Academic Research Fleet (ARF).

Greg Cutter continues to capably lead FIC work on an updated Science Mission Requirements document for US ARF Global-class research ships. After a few more additions and revisions are in place, the FIC plans to internally review the document and then hold one or more member teleconferences to discuss the next steps, which will include final revisions and editing; next a discussion at a FIC meeting attended by a wide range of stakeholders, and subsequent modifications if/as needed; and finally submission to the Council for review and comment, and, on approval, posting on line at the UNOLS web site.

The FIC is the natural home for the Fleet Utilization Study conceived by Craig Lee, and actions in that regard are expected over the coming year.

The FIC continues to maintain active collaboration with other UNOLS committees, such as RVTEC, RVOC, and AICC, and participates in the RCRV program, with attendance, for example, at the RCRV Quarterly Management Review in February 2020.