NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
SHIP INSPECTION PROGRAM

2020 RVTEC MEETING
Ted Colburn
Purpose

The major purposes of the NSF Ship Inspection Program are:

1. To assure that the capabilities of the research vessel and technical support meet accepted scientific community standards and expectations;

2. To assure the seaworthiness and safety of research vessels supported by NSF meet or exceed the standards set forth by the UNOLS Research Vessel Safety Standards (RVSS), and applicable requirements of the International Maritime Organization, American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), and the U.S. Coast Guard;

3. To ensure NSF-owned ships as capital assets, are being adequately maintained;

4. To ensure NSF-funded science is scheduled on properly outfitted and maintained vessels.
Completed since last RVTEC

- RV SPROUL
- RV PELICAN
- RV SIKULIAQ
- RV PACIFIC STORM
  - Operated by UNOLS member OSU but not a ARF vessel

Similarly we previously inspected RV HOGARTH and RV WEATHERBIRD II operated by UNOLS member FIO
Completed since last RVTEC

- RV KILO MOANA CTD Winch and LARS Sea Trials by telepresence
Upcoming Inspections

- Inspections have been on hold since March to extend through at least 2020
- NSF intends to restart inspections sometime in 2021 and the operators are beginning to look at possible dates
Inspection process in brief

• NSF sends a pre-inspection information request to the vessel’s operator.

• We come aboard, usually 3 from JMS
  – Blake – operations, safety, & habitability
  – Bill or Jack – hull, mechanical, & Electrical
  – Ted - science support

• And one or more NSF representatives
Inspection process in brief

• One day or two in port and one at sea
• Operate all systems where reasonable
  – Exercise systems various modes and safety's
    • We don’t require operation if ship’s personnel are not comfortable
  – Review material condition and procedures
• Provide an exit brief
• Provide a brief letter summary
• Deliver a report
Observations & Areas for Improvement:

- **Appendix A - UNOLS Rope and Cable Safe Working Standards**
  - Appendix A assist sheet is available

- **Appendix B - Overboard Handling Systems**
  - OHS Appendix B assist sheets are available with thanks to Aaron Davis, West Coast Winch Pool, for developing these
  - None of the vessels we have inspected are in full compliance with A&B
Questions?