

# UNOLS 2021 Council Spring Meeting

24 and 26 May 21  
1-4 PM Eastern / 10-1 Pacific

Alice Doyle	Amy Baco-Taylor	Anita Lopez	Anna-Louise Reysenbach
Bob Houtman	Brandi Murphy	Brian Midson	Bridget Harrell-Donze
Bruce Strickrott	Claire Surrey-Marsden	Damian Bailey	David Smith
Debbie Bronk	Dennis Hansell	Doug Baird	Doug Russell
Jamie Allen	Jim Holik	Jim Swift	John Collins
John Orcutt	Jon Guttoff	Lee Ellett	Liz Sikes
Maureen Conte	Mike Prince	Rhian Waller	Rob Sparrock
Rose Dufour	Sam Laney	Stewart Lamerdin	Tim Schnoor
Tim Twomey			

Participants: 33

Monday, 24 May 2021

## Welcome – Dennis Hansell/ UMiami, UNOLS Chair

- Words of welcome
- Everyone introduces themselves – round robin

## Agency Reports

### NSF – Bob Houtman

- Restrictions on travel and no meetings in building extending through end of the fiscal year. All panels and meetings being held virtually. Working group looking at what is the way ahead. Hybrid work model – remote work and telework. Find out in the next couple of months.
- Lots of personnel changes at NSF.
  - o Scott Borg, Senior Advisor, is retiring and departing at the end of the month.
  - o Bill Easterling is ending his four years as the Assistant Director for the Directorate for Geosciences (GEO/OAD) at the end of the month.
  - o Alexandra Isern will be acting Assistant Director for the Directorate for Geosciences (GEO/OAD) until the next Director is identified.
  - o Since Alexandra Isern is currently the Deputy Assistant Director, that position will be filled by will be filled by Lina Patino until the next one is identified.
  - o Candace Major fleeted up to be the new Division Director for Atmospheric and Geospace Sciences (GEO/AGS).

- o Maurice Tivey will be filling spot as Section Head for the Marine Geosciences Section.
- Budget – rapidly coming to the close of FY21. Need to be able to do close out actions. NSF did receive additional funding, around 600 million dollars. NSF leadership working on distribution of funds. Congress and president have identified additional funds again, so there will be more money coming our way.
- Looking at new locations for the Pioneer Array. NSF made the selection that it will move south to the Mid-Atlantic Bight region. A second innovations lab 21 to 25 June. Micro-siting discussion and best address the science questions for that region. Will be reconfigured in 2023 and redeployed in 2024.

### **ONR – Tim Schnoor & Rob Sparrock**

- 40% of people in building at a time. Looking at things on a month-to-month basis
- Budget is holding its own. Most of bills have been paid for midlife program. When Atlantis gets back to sea, we can close out that program.
- Overhauls and upgrade of ALVIN continues. Expect to be put back together sometime this summer. September / October time frame
- Fleet is stable. Plan to keep same number of ships and same budget with cost-of-living increases.
- Mike Prince’s job with mid-life will be ending, but he will still be available.

### **NOAA – Claire Surrey-Marsden**

*Slide Show available on UNOLS website -*

<https://www.unols.org/event/meeting/unols-council-2021-spring-meeting>

- RDML Rick Brennan passed away from complications from surgery
- NOAA – UNOLS Partnership continues
- Fleet Allocation Plan – 810 days sailed so far this year
- Will continue COVID protocols at least through first quarter of 2022
  - o 14/15 ships have had access to both doses of vaccine
  - o Personnel provide status via existing HIPAA approved medical system
  - o Updated U/W relaxed COVID-19 measures based on percentage of sailing members vaccination

*Rose Dufour – HIPPA approved reporting system. Can you share that with us?*

*Claire Surrey-Marsden – I don’t know if it is available, it is something we already had.*

*Will make a note to find out if that is something we can share.*

*Rose Dufour – How did you get around the CG requirement for mask?*

*Claire – I don’t know for sure, but I imagine it is because we are a public vessel. I will have to find out for sure.*

*Rob Sparrock – What drove the 244-foot lengths on the new ships?*

*Claire Surrey-Marsden – Not sure but will find out.*

## **Vessel and Facility Updates**

### **RCRV Update – Demian Bailey**

*Slide Show available on UNOLS website -*

<https://www.unols.org/event/meeting/unols-council-2021-spring-meeting>

- Under new ownership. Bollinger bought out shipyard.
  - History of successful projects
  - Largest privately owned in US
- No changes on schedule to report currently
- Partner Relations
  - New PI (the GSO Dean)
  - Name chosen but not announced
  - Homeport of Vessel 3 will be Houma, LA
- Yard is currently closed due to some flooding

*Rose Dufour – NSF made the decision on the hailing port as Houma, LA. But it will still have two homeports and we will recognize both.*

### **RVs OCEANUS and ENDEAVOR Retirement Dates – Rose Dufour/NSF**

- Haven't shifted any of the retirement dates yet. Trying to keep to original dates.
- Oceanus will retire at the end of calendar year 2021
- Endeavor will be retired either six months later or end of calendar year 2022
- NSF has an extensive SOP for disposal of large facilities. This complicates what we will do with the ships after they are retired.

### **ATLANTIS Mid-Life Refit Update – Tim Twomey/WHOI**

*Slide Show available on UNOLS website -*

<https://www.unols.org/event/meeting/unols-council-2021-spring-meeting>

- ATLANTIS is 89% complete
- Planned sailing of 12 July
- Science verification cruise for 8 days after the yard ending in San Francisco
- Arrive WHOI 2<sup>nd</sup> week in August
- ALVIN Test Program in September

*Rob Sparrock – Wanted to thank everyone in the AGOR class. This kind of project couldn't happen without an agency like UNOLS.*

### **HOV Alvin Upgrade – Bruce Strickott/WHOI NDSF**

*Slide Show available on UNOLS website -*

<https://www.unols.org/event/meeting/unols-council-2021-spring-meeting>

- Looking forward to having ALVIN back on board the ATLANTIS
- ALVIN overhaul started a year ago
  - DSV ALVIN Specs 2021
  - Depth 6,500 meters
  - Time to submerge - 9 to 12 hours
  - 1 pilot and 2 observers
- Sep 21 - Oct 21 Sea trials, 6500m certification

- Oct 21 - Nov 21 Science verification expedition

*Alice Doyle – Science Verification expedition taking applications until the end of the week.*

*Liz Sikes – Why was there a buyout of the shipyard? Is it a cause of worry?*

*Doug Russell – I believe it was a just a private acquisition. Bollinger is expanding its footprint across the Gulf.*

*Brian Midson – The previous owners had a rough year. Decided to divest. Bollinger is looking to expand. They are very anxious to complete the RCRV project satisfactorily.*

## **Ship Scheduling Update – Doug Russell/UNOLS**

*Slide Show available on UNOLS website -*

<https://www.unols.org/event/meeting/unols-council-2021-spring-meeting>

Amazing what we have been able to accomplish in this year of COVID. A lot of science has gotten done. Couldn't have done it without the support of ONR and NSF. We have been able to keep people employed during all this turmoil. Thanks to everyone for their perseverance to make it happen.

- UNOLS fleet operating days
  - o Dropped significantly in 2020 – not surprising
  - o Building well in 2021 – restoring nicely
  - o Day rates are high due to less ship days
- 2022 scheduling process has been moving along well
  - o Slight delay to see how COVID pans out
  - o Using new ship scheduling software - MFP
  - o Meeting on a monthly basis
    - A lot of the big ships' institutions are talking weekly
- Assuming for 2022 that we will have unrestricted ability to schedule, including going to foreign ports. But we will keep our eye on the variables.

*Jim Swift – Are the polar programs and the Coast Guard involved in the scheduling meetings?*

*Doug Russell – Yes, the polar programs are active participants. The Coast Guard is acting indecently in 2022 and don't need to be involved in our conversations.*

## **UNOLS Reports**

### **COVID-19 Guidelines Updates – Doug Russell/UNOLS**

- Gold Standard – two weeks of quarantine – PCR tests
  - o Institutions are doing an excellent job of risk assessments. Sharing assessments with the agencies and UNOLS. Meeting their institution's requirements and meeting the needs of the scientists.

- o Had one case on a small ship after a short cruise. Science party member tested positive after cruise. Only case on any of our ships.
- Asked George Washington Medical for advice on adjusting protocols, now that vaccines are available and effective
  - o May 11<sup>th</sup> put out new guidelines on how to deal with protocols with vaccines
  - o Variations based on the size of vessel and vaccine status of the personnel
    - Not everyone is responsive to the vaccine so wanted a week of isolation to monitor symptoms
- Right after we released our new guidelines the CDC came out with new guidelines. So now we are waiting for GW to give us their opinion of new protocols.
  - o Anyone who is not vaccinated must do full 14 days of quarantine and all testing.
- Approximately 70% of crews are vaccinated. Even higher rate of vaccination for science parties.
  - o Not all of our institutions will allow us to ask if crews are vaccinated but most have an idea who is and isn't.
- We are hoping that when we have over 90% of the crews vaccinated, we will be able to lift restrictions even further

*Dennis Hansell – Are we asking people for proof of vaccination?*

*Alice Doyle – We are doing it on the honor system. Once you ask for proof you have to start worrying about HIPPA.*

*Doug Russell – We also have a lot of great sources of information from the various institutions.*

- Mask wearing – in February the Coast Guard started requiring masks on the ships at all times at sea, due to new CDC regulations
  - o Previously we had relaxed mask wearing after 14 days at sea with no cases.
  - o We asked the Coast Guard for a waiver, but they were not willing to grant it since it was a CDC mandate
  - o We are not requiring masks on deck, because it is a safety hazard.
- Look for new guidelines in the next week or so, based on the new CDC guidelines

## **Marine Facilities Planning (MFP) – Alice Doyle/UNOLS**

*Slide Show available on UNOLS website -*

<https://www.unols.org/event/meeting/unols-council-2021-spring-meeting>

- Moving from STRS to Marine Facilities Planning (MFP)
  - Joint effort between NIOZ, NERC and Maas Software Engineering
  - Modular multi-tenant system to facilitate an integrated cruise planning process
- Short demo of MFP system
- Where are we now?
  - Science Portal (where PIs make requests) is open
  - Schedule construction – making daily tweaks on system
  - Research Planner online
- What's next?
  - 2022 Schedules will be online in Fall of 2021
  - Cruise planning Module is coming online for testing
  - Other Modules:
    - Inventory management
    - Cruise personnel modules
  - Working out the business rules
  - Webinars for the science community to learn how to do a SMR
- Questions to [mfp@unols.org](mailto:mfp@unols.org)

*Maureen Conte – I was wondering about the security issue of publishing ship locations? I know this was a concern in the past. How will you deal with this issue?*

*Alice Doyle – That has changed. A year or year and a half ago STRS was opened up for everyone to be able to see the schedules. The funding agencies instructed us to open up the information. We consider MFP to be an extension of STRS*

*Doug Russell – The ship's locations are being published by AIS and this data is public knowledge. The agencies realized this, and this is why they opened it up.*

*Rob Sparrock – When ships go to a foreign EEZ the locations are shared with the foreign country well ahead of time.*

*David Smith – I encourage you to create a webinar that can be taped and shared with the community.*

*Doug Russell – Thanks to Alice for her Project Management ability!*

*Liz Sikes – I find the present system to be frustrating. I am really excited by the new system. I am looking forward to using the new system.*

*Rose Dufour – Do you want to add anything about the collaboration with NOAA on the tracklines?*

*Alice Doyle – Yes, Rose thank you.*

Alice Doyle -

- One of the layers we added to the map in MFP is NOAA's bathymetry layer. This layer shows where the mapping of the US EEZ is lacking.

Brian Midson –

- There is a Presidential Executive Order requiring mapping of the US EEZ to modern standards. The NOAA Bathymetry layer the missing areas of the EEZ.
- Looking at sub bottom and the water column

Doug Russell –

That completes our agenda for today. Next meeting will be Wednesday at the same time. Council business and then committee updates.

Dennis Hansell –

Please take a look at the agenda for Wednesday. Do some thinking before the meeting. Especially the diversity item. I would like us to make some headway instead of just paying lip service.

Wednesday, 26 May 2021

Alice Doyle	Amy Baco-Taylor	Anita Lopez	Anna-Louise Reysenbach
Bob Houtman	Brandi Murphy	Brian Midson	Bridget Harrell-Donze
Claire Surrey-Marsden	David Smith	Debbie Bronk	Dennis Hansell
Doug Baird	Doug Russell	Jamie Allen	Jim Holik
Jim Swift	John Collins	John Orcutt	Jon Gutoff
Jon Lewis	Kipp Shearman	Lee Ellett	Liz Sikes
Luc Lenain	Maria Osiadacz	Maureen Conte	Mike Prince
Rhian Waller	Rob Sparrock	Rose Dufour	Sam Laney
Stewart Lamerdin	Tim Schnoor	Sharon Cooper	

Participants: 35

## Welcome – Dennis Hansell/ UMiami, UNOLS Chair

### Council Business

#### UNOLS Charter Review – Debbie Bronk / Bigelow

- We were tasked to create a working group to identify and recommend solutions to unclear sections in the charter.
- Didn't want to be overly prescriptive but wanted to be clearer.
- First couple of paragraphs were identified as needing the most work
  - UNOLS was described as an advisory committee to federal agencies which it is not
  - Re-wrote and emphasized "research"
- Discussion of the word academic. Did it mean degree granting? Which it doesn't
- Added a table of all facilities
- Page of webpages
- Reorganized membership section
- Added MERAS
- Clarified info about meeting and clarified what was a quorum

Dennis Hansell –

- Next step is committees looking at it.
- Final step is vote on the changes by the membership
- Does the council want to put a stamp of approval on it?

*Liz Sikes – I think all members of council should have a chance to look at it*

*Maureen Conte – I agree with that. To get some fresh eyes on it before it goes out to the whole membership*

*Debbie Bronk – Should probably clarify in the charter how to verify the charter.*

*Alice Doyle – The charter must be reviewed every three years and is voted on by all the member institutions’ representatives.*

*Dennis Hansell – Ok let’s send it out to the Council and let the agencies review it.*

*Rose Dufour – MSROC name needs to be updated. Is the charter still being reviewed or is this the final version?*

*Doug Russell – The working group has finished their review, but we did not review the annexes.*

*Alice Doyle – Only the first chapter was reviewed.*

*Dennis Hansell – We decided that each committee was responsible for changes in their annexes.*

*Doug – We can run it by the committees after the council and the agencies. To make any changes they think are necessary.*

## **Renewal and Engagement Considerations - Dennis Hansell / UMiami**

### **Nominating Committee**

- Liz Sikes has agreed to head the committee
- Mark Brzezinski, Rhian Waller not eligible to serve another term
- David Smith, Anita Lopez eligible to serve another term but must be re-elected
- Need operator, non-operator and at-large
- Maureen Conte and Amy Baco-Taylor will serve on nominating committee
- David Smith is interested in serving again if re-elected. He is at an operating institution so can ser as an Operator or At-Large

### **Standardizing Committee Term Dates**

- Mark Brzezinski term ended in April. Harder to manage an organization when dates are not regularized. Mark has extended to end of this year.
- We will try to stay on that timeline. Fall we will elect new members
- If someone is elected in the fall when do their terms start?

*Alice Doyle – The date that committee members rotate is dependent on the Annual meeting. Typically, their terms begin the date of the Annual meeting. We could make an official start date.*

*Dennis Hansell – What does the Council think?*

*Maureen Conte – I think it is good to have a date.*

*Liz Sikes – I think maybe it is time to have a start date. Things are vaguer now that so many things are happening online.*

*Doug Russell – I think we should make it officially “upon completion of the vote”. The vote is always completed by the end of the Annual meeting. We could send a note to the new members outlining this.*

*Liz Sikes – If you could do a zoom meeting along with the onboarding presentation. It would work well. You could use the onboarding for all the new committee members, not just the Council members.*

*Dennis Hansell - Who is in charge of tracking the renewal dates? If it is the UNOLS office I would like us to standardize that as well.*

*Doug Russell – Alice and I work with individual committees and remind them.*

*Alice Doyle – I would love to see it standardized.*

*Anna-Louse Reysenbach – I would like to see it standardized as well. It seems cumbersome as it is now.*

*Luc Lenain – I agree, but we might not want to call for nominations at the same time.*

*Alice Doyle – So each committee would have their own time frame?*

*Dennis Hansell – So we will leave it up to the committees to standardize their dates. Seems like the committees are drawing from different communities so I don't think it would be a problem calling for nominations at the same time. The committee chairs can contact the UNOLS office and state their preferences. Being able to announce all the new members in the fall would work well. And then we could do the on-boarding for everyone at the same time.*

*Jim Swift – Will this process allow for people to stand on more than one of the committees?*

*Dennis Hansell – I think that is okay.*

*Jim Swift – The FIC has not had any problems with managing this. The office has been very helpful.*

### **Elected Council Members – Service to the Standing Committees**

- The following members have volunteered to serve with the standing committees:
  - Anita Lopez – MERAS
  - Amy Baco-Taylor – DeSSC
  - Maureen Conte – RVOC
  - Liz Sikes – FIC
  - David Smith – RVTEC

*Brian Midson – How do you manage disqualifying qualifications?*

*Amy Baco-Taylor – I am happy to be on a different committee, but I am serving as an ex-officio member, meaning I won't be voting.*

*Anna-Louise – I think these Council Members should be ex-officio members to the committees since they haven't been elected.*

*Doug Russell – It was always my understanding that the members are ex-officio, not voting members of the committee. We can add it to the appendices if needed.*

*Alice Doyle – I think most of the appendixes state that there can be ex-officio members*

*Mike Prince – Ex-officio members have existed for a long time.*

*Dennis Hansell – The UNOLS office will take a look at the language in the appendices and make sure they all allow for ex-officio members.*

### **Diversity Inclusion & Equity**

#### **Maria Osiadacz – MATE Internships**

- Started in 1999.
- To help meet the demand for multi-skilled marine technicians.
- Primary focus is to recruit students. Match them with host institutions both land-based and at sea.

- o One six-month internship. 12 to 15 short term internships.
- Part of our grant is specified to increase the number of minorities and women in the marine technician field. We have been able to meet our goals, especially in regard to women. Unfortunately, we don't get underrepresented minorities applying at the rates we would like.
- We have placed over 375 interns. Over 200 of them have been placed on UNOLS vessels.
- We normally receive 75 to 150 applications. We have two application programs. Long term & short term.
- Approximately 15 to 25% of applications are from underrepresented minorities.

*Debbie Bronk – Are these internships all for undergrad students?*

*Maria Osiadacz – Yes, they are mostly juniors and seniors. We do get a few younger students or recent graduates.*

*Anita Lopez – How many of the participants remain in the marine technician field?*

*Maria Osiadacz – We sent a survey out. 90% of the respondents are working in STEM fields. 50% are working in Marine Tech field. 95% told MATE internship had a huge impact on them getting a job or further education.*

*Debbie Bronk – One of the big effects of the pandemic has affected the*

*underrepresented minorities. Does someone have to be a current student to apply?*

*Maria Osiadacz – They are required to be enrolled. If they are not enrolled, we register them at Monterey Peninsula College for a one-unit class. And they meet with me to meet the requirement for the class.*

*Dennis Hansell – Wonderful program. How do we increase the numbers and increase the impact? Is it based on the capacity of the institutions?*

*Maria Osiadacz –*

- *We have a wonderful group of Marine Tech managers that have been wonderful to work with.*
  - o *Gives institutions a chance to see if the interns fit their institutions. We had to cancel our internships for 2020.*
- *NSF would like us to expand our program to have more land-based internships.*
- *I believe when we can put our students on ships again there will be plenty of opportunities.*
- *I think where we need to improve is attracting more underrepresented minorities to apply.*

*Dennis Hansell – Can you double the numbers or is it an incremental increase?*

*Maria Osiadacz –*

- *We have one more year on our grant. We are confined by our grant money. I am hoping to be able to request a renewal proposal and increase the numbers in that proposal.*
- *We encourage faculty and staff to share our invitations with diverse student. Because we are at the higher education level we are already hampered.*

*Students that get STEM classes in middle in high school predict the success in college.*

- *Some of the underrepresented minorities that apply tend to have more obstacles. Maybe they are working a full-time job and cannot leave the job for an internship.*
- *I do work with them on a one-on-one basis.*
  - *Provide more info on ocean going fields.*
  - *Provide professional development assistance.*
  - *Help them represent themselves in a more balance way.*
  - *Provide guidelines for succeeding on the job once they are offered the internship opportunity.*
- *I would like to be able to do more. I would like to be able to go out into the community.*
- *Learn how to improve the language in our announcements.*
- *Want to visit more institutions*
- *Have other role models in the field, that visit the institutions*

### **Sharon Cooper – Stem SEAS**

- We use the transit voyages of the academic research fleet to bring students on board the vessels.
  - The voyages are usually 5 to 10 days.
  - There is no science happening on board during these transit, so we create it. We plan the science and bring the mentors.
- We aim for younger undergrads. We hope that we change their trajectory. And maybe change their major. We get them really excited about going to sea.
- Our grant is based around finding students of underrepresented backgrounds.
  - We need to get better at our recruiting strategies.
  - We did get a supplementary grant to go visit HBCU to see what we can do to increase recruiting.
- 50 to 60 students per year. That is the number funded by the grant.
- We get 100s of applications.
- Our next grant could be written to fund more students.
- We also are thinking about using the tie up periods to bring more students. It wouldn't be the same as going to sea, but it would still get the students on board the vessels and introduce them to the science.

*Alice Doyle – Is there anyways we can do to support you both better or more?*

*Maria Osiadacz – I would certainly love to connect with Sharon. Thank you for suggesting that. I think we could take advantage of working together. Your students sound like they would be great applicants for our program.*

*Brandi Murphy – One of the things we don't talk about very often is how does STEM Seas go about recruiting mentors? Is that something this group could help with?*

*Sharon Cooper –*

- *For us recruiting of mentors has by primarily by word of mouth.*
  - *We have an application for on our website.*
  - *Getting word out would be helpful.*
  - *Mentors that belong to the underrepresented communities would be very helpful.*
- *We have a funded position on every expedition for a grad student to act as a go between, between students and mentors.*
- *We are always looking for diversity of expertise.*
  - *Mentors like to teach their science. So the more diverse the mentors' areas of expertise the more diverse the science the students are exposed to.*
- *Sometimes other things are happening on the transits. Maybe someone is onboard setting up for the next cruise.*
  - *Usually, these people are very happy to share what they are doing with our students.*
  - *They almost become another mentor.*

*Jon Lewis –*

- *One of the realities is that the ships have empty labs.*
- *During a transit it is challenging to build up a lab just for the transit.*
- *Some of the members of the UNOLS community may already have equipment on board and could share their expertise.*
- *If we could tap into the UNOLS scientists that would be wonderful.*

*Maureen Conte – Do you get extra time on these transits to conduct science?*

*Sharon Cooper – We go in not planning on any extra time. But on most of the transits the ship can find a few hours for us to do some overboard work.*

*Maria Osiadacz – Everything that Sharon said is along the same lines for us. A lot of the time I communicate with the marine techs, and they usually can work with our interns and provide very valuable learning opportunities.*

*Dennis Hansell – I think we should do all we can to facilitate the communication between our committees and the internship programs.*

*Rose Dufour – There was a video that some of the StemSEAS students put together. Maybe you could do a more polished 5-minute video that the operators could put on their websites. For more exposure.*

*Sharon Cooper – We have had some PIs on land approach us with request for us to collect data for them while we are out there. We are very open to this.*

*Dennis Hansell – Please contact the UNOLS office if you think of things we can do to assist. Same with the federal agencies. Feel free to tell us if you see anything more we could do. We need to create more opportunities.*

**Fall Council, FIC and Annual Meetings – Doug Russell / UNOLS**

- We are starting to plan for our fall meetings.
  - Typically, we do those in November.
- We want to know if people think we should do it virtually or in person.
- We want to hear from the agencies as well.
- RVTEC will be virtual this year.
- We welcome your thoughts and inputs. Either today or via email.

*Bob Houtman – I don't know if we will be ready at NSF volunteer to host a meeting. We are definitely staying virtual through the end of September. I don't think I will be able to commit NSF to host any meetings or have any meetings in the local area.*

*Doug Russell – Sounds like we should hold off and wait until NSF puts out new guidance.*

*Alice Doyle – Is there a timeline for the decision at NSF?*

*Bob Houtman – They are saying maybe we will have some kind of guidance by the end of June. I don't expect any time before late June or early July.*

*Dennis Hansell – Does that include no meetings in Alexandria?*

*Bob Houtman – Right now the requirements are NO in person meetings for NSF personnel, either in the building or elsewhere.*

*Dennis Hansell – Can we hold off until we find out NSF policy? If the hotels are full by then we will still be able to go virtual.*

*Doug Russell – We can hold off. We can make a joint decision after the NSF policy.*

*Doug Russell – The meeting is usually the second or third week of November.*

*Alice Doyle – There is also the possibility of a hybrid meeting. Do the weekly annual meetings virtually and then meet in person for FIC and Council*

*Liz Sikes – Do we have an official date?*

*Doug Russell – Not yet.*

*Dennis Hansell – Do we need to start thinking about a speaker? Any ideas for a speaker or theme.*

*John Orcutt – The future of Autonomous Vehicles*

*UN Decade of the ocean*

*Debbie Bronk – US competitiveness*

*Emerging Disease and Climate Change*

### **Guidance on Chartering non-UNOLS Vessels – Kipp Shearman / OSU**

Dennis Hansell – This guidance is of a concern to some members of our community who need to use non-UNOLS vessels. Kipp Shearman is here today to articulate some of these concerns.

Kipp Shearman –

- Let me start by saying I totally understand that the goal of the document is the safety of people on board.
- Last year Council voted to remove Chapter 18 from the RVSS, which was the chapter on chartering non-UNOLS vessels.
- I thought at that time we were removing some of the roadblocks to chartering non-UNOLS vessels.

- I think this document came about because Chapter 18 is no longer available.
- A lot of the information in it is great and is straight forward to implement if you have institutional relationships with the non-UNOLS vessels you are chartering.
- The place I think some difficulties arise are the situations where you don't have the institutional arrangements with the vessels. Or when you are trying to charter foreign vessels.
  - There is a section in the guidance that addresses it, but I think some of them are impossible to achieve.
  - Such as getting the vessel inspected by marine surveyor. This could be costly and very difficult.
- I want to get this fact on the UNOLS radar and have some discussion on how just how difficult and expensive this can be.

*Rose Dufour – Kipp, I want to make sure you understand that the cost of these inspections should be included in the proposal to the funding agencies. Before this guidance the money came out of ship ops. Also, there are some equivalencies in the guidance that should make this less expensive. I think this new guidance provides more flexibility than what was in Chapter 18.*

*Kipp Shearman – I have been thinking about that. I am wondering if you have any idea of how many surveys will be requested and how much money will be required.*

*Rose Dufour – I don't have that info. But I do think that a lot of the ships that we will be funding will have equivalencies that we will accept. Chapter 18 became too vague for the marine superintendents. This way we are trying to protect our awardees and provide them with alternate ways of meeting the requirements. I applaud the safety committee for coming up with this much clearer set of directions. Chapter 18 was just too ambiguous.*

*Doug Russell – I also want to say that Rose has asked us to start complying a list of vessels that already meet the equivalences. You can work with the office to get a vessel added.*

*Alice Doyle – Does this inspection have to happen every time, or will it be good for a year or two years?*

*Doug Russell – I think that is a gray area. The PI could go to the vessel and ask them what has changed from the last inspections.*

*Rose Dufour –*

*The document does say within 2 to 3 years of the last inspection.*

*I think if we just step back and look at what the document says it won't be as challenging as you think.*

*When the Chapter 18 was removed the director of NSF received a letter from a descendent of a victim of the Hawaii accident and she was very upset that Chapter 18 was removed.*

*Kipp Shearman - This is all great. Thank you. I think another problem is that some institutions are adopting the guidance as their policy. They are going to require a Marine Surveyor each time we try to charter a non-UNOLS vessel.*

*Rose Dufour – Maybe we can set up a meeting between UNOLS and the institutions to discuss what our expectations for these guidelines are.*

*Dennis Hansell – If we create a list of vessels that have already met the requirements, maybe the vessels will want to be on the list and get themselves inspected.*

*Kipp Shearman – I think some of the problems are going to be overseas. I have worked with gliders in Taiwan and Vietnam. Sometimes we need to get a vessel quickly to recover a glider. We have been known to charter a party boat or a wedding vessel to recover a glider.*

*Rose Dufour – This is what we are trying to avoid. You can't just go out and hire any vessel.*

*Kipp Shearman – We have been to sea and know what safety equipment they need.*

*Rose Dufour – It is back to the risk managers and do the universities support you using these vessels?*

*Mike Prince – When you are using institutional funds you must satisfy the risk managers at your university. The PIs that get the funding need to take the responsibility for the safety of the vessels.*

*Jon Guttoff – Someone worrying about the risks, even a USCG inspection will not protect an operator from protentional liability. I realize each operator must make their own decisions, I would not want to rely on the inspection of a small vessel in this country or in foreign vessels. I think it is exposing operators to huge potential liability. If it is done in violation of UNOLS guidelines it could be that the insurance wouldn't cover the losses.*

*Dennis Hansell – Is it worth the safety committee taking one last look with Kipp and Jon online?*

*Doug Russell – I can open the discussion. No harm in doing that. Safety Committee, Craig Lee and Kipp Shearman.*

*Mike Prince – You have to have a safety guideline process.*

*Kipp Shearman – It must be doable and understandable. I appreciate this. I think we are at a spot where the legal and insurance concerns are difficult to overcome. I don't see a lot of flexibility on the part of the risk managers at OSU.*

*Doug Russell – We are definitely open to suggestions.*

*Rob Sparrock – Guidelines are too stringent, and the universities are using the guidelines. So, we want to look at the guidelines make them less stringent so then the universities can blame UNOLS.*

*Dennis Hansell – Look at the impacted community and make it a little more pragmatic.*

*Brian Midson – We successfully did a mission from a Canadian vessel in New Zealand. We do have some ways to make things work.*

## **Committee Activities and Issues Requiring Council Attention**

Committee Chairs and Council members will have the opportunity to raise any issues requiring Council attention

## **Fleet Improvement Committee – Jim Swift / SIO**

*Slide Show available on UNOLS website -*

<https://www.unols.org/event/meeting/unols-council-2021-spring-meeting>

- Recently had a FIC meeting. Things we discussed:
  - Track RCRV sea trials and science verification exercises
  - FIC track user experiences after the mid-life refits
  - Marine Seismic capabilities and research in polar regions
  - Telepresence and cybersecurity
- Continues to make progress on Science Mission Requirements for the Next Generation of Global Class Research ships.
  - Revisit the SMR every three years, treating it as a living document

Dennis Hansell – I would like to see the physically handicapped accommodations addressed. We just need to look for every opportunity to include everyone.

Jim Swift – If you could make a comment in the document so it doesn't get lost

Brian Midson – RCRV is very cognizant of accommodating various disabilities. I would like to remind you not to use the term ADA stateroom, as there is no requirement

Alice Doyle – I would like to add a thank you to Jim Swift, he is rotating off this year.

## **Maintaining and Environment of Respect Aboard Ships – Brandi Murphy / UNOLS**

*Slide Show available on UNOLS website -*

<https://www.unols.org/event/meeting/unols-council-2021-spring-meeting>

- Committee Member – two new members
  - Added a member from the other committee
- Module II viewing guide and language translations
- Pregnancy policy updates
- Gender privacy and name-in-use on Cruiser Planner
- Newsletter and social media platforms for communicating topics and resources for reflection
- Committee message of support to our community – let the community know that we are a new standing committee and what we do and what we can help with
- Our goal is to meet quarterly

Dennis Hansell – Membership rotations, what will you be doing?

Brandi Murphy – We had two people rotate off

Dennis – You have a chair, and a vice-chair is that what other committees have/

Brandi – It is something we are feeling out.

Dennis – Is the appendix for MERAS coming out?

Brandi – Yes, we sent it out to the Council, and we are just about to finalize it

## **Research Vessel Operators Committee – Doug Baird**

- 2020 and 2021 meetings were cancelled
- Meeting virtually once a month
  - Have come up with a host of documents

- o COVID mitigation
- o Only one cruise cancelled due to covid 19 issue
- Virtual meetings are really useful and may continue
- March 2022 will be in person in Hawaii

Doug Russell – Trying to set up an overlap between RVOC and IRSO meeting

### **Research Vessel Technical Enhancement Committee – Lee Ellett / SIO**

- Last RVTEC meeting was virtual
  - o Largest meeting with over 120 participants
- Monthly meetings with tech managers
- The CI working group –
  - o WHOI and UW have been hosting a cyber security with Peregrine to meet IMO requirements
- Satellite communications
  - o 15 antennae installations on ships
    - Driven by less people going on ships because of COVID and a desire for more virtual access
  - o Partnership between HiSeas net and Tech managers
  - o Will enable more remote participation

Doug Baird – Since the new installations we no longer get complaints, and we are actually getting compliments.

Brandi Murphy – StemSeas was able to take advantage of this increased bandwidth since they are not able to go out in person

Brandi Murphy – RVTEC meeting will be virtual again this year

### **Marine Seismic Research Operations Committee – John Orcutt / SIO**

*Slide Show available on UNOLS website -*

<https://www.unols.org/event/meeting/unols-council-2021-spring-meeting>

- Will need new members this year
- Going to be a very busy year for OBS
- Proposal – NSF Mid-Scale Research Infrastructure
  - o Requesting 200 new OBSs – Newest is 14 years old
  - o Rechargeable batteries
- Use of instruments is increasing, both in the US and other countries

Doug Russell – Langseth is shifting operations to the Atlantic side. NSF is requesting proposals for projects over there.

David Smith – How many OBSs do we have now?

John Orcutt – We probably have 150.

David Smith – How much do they cost?

John Orcutt – Quite a lot. The proposal for the 200 is in the order of 10 million dollars.

### **Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee – Sam Laney / WHOI**

- Aligning term rotation dates, the same as Council is proposing
- Onboarding for new members
- AICC is very reactive committee but we were able to do some proactive things this year.
  - Members who participated in MOSAIC have brought back some great ideas
  - How to show new scientists what is available
- Healy had engine fire last year. No UNOLS or ONR funded cruises this year. Doing a NW Passage trip. CG reached out to the community and offered science opportunities. Invited to Change of Command. Introduce UNOLS to new Captain. AICC's job is hold this institutional memory.
- Need a chair elect. Having a summer meeting next month.

Dennis Hansell – Knowledge-broker and networking

Sam Laney – AICC job is patch holes. Lots of new federal agencies connecting with native communities in the Arctic. Looking to plug into but not replace the people doing this work.

### **Scientific Committee for Oceanographic Aircraft Research – Luc Lenain / SIO**

*Slide Show available on UNOLS website -*

<https://www.unols.org/event/meeting/unols-council-2021-spring-meeting>

- UNOLS SCOAR bimonthly webinars
  - CIRPAS update
  - COVID impact
  - Federal Agency update & Science presentations
- Membership – keeping a balance between unmanned and piloted aircraft expertise
  - New call for nomination is for Chair position

### **Deep Submergence Science Committee – Anna-Louise Reysenbach / PSU**

*Slide Show available on UNOLS website -*

<https://www.unols.org/event/meeting/unols-council-2021-spring-meeting>

- Membership hasn't changed much.
- We have our usual meetings and then our sub-committee meetings
- Alvin overhaul
- NDSF – had Evan Kovacs Imagery training
  - Most important data is the imagery
  - Working with pilots and user to makes sure they are cognizant of how important it is
- Jason – Three manned cruises completed
  - Cruise activity has slowed due to COVID
  - Used COVID time for upgrades, maintenance, etc.
  - Lots of staffing changes – additions and losses

- Sentry – Two successful expeditions
  - Adding new sensor technology
- Abyss Workshops
  - Four workshops
  - Very successful
  - Finalizing a paper that will be published this summer
- Alvin Science Verification Expedition (fall)
- Imagery User Skills Workshop
- New User Meetings – AGU/ASLO

Brian Midson – NSF continues to be the preponderance user of NDSF assets. We are starting to get more interest for other entities. Expanded use of non-NDSF assets for NSF sponsored science. Broader group than just NDSF.

Anna-Louise Reysenbach – We have been including these other folks for many years and we should make sure Council knows that.

### **Other Issues / Comments / Questions**

Dennis Hansell – Considering a fall online meeting

Doug Russell – Thanks everyone for your participation and support. Dennis thank you for your leadership.

Dennis Hansell – Thank you all for all you do.

### **Action Items:**

1. NOAA/Claire Marsden-Surrey – Find out if the NOAA information system for HIPPA information is shareable and let Rose Dufour know.
2. UNOLS office to facilitate communications between MATE/STEMSEAS, Marine Tech Groups and Marine Superintendents.
3. NOAA/Claire Marsden-Surrey – Find out for Rob Sparrock what was the driving factor behind the lengths of the new ships.
4. Charter Working Group – Share revised Charter with Council for input. Then share with agencies for input. Finally run by the all the committees. Doug Russel to set-up a meeting.
5. MSROC & Charter Working Group – Update MSROC name, change oversight to operating
6. Nominating Committee will be headed by Liz Sikes – Head Council nominating committee of Maureen Conte & Amy Baco-Taylor. UNOL
  - 4 open positions or move one to next year?
  - UNOLS office send out Call for Nominations
  - Nominating Committee must keep balance in mind when creating the ballot
7. Committees – Standardize all member rotation dates? UNOLS office to work with committee chairs to state preference as to when they would like to have their annual nominations.

8. UNOLS office - Look at the language in the charter's appendices and make sure they all allow for ex-officio members.
9. UNOLS Office – Set up a meeting with the Safety Committee, Craig Lee and Kipp Shearman to discuss the Chartering non-UNOLS vessels Guidelines.
10. UNOLS Office – Create a list of vessels that have already met the requirements of the Chartering non-UNOLS vessel guidelines.
11. FIC – Make sure the SMRs do not require ADA compliant staterooms as there is not any such requirements. UNOLS
12. UNOLS Office – Get the REVELLE and ATLANTIS PCARs to FIC
13. MERAS – Finalize Annex for Charter.
14. Facilitate communication between MATE/STEMSEAS and marine sups and marine tech groups.

*Copy of saved Zoom Chat:*

*10:02:34 From James Swift to Everyone:*

*Our plumber is in the house fixing an urgent problem. I might be away from the screen a bit from time to time.*

*10:17:24 From Amy Baco-Taylor to Everyone:*

*I'm happy to do that again*

*10:31:40 From Samuel Laney to Everyone:*

*Announcing new members in fall would work for AICC: stages the new folks for onboarding ahead of our annual meeting in Dec-Jan.*

*11:29:19 From Rhian Waller to Everyone:*

*From a rotating off perspective it would be good to see you all again one last time - but I think even if we decide to go in person it should have a hybrid component to allow those not comfortable to attend from home.*

*11:30:06 From CLAIRE MARSDEN to Everyone:*

*NOAA still on mission essential travel only for the time being*

*11:36:14 From Anna-Louise Reysenbach to Everyone:*

*Emerging diseases and climate change?*

*11:36:20 From Mike Prince to Everyone:*

*There is new leadership at COL*

*11:39:53 From Rose Dufour to Everyone:*

*Chapter 18 was removed 3 years ago I believe? (The Williamsburg meeting.)*

*12:03:13 From Rhian Waller to Everyone:*

*UMaine has it's own guidelines for utilizing marine vessels - they are similar to these - I don't know if other institutions rely on UNOLS for that.*

*12:04:48 From Shearman, R Kipp to Everyone:*

*Thanks Everyone for taking the time to listen and input!*

*12:28:07 From Samuel Laney to Everyone:*

*agreed. This was a nicely assembled report. The user input process was especially nice.*

*12:29:02 From Rose Dufour to Everyone:*

*Kip, one of the issue with R/V Holoholo was in fact the PI made the determination to the safety of the vessel. UH and SIO were sued for the complete loss of life on that charter. I would think that PIs would embrace a process that reduces risk.*

*12:38:52 From Anna-Louise Reysenbach to Everyone:*

*Dessc also has a vice chair to help out when Chair cannot make the meetings. This was important when we were meeting in person*

*12:47:23 From Brandi Murphy (she/her) to Everyone:*

*Stemseas was able to take advantage of some of these expansions for remote student participation.*

*13:06:00 From Rhian Waller to Everyone:*

*Fornari/Arellano/Mullineaux cruise also had a really nice online program showing ROV dives real time through You Tube.*