UNOLS Annual Meeting – NOAA Update, November 2022

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- Council, RVOC, FIC, and Ship Scheduling Meetings
- NOAA/UNOLS project ship time
- MRP Planning, COVID-19, Staffing Lessons Learned
FY22 – In review

People
- Initiatives to address staffing issues
- Covid-19 protocol leverages vaccine/booster

Metal
- Class A – Oceanographer and Discoverer construction underway
- Class B Requests for Proposal out
- Ron Brown Mid-life repair May 2022

Mission
- Thomas Jefferson – Lake Erie Mapping
- Rainier – Guam/Pacific Island coral reef Mapping
- Nancy Foster – Valor in the Atlantic project
- DAS lost due to Covid/staffing
- MAAS – NOAA MFP pilot
- Budget shortfall challenges: fuel, maintenance, labor, Covid

FY23 – looking forward
- 2607 Days at Sea planned
- Ron Brown Go-Ship North ~75 Days

On 28 October, Thoma-Sea Marine Constructors, LLC (TMC) held a keel-laying ceremony in Houma, Louisiana, for NOAA's newest oceanographic research ship, Discoverer. During the ceremony, the initials of the ship’s sponsor, Second Gentleman Douglas C. Emhoff, were welded onto a steel plate that will be incorporated into the ship during construction. Discoverer will be homeported in Newport, Rhode Island, and is expected to join the NOAA fleet in 2026.