

New Orleans, UNOLS Annual Meeting

MSROC Report

17-18 NOVEMBER 2022

Administrative Changes

I will complete my 3-year term as Chair in May 2022

Lindsay Worthington (U of New Mexico) will be the new Chair of MSROC

The committee will become somewhat smaller with the elimination of one “Ex Officio” membership. Anne Becel at LDEO will remain through the replacement of Langseth to provide direct communications.

MSROC has three new members this year and we plan to add another three members next year to ensure complete turnovers every three years.

MSROC (Marine Seismic Research Operations Committee)

MSROC has been leading an effort to define the characteristics of the Langseth Replacement

Community discussions

Extensive community survey of future needs (e.g. OBS support, seafloor nodes, number of streamers, etc.)

Frequent discussions with NSF and LDEO

Fleet Improvement Committee (FIC) will be providing input to LDEO on general oceanographic capabilities for supporting other oceanographic science disciplines

MSROC suggests that the FIC take up the issue of autonomous ships in terms of feasibility and rationale (eg crew costs) while maintaining a suitable amount of reserve/surge capacity.

New marine seismology technologies

New technologies have extended OBS deployments, for more than a single year.

In particular 1.5 - 3 year deployments (the latter with near-real-time data return with latencies of a few minutes) will become increasingly common.

In order to contain costs, UNOLS should consider the use of autonomous ships to reduce crew and fuel costs.

MSROC requests that FIC consider the introduction of autonomous ships to the academic fleet.
