



UNOLS RVTEC MEETING

Next Up
UNOLS Tech Pool – Piers Chapman



TECH POOL UPDATE 2022

Piers Chapman

Department of Oceanography

and

Geochemical and Environmental Research Group

Texas A&M University



History

- 2012 Small-scale start of pool (2 techs)
- Jan 2015 NSF issues RFP for 5-year Cooperative Agreement
- Jan 2016 Final agreement between NSF and TAMU; pool runs through February 2021.
- March 2016 Pool begins operations with 2 members; 7 by year end
- February 2021 No-cost extension
- June 2022 New 5-year contract with TAMU; currently 24 members, 13 others have come and gone (9 have accepted permanent positions with UNOLS or other operators)



Goals of program



1. To retain a pool of experienced technicians and ensure that the necessary technical support is available for oceanographic research cruises when the ship's operator does not have the necessary support in house;
2. To provide opportunities for new/younger marine technicians to sail on multiple ships and learn the latest techniques from senior operatives they would likely not meet otherwise;
3. To ensure that experience built up over many years of marine operations is retained within the marine technician community even as older operatives retire; and
4. To work with UNOLS Technical Support Manager and handle all necessary support functions for technicians, including being a voice.



How it works



- Technicians employed as independent contractors
- 12-month general service agreements plus individual service supplements for each deployment
- Group insurance covers Maritime Employers' Liability and Marine General Liability insurance (2 claims to date); technicians responsible for own medical coverage
- Paid at standard day rates (depending on experience/abilities) based on 8 hr/day ashore, 12 hr/day at sea; includes travel and mob/demob days. **Pay rise of 5% at all levels started 1/01/22.**
- Eligible for attending training workshops if complete 100 days at sea/yr
- Work **NOT** guaranteed and techs may opt in and out of assignments and/or pool



Current pool member deployments



Tech #	Deployments	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1	40	6	8	5	9	5	3	4
2	9			2	4	1	2	
3	23	1	3	4	5	2	1	7
4	9	1	1	3	2	1	1	
5	14		7	7				
6	18		5	5	2	1	4	1
7	7		1		1	2	3	
8	12		1	4	2	3		2
9	3				1	1	1	
10	2			1	1			
11	20			1	9	3	4	3
12	1				1			
13	8				2	2	3	1
14	4				1			3
15	4						1	3
16	2						1	1
17	4						1	3
18	2						1	1
19	2							2
20	4							4
21	2							2
22	1							1
23	1							1
24	1							1
Total	193							
Overall	251	17	42	50	50	23	29	40

Currently 24 “active” pool members although some more active than others

13 other techs have since left the pool. Of these, 9 found permanent positions with UNOLS ship operators



Days worked

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Sea days	267	971	886	746	453	505	698
Shore days	82	370	394	198	205	127	346
Total	349	1341	1280	944	658*	632*	1044

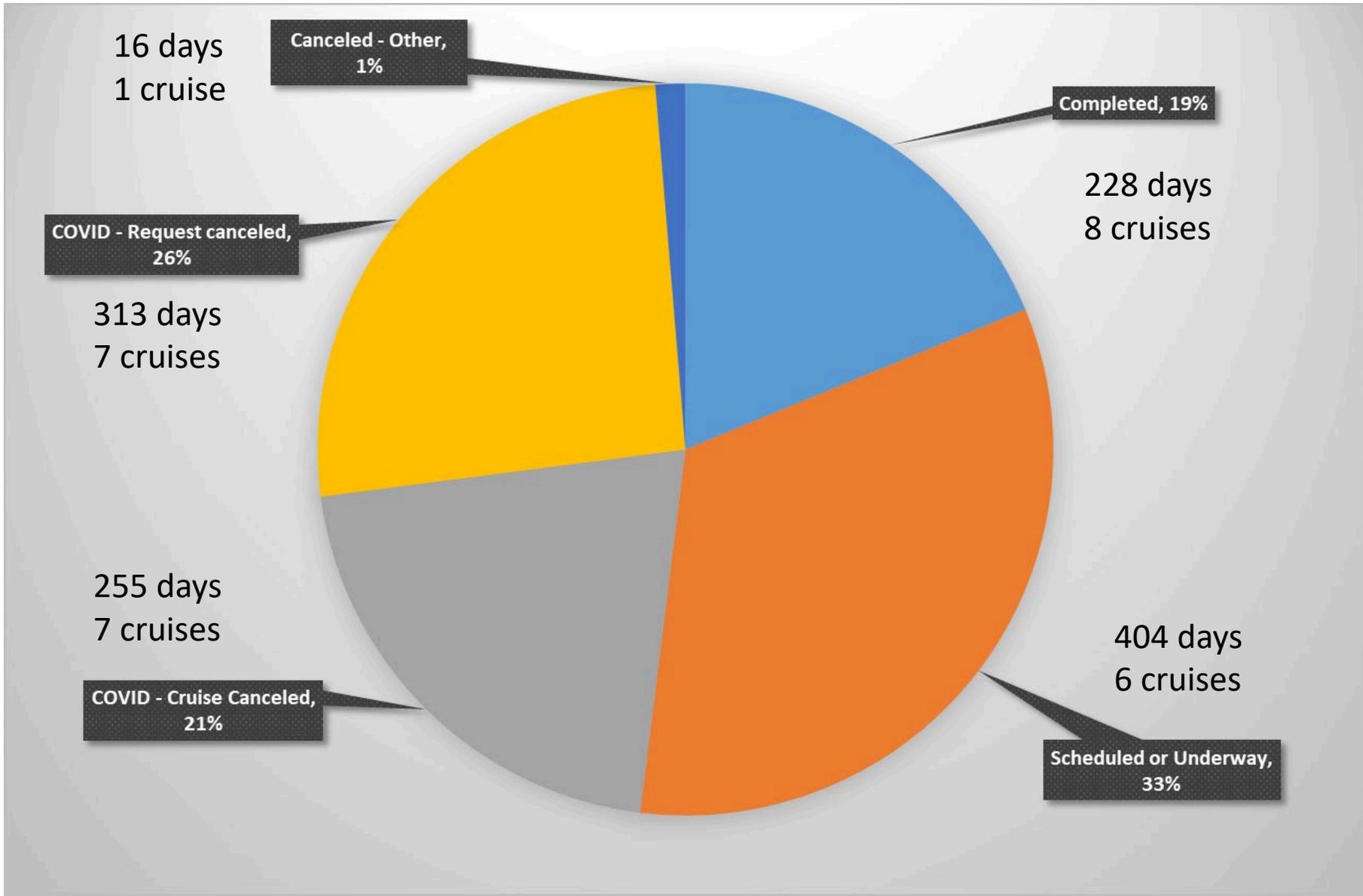
* Includes days required for quarantine prior to cruises



What happened in 2020?



Total days
Expected
1216





Conclusions

- Pool has relieved ship operators from having to keep additional techs in house
- Pool has provided operators with ability to see techs in action before hiring them permanently
- Techs have more freedom to work when they want to although pay not guaranteed
- Pool provides techs with additional opportunities to sail on multiple vessels and meet other techs, as well as get training in new techniques and with new equipment
- Has it been a success?