

# UNOLS Update

Council 2023 Spring Meeting





# UNOLS Update

- Meetings: most are now hybrid
  - Council – Portland, ME this week
  - DeSSC – Woods Hole, 10-11 May
  - RVOC – Duluth, 17-18 May along with the Safety Committee 16 May
  - FIC (virtual) meetings – dates tbd
  - AICC – Alexandria, 19-20 July
  - RVTEC – Honolulu, 23-27 Oct
  - Annual & Council – Tempe, AZ 15-16 Nov
- 2024 Ship Scheduling process proceeding towards goal of publishing schedules in September
  - Still a substantial backlog in cruises from COVID-19, crewing, & mechanical issues.
  - NOAA Ship Ron Brown will undergo a mid-life refit in 2024 further increasing the demand
  - We have also engaged with international r/v schedulers to see where we may help each other out



# Where will the ships be in 2024?

## • Atlantic

- Neil Armstrong (Ocean) – North Atlantic
- Roger Revelle (Global) – East Pacific, Gulf of Mx, North Atlantic
- Marcus G. Langseth (Global / Seismic) – A16S, Atlantic Basin
- Atlantic Explorer (Intermediate) – Bermuda, Florida/Bahamas

## • Pacific

- Sikuliaq (Global / ice capable) – Arctic & NE Pacific
- Sally Ride (Ocean) – U.S. West Coast
- Kilo Moana (Ocean) – Hawaii, Fr. Polynesia, Galapagos

## • Indian

- Thomas G. Thompson (Global) – West Pacific & Indian - I09N followed by I08S in early 2025 (depends on USCG - pending decision reg. ARC01 on USCGC HEALY in 2024), other major projects

**Tentative Schedule Plans – Schedules Still Being Developed**



# More UNOLS Updates

- R/V Marcus G. Langseth (seismic ship) – 2024 last year of operations?
  - LDEO to discuss with NSF to determine whether MGL can continue to operated for another two years after completing a regulatory drydock in 2024
  - More time needed to acquire and refit a ship to support seismic operations and general oceanography
- Crewing – significant progress.
  - Meegan Corcoran will provide an update.
- MATE Internship Program – has successfully shifted from the previous host, the MATE Center at Monterey Peninsula College to the UNOLS Office.
  - Maria Osiadacz continues to run the program – now a UW employee
- Office Review – to be addressed during the Executive Session



# COVID-19 Guidance Update

- Have collected feedback & recommendations for changes to the guidance from:
  - UNOLS ship operators
  - GW Medical Faculty Associates
  - NOAA
- Working to develop an update that:
  - Addresses & is consistent with latest CDC guidelines incl. incorporation of bivalent (“up to date”) boosters.
    - Latest boosters are deemed up to date because they protect against **both** the original virus that causes COVID-19 **and** the Omicron variant BA.4 and BA.5. Two COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers, Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, have developed updated COVID-19 vaccines
  - Give operators the flexibility they need to operate successfully while supporting their needs to maintain appropriate protocols for their operations