



## Community Updates

### RVSS Appendix A Updated

Appendix A – the UNOLS Rope and Cable Safe Working Standards for the Overboard Handling Systems – to the Research Vessel Safety Standards has been updated and is available [here](#). The update includes more detailed requirements related to the use of synthetic tension members. As a reminder, Appendix A applies to tension members (cable and rope) purchased and distributed by the National Science Foundation (NSF) Wire Pool, those acquired independently by the vessel, and those brought on board by any science party or outside organization. Science parties intending to bring “other” tension members onboard ARF vessels to support science operations should discuss plans and Appendix A compliance with the ship operators early in the cruise planning process.

### COVID-19 Guidance Updated

The [UNOLS COVID-19 Guidance](#) for conducting science onboard Academic Research Fleet vessels was updated in late June. The guidelines were updated to reflect how the pandemic and recommended precautions have progressed with input from the fleet, our telemedicine provider George Washington Medical Faculty Associates, and the federal funding agencies. You'll find it much simpler. However, UNOLS and GW still highly recommend all who sail on ARF vessels be up to date in their vaccinations per CDC guidance. We salute and thank all of our community for your continued vigilance in doing all that you can to minimize the impacts of the virus on oceanographic science operations. Through the hard, creative, and collaborative work of the Marine Operations staffs, ship crews, and the science community, the Academic Research Fleet continues to accomplish a tremendous amount of important science.

## Committee News

### New Committee Members

All of our committees are staffed by volunteers and we are grateful for their contributions of time and experience. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest committee members:

- Quing Wang / FIC / NPS
- Zoltan Kelety / FIC / SIO

### Thank You to Outgoing Committee Members

Thank you so much to the following individuals for their contributions to the UNOLS community:

- Scott White / DeSSC / USC
- Dorsey Wanless / DeSSC / ISU
- Byron Blomquist / FIC / CU Boulder

### Summer AICC Meeting

The AICC held its summer meeting in Alexandria, VA 19-20 July with quite a few folks also joining virtually. It was a great opportunity for strong, productive, and direct engagement with representatives from the National Science Foundation, Office of Naval Research, NOAA, the U.S. Coast Guard, University of Alaska Fairbanks, and the Arctic Research Commission as well as the committee membership. USCGC HEALY was able to join virtually taking a short break from their 2023 deployment. This year's shipboard science operations for both USCGC HEALY and R/V SIKULIAQ were reviewed in addition to considerable discussion about 2024 plans for Arctic oceanographic science. The future of Arctic shipboard science platforms – particularly the current state of USCG planning - was discussed extensively. Strong support was indicated for an update of science mission requirements for future Arctic shipboard science platforms. Look for more to come on such an effort soon. An Arctic Early Career Scientist cruise on USCGC HEALY is under consideration for 2024. This follows a highly successful recent Arctic Early Career Scientist cruise on R/V SIKULIAQ. The U.S. Coast Guard shared their effort to develop an updated process for requesting shipboard support for Arctic science as well as their intention to look for opportunities to support science each year onboard USCGC HEALY during its annual deployments.

### STEMSEAS Opens Opportunities for Students



STEMSEAS alum Melanie McCoy aboard the R/V ROGER REVELLE.

Thanks to a partnership with the Office of Naval Research, two alumni of the STEMSEAS program were able to sail with Craig Lee and his team on the R/V ROGER REVELLE as a part of the ASTRAL expedition out of Goa, India this June. One of them has written a blog about her experience:

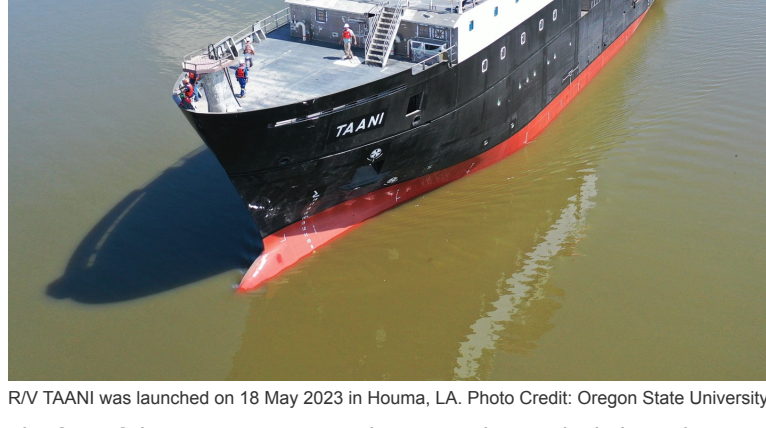
#### Learning together; at every age and every stage

I was selected as one of two STEMSEAS alumni to participate in a UNOLS research expedition in the Arabian Sea this past June as part of the Arabian Sea Transition Layer Departmental Research Initiative (ASTRAL) program. The expedition focused on the interdisciplinary study of the air/sea interface interactions involved in the South Asian Monsoon. I was one of only two undergraduates aboard the expedition and the only science crew member who was a community college student. I found, with my previous marine research experience through the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, Student Experience Aboard Ships (STEMSEAS) program that I was more prepared for the expedition than I had feared I would be. Together as a science crew we learned, collected data, adapted to new situations, and worked as a team to expand what we know about the South Asian Monsoon.

To read more, visit the [STEMSEAS blog page](#).

## Fleet Highlights

### R/V TAANI Launch



R/V TAANI was launched on 18 May 2023 in Houma, LA. Photo Credit: Oregon State University

The first of three new oceanographic research vessels dedicated to advancing marine science along U.S. coasts was successfully launched this May in Houma, LA. The ship, R/V TAANI, is being constructed as part of a project, led by Oregon State University (OSU) and funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation. TAANI will be operated by the OSU and will be based in Newport, OR. The vessel is designed to operate with 13 crew and up to 20 scientists for missions extending up to three weeks at sea.

The vessel, will remain docked in Bollinger Shipyards while construction and outfitting are completed. The launch concluded the major exterior construction on the vessel. The shipbuilders will now complete wiring and finish installing equipment and other construction tasks; carry out weeks of operational testing; and conduct sea trials to ensure the vessel is ready for its mission.

Construction of TAANI is expected to be completed in 2024. After that, the ship and its new OSU-based crew will spend several months learning to operate the vessel, training on safety protocols and conducting trials of the scientific tools, sensors and equipment in the Gulf of Mexico before bringing the vessel through the Panama Canal and to its home port in Newport. The first research expeditions aboard R/V TAANI are expected in 2025 under current timelines.

[News article and launch video](#)

### R/V MARCUS G. LANGSETH Operations to Operate Beyond 2024



R/V MARCUS G. LANGSETH in San Francisco Bay. Photo Credit: Columbia Climate School.

Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory has indicated its intent to operate R/V MARCUS G. LANGSETH beyond 2024 for another 1-2 years while efforts continue to obtain a replacement vessel. The Marine Seismic Research Operations Committee (MSROC) will meet virtually on Monday, 18 September, to discuss updating the regional plan for supporting at-sea seismic research with R/V MARCUS G. LANGSETH.

## Updates to MFP.us

### Post Cruises Assessments to be submitted through MFP

Post Cruise Assessment Reports (PCARs) are a critical assessment tool that enable the operators, federal agencies and the UNOLS office to monitor the effectiveness and safety of the research vessel fleet. Each report is reviewed by the vessel's operating institution, UNOLS staff, and program managers at the agencies that fund the Academic Research Fleet. PCAR feedback is important. The operators use these reports to justify equipment and instrumentation improvements

The PCARS are now being collected in the Marine Facilities Planning system at [www.mfp.us](#). If you have never submitted a PCAR through MFP, please watch a [one minute video](#) on how to complete your PCAR in MFP. *Please take a few minutes to complete any outstanding PCAR(s) today.*

### Updated MFP Help for Scientists

The [MFP Help documentation for Scientists](#) has been updated to include short screen share tutorials. These short tutorials cover navigating MFP, submitting & updating SMEs, Cruise Project Management as well as the Research Planner module. These three minute tutorials have proven helpful to the operators. Please contact [mfp@unols.org](mailto:mfp@unols.org) with other ideas.

## Crewing Corner

### Open Positions Update

While crewing within the Academic Research Fleet (ARF) has continued to be more difficult than before the pandemic, there appears to be a significant reduction in the open positions aboard the vessels relative to November 2022. In November, there were 71 open positions forecasted across the ARF for the next 6 months. In May 2023, the number of open positions dropped to 54. That is a 24% reduction in the number of open positions. It is unclear what is causing the reduction at this time, but it could be a combination of increasing pay across the ARF, the increase in foreign port calls, and/or the significant increase in outreach activities including career fair attendance, presentations, and direct engagement with maritime training schools. This information will continue to be gathered and shared biannually to better understand the state of crewing in the ARF and identify what actions are working.

The UNOLS Crewing Tiger Team continues to meet regularly to work on additional measures to increase visibility of open positions as well as evaluating other possible solutions to help the operators in their efforts to find crew.

## Featured Ship

### R/V ATLANTIS

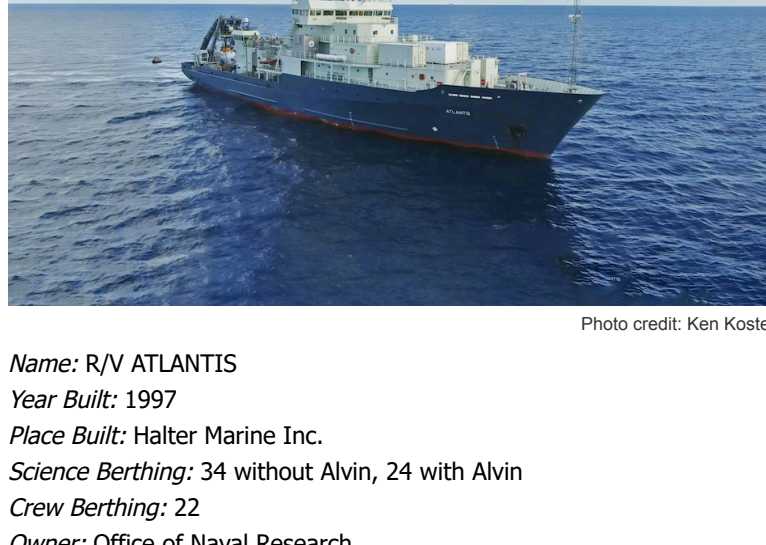


Photo credit: Ken Kostel

**Name:** R/V ATLANTIS  
**Year Built:** 1997  
**Place Built:** Halter Marine Inc.  
**Science Berthing:** 34 with Alvin, 24 with Alvin  
**Crew Berthing:** 22  
**Owner:** Office of Marine Research  
**Operator:** Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
**Class of Vessel:** Global Class

The R/V ATLANTIS was named after the steel-hulled ketch by the same name, the first purpose-built U.S. oceanographic research vessel (which the space shuttle Atlantis was also named after).

It is the only ship in the U.S. academic fleet outfitted to handle DSV Alvin.

In November 2022 the Captain and crew of the R/V ATLANTIS rescued 12 people from the fishing vessel F/V TREMONT after it sank following [a collision with a container ship](#) off the coast of North Carolina.

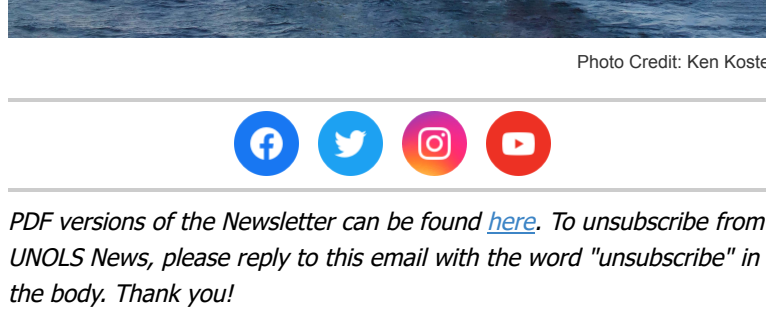
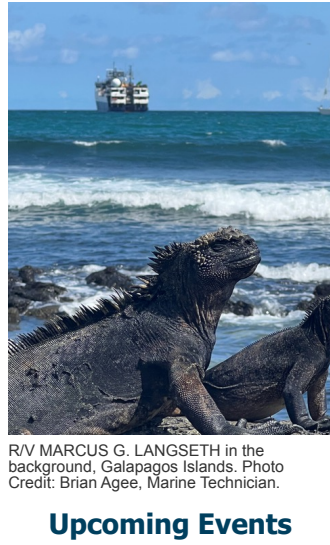


Photo Credit: Ken Kostel

### Featured Photo



R/V MARCUS G. LANGSETH in the background, Galapagos Islands. Photo Credit: Brian Agee, Marine Technician

### Upcoming Events

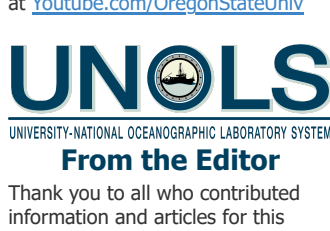
[2023 RVTEC Meeting](#)  
23 Oct 2023  
Aia Moana Hotel  
Honolulu, HI

### Did you know...

Looking for a presentation to help your students better understand the UNOLS community, the US Academic Research Fleet and the various facilities available? There is a presentation available [online here](#). Please contact the UNOLS office if you have any questions or if you are interested in other outreach or educational materials.

You can find UNOLS related videos, including MFP tutorials, at [YouTube.com/UNOLS](#)

Check out the RCRV Ship Progress Update, at [YouTube.com/OregonStateUniv](#)



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### From the Editor

Thank you to all who contributed information and articles for this issue of UNOLS News. Articles are always welcome and encouraged. Copy, links, or images and questions can be submitted by e-mail to [media@unols.org](mailto:media@unols.org).

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