

UNOLS Non-operator response to Agency Letter

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Agency positions

1. “Vessel owners have sole discretion on their vessel(s) retention and disposition. Agencies have final authority on where their respective Federal work will be carried out and vessel schedules.”
2. “NSF and ONR will not normally provide operators of agency-owned assets with lay- up funds and will not divert work from other ARF vessels as an artificial means to reduce day rates.”
3. “Federal agencies prioritize decision based on schedule efficiency...to maximize science support while making every effort to reduce overall costs.”
4. “NSF and ONR agree that an appropriate level of surge capacity is needed..”
5. “...fleet size is an important factor in overall planning and budgeting resources..”
6. “Federal agencies encourage institutions that own and/or operate ARF vessels to employ their assets for institutional education and research.”
7. “The methodology of establish a homeport load/unload day rate, a separate MOSA rate, and an operational rate, provides more transparency to the ship’s overall day rate calculation...”

New Section: Actions to Reduce Risk

- Pre-cruise written Science Support Agreement
- Additional Mariners
- Additional Cyber & Network Support
- Med-evac
- Additional flex-days
- UNOLS Rope and Cable Safe Standards

Agency Guidelines

- Programs may be scheduled as a two-ship operation instead of a single Global Class ship if it will be more efficient and cost effective and the science objectives are not compromised. Otherwise, larger programs will need to wait until the desired ship is available with minimal transit days.
- Every effort is to be made to schedule each year's funded programs within the budgetary constraints of each Federal agency. Deferrals will be considered if a particular cruise cannot be accommodated effectively and efficiently. All cruises requiring significant transit costs will be specifically reviewed and evaluated to determine if it can be accommodated within the available funding.