

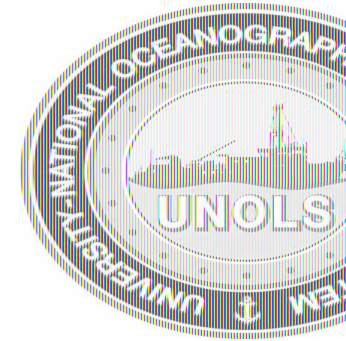
2024 RVOOC Meeting

Halifax, NS

Opening Comments, Introductions

- Welcome - RVOC Chair – Doug Baird / UAF
- Announcements – Doug Russell / UNOLS
- UNOLS Code of Conduct – Doug Russell
- Participant introductions
- Welcome – DFO / CCG / Dalhousie U

UNOLS Code of Conduct

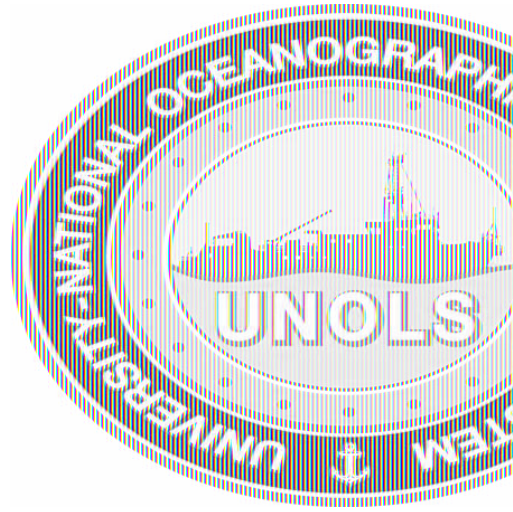


- **Standards:**

- Every person is treated respectfully and collegially.
- Every person is committed to engaging successfully with members of other cultures.
- Participants are mindful of their surroundings and of their fellow participants.
- Every person is accountable: When we as organizers or participants fail to meet these guidelines, we work together to identify problems and adjust policy and practice together.
- Discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, of any type, is not tolerated.

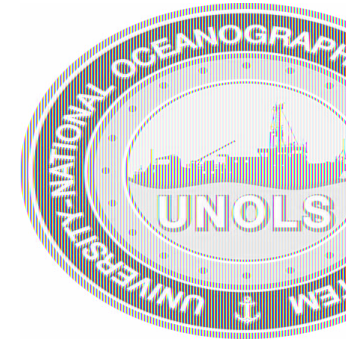
- **Ground rules:**

- Every committee participant is valued and on equal footing.
- We will model the behavior we expect to see from others.
- We will speak from our own experiences and no one else's.
- We will give credit appropriately.
- We will practice respectful communication.
- We will respect and include all voices.
- We will not interrupt.
- We will focus on listening as well as speaking.



UNOLS Updates

UNOLS Code of Conduct

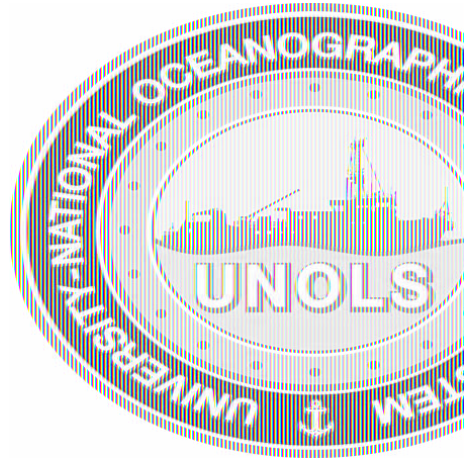


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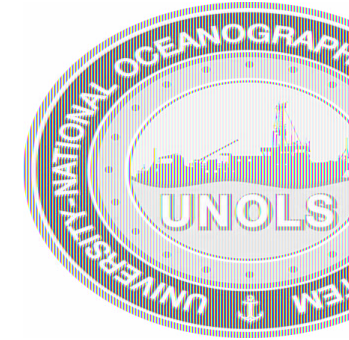
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UNOLS Office Updates

UNOLS Office New Hires



- Technical Services Manager

- Tara Clemente

- Manages the Tech Pool
 - Support to Marine Tech Community & NSF Program Director for Oceanographic Tech Services, Instrumentation & Shipboard Scientific Support
 - RVTEC
 - Will be more involved with other committees i.e. MSROC & DeSSC

- Project Assistant

- Stefani Martynenko

- MFP Customer Service
 - Administrative Support especially wrt committee meeting set up & preparation

- Safety Manager next

UNOLS-MATE MARINE TECHNICAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM 2023 PROGRAM

17 INTERNSHIPS COMPLETED ON 9 VESSELS

HOST/VESSEL	NUMBER OF INTERNS
UDEL, Hugh Sharp	2
BIOS, Atlantic Explorer	3
LDEO, Marcus Langseth	4
WHOI, NDSF, Jason Team, Thompson	2
WHOI, NDSF, Alvin Team, Atlantis	1
WHOI, NDSF, Sentry Team, Atlantis	1
HOT, Univeristy of Hawaii, Kilo Moana	2
WHOI, Neil Armstrong	1
UAF, Sikuliaq	1
TOTAL:	17

Demographic data for 2023 Interns (n=17)			
Women	Individuals from Historically Marginalized Communities	Community College Students	Qualify for Financial Assistance
10	8	6	10
59%	47%	35%	59%

2024 PROGRAM

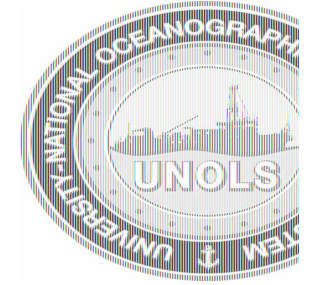
INTERNSHIPS COMPLETED, IN PROGRESS AND PLANNED

18-24 INTERNSHIPS PLANNED ON 10-12 VESSELS

- At-sea internships with loading/unloading between cruises
- Combined sea time with land-based technical support
- Dockside/shipyard projects with sea trials or no sea time

HOST/VESSEL	INTERNSHIPS		
	COMPLETED	IN PROGRESS	BEING PLANNED
UAF, Sikuliaq	1		
WHOI, NDSF, Alvin Team, Atlantis		2	
LONGTERM INTERNSHIP:			1
UDEL, Hugh Sharp; BIOS, Explorer; STARC, Healy			
LDEO, Langseth			6
WHOI, NDSF, Sentry Team, Reville			1
STARC, Healy			2-4
URI, Endeavor			1
HOT, Univeristy of Hawaii, Kilo Moana			2-4
LUMCON, Pt. Sur			1
WHOI, NDSF, Alvin Team, Atlantis			1
Other, in discussion			2
ESTIMATED TOTAL:			18-24

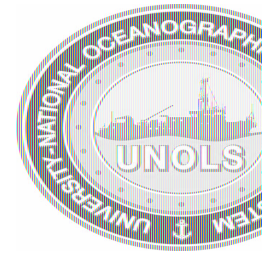
UNOLS Office – 2nd Term Renewal



- Working through new Cooperative Agreement with NSF and new grants / contracts with the other funding agencies (ONR, NOAA, USGS & BOEM).
 - NSF approved the proposal for the new C.A.
- Progress on issues identified in Council Review
 - MFP
 - allocation of resources - new UNOLS Office hire started 4/15 who will focus on Customer Support
 - process for addressing new/ongoing software issues - the developer has a new dedicated PM who is being more proactive about going through & addressing tickets

UNOLS Office - 2nd Term Renewal Cont'd

- Ship Scheduling Committee Chairmanship
 - This still needs to be addressed with the ship operators, schedulers, and the funding agencies.
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
 - MERAS has taken a more proactive approach to:
 - raising awareness of DEI resources, interacting with other UNOLS committees,
 - identifying opportunities to engage and provide input on important issues (i.e. drafting an updated RVSS Appendix E, providing input on the implementation of Safer Seas Act requirements).
 - UNOLS Code of Conduct is reviewed at the beginning of all Committee activities
- UNOLS Website
 - Major Website Revision – haven't addressed yet due to staff shortage and other higher priorities
 - Updates –
 - We continually make updates to provide up-to-date information, news, meeting updates, etc. so that the Website continues to serve as a highly effective tool for communicating with the UNOLS Community.
 - We recently completed a Drupal update



Legislative Action regarding the ARF

•**Proposal:** Statutory amendments to 46 U.S.C. that will allow the vessels of the Academic Research Fleet (ARF) to function in a favorable and stable regulatory environment.

•**Intent:** With a clear set of statutory directives, operators of ARF will not have to depend on interpretations of individual U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) officers, the USCG Commandant, other federal agencies, or the courts.

•**Proposed Changes:** The proposed to title 46 of the U.S. Code (46 U.S.C.) should:

(1) Have ARF vessels of the participate in the inspection regime administered by the USCG, of subtitle II of title 46 U.S.C.;

(2) Exempt ARF vessels from the federal pilotage requirements of 46 U.S.C. § 8502;

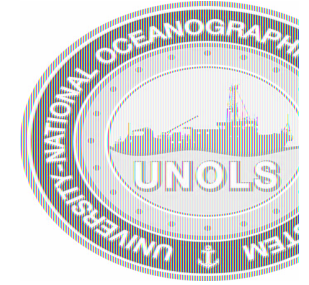
(3) Ensure, to the extent possible, that ARF vessels are treated as public vessels for purposes of international law by the U.S. Department of State;

(4) Allow ARF vessels, their operators, and their operators' employees and agents to take advantage of the protections of the and the Suits in Admiralty Act (SAA), 46 U.S.C. §§ 30901–18, and the Public Vessels Act (PVA), 46 U.S.C. §§ 31101-13;

(5) Ensure that members of a science party, without regard to their employment status on any Oceanographic Research Vessel (ORV) are not able to seek the remedies provided to "seamen." under the Jones Act, and the judge-made general maritime law of the United States; and

(6) Ensure that members of the science party, whatever their employment status, on any ORV are not considered "passengers".

Legislative Action Continued

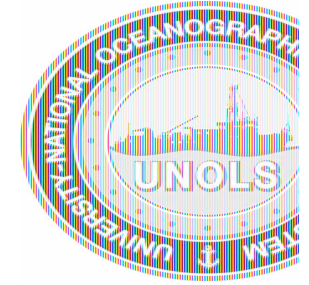


•**Status:** UNOLS Legal Advisor / Risk Manager Jon Guttoff has drafted proposed changes.

•**To Do:**

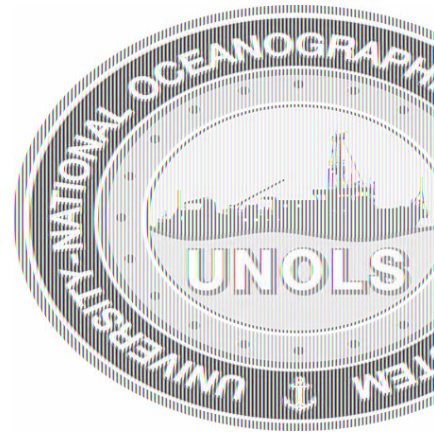
- We intend to review & share the proposed changes to 46 U.S.C with Council and the UNOLS Ship Operators with an intent to develop a consensus for the proposed language and moving ahead with pursuit of the changes.
- We will need to develop a strategy with the UNOLS Community, particularly the Operating Institutions, for pursuing Congressional support for making the statutory changes

Other Initiatives

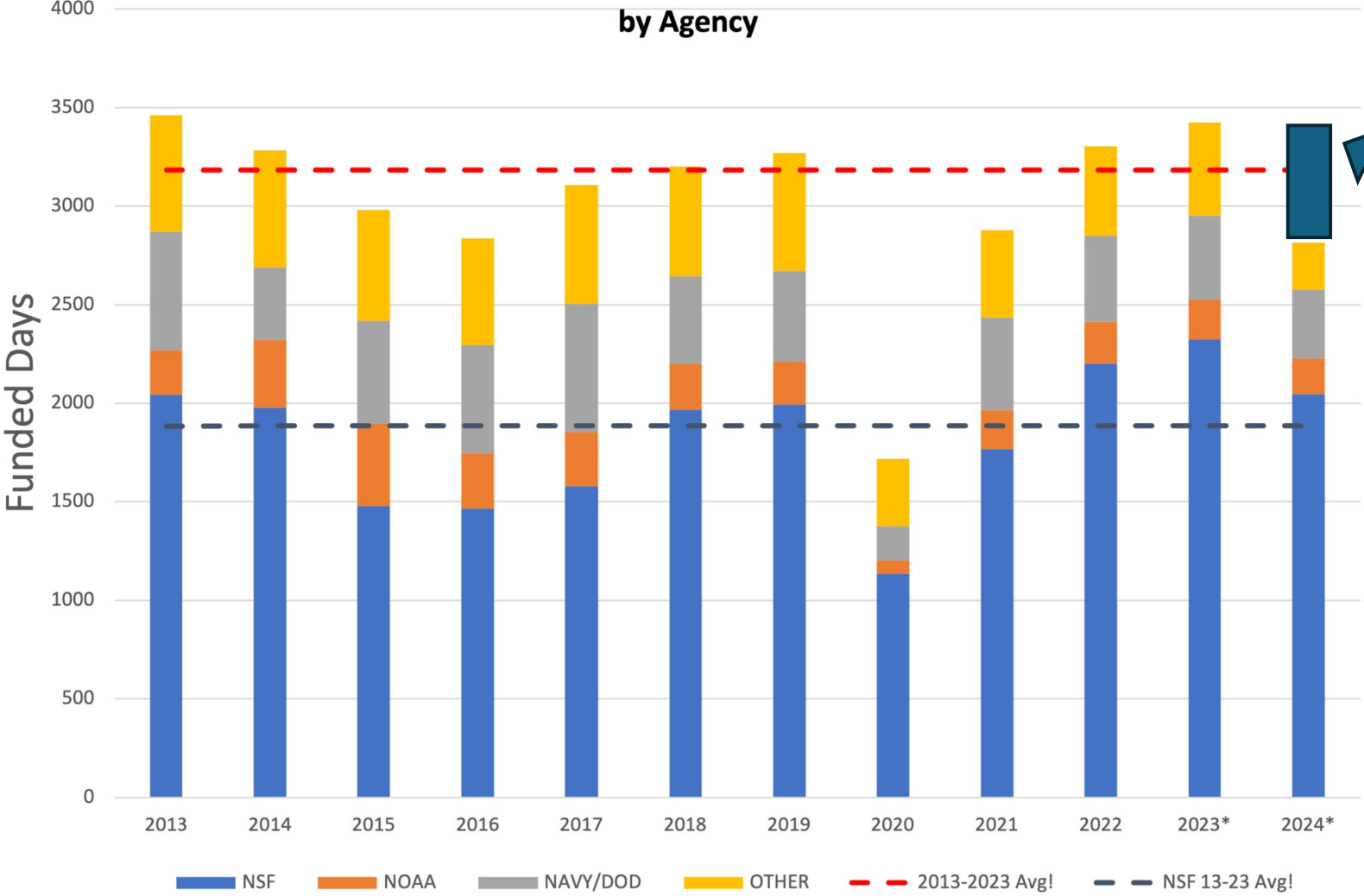


- AICC - Arctic Marine Research Coordinating Committee (AMRCC)
 - Science mission requirements for new Arctic surface capability
- FIC – Global / Ocean Class usage
- FIC – Local / Coastal Class needs
- Decadal Survey – direct input
- Ocean Advocacy – UNOLS Chair

Fleet Operations 2024 & 2025



US Academic Research Fleet Operational Days (2013 - 2024) by Agency



We are now at 3403 total funded days for 2024

NSF
2343
Navy
470
NOAA
262
Other
328

*Provisional
^Projected - Funded + 30% Pending
! 10yr Avgs do not include 2020 (COVID-19)

2025 Ship Operations

- Schedulers working on multiple options for Globals to accomplish major programs. Major decisions to be made that will determine what regions they will operate in
- Some of the many issues
 - ONR priorities in Bay of Bengal / Sea of Japan. NSF priority in Bay of Bengal as well?
 - OOI-RCA requires major lift / A-frame capabilities to support essential mooring maintenance
 - Complete ALVIN Pacific Ocean work
 - Significant demand for vessel support in the Atlantic
 - GO-SHIP support
 - Retirement of R/V Endeavor
 - Await delivery of RCRVs
 - NSF 2025 Budget for Ship Operations ??

2024 Annual & Fall Council Meetings

- Skidaway Inst. Of Oceanography
Savannah, GA
- 20-21 November 2024



**Skidaway Institute
of Oceanography**
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

10 Ocean Science Circle

Savannah, GA 31411-1011 USA

Safer Seas Act

USCG Policy Letters related to SSA

- 23-05 – Surveillance Requirements
- 23-04 – SASH Signage Requirements
- 23-06 – Key Control



Commandant
United States Coast Guard

2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave, S.E.
Stop 7501
WASHINGTON DC 20593-7501
Staff Symbol: CG-CVC-4
Email: FlagStateControl@uscg.mil

16711 / Serial No. 2050
Policy Letter 23-05
November 13, 2023

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark R. Neeland".

From: M. R. Neeland, CAPT
COMDT (CG-CVC)

To: Distribution

Subj: GUIDANCE ON SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN COMMERCIAL
VESSELS THAT DO NOT CARRY PASSENGERS

Ref: (a) James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2023, SEC
11607 (H.R. 7776 page 1756) Surveillance Requirements
(b) Title 46, United States Code (U.S.C.) § 4901 – Surveillance requirements

1. PURPOSE. This policy letter provides clarification, policy, and guidance to the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI), Recognized Organizations (RO), and the maritime industry on reference (a) regarding surveillance policy requirements as codified in reference (b).

Safer Seas Act

- USCG has recently concluded ARF vessels are not Public Vessels (CG Policy Letter 24-01)
- Required to comply with Safer Seas Act (SSA)
 - **Enacted as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for the fiscal year of 2023 to combat sexual assault and harassment (SASH) aboard vessels**
- 4 Primary Elements
 - Safety Management System (SMS)
 - Key Control
 - Signage
 - Video Surveillance System
- UNOLS Office to facilitate efforts
 - SMS, Key Control & Signage -
 - Is operator/ship specific
 - UNOLS to coordinate / facilitate sharing of information & best practices amongst operators for
 - Meegan Corcoran will assume this role for the UNOLS Office

Safer Seas Act Continued

- Video (and audio) Surveillance System
 - Contract for a stand-alone system that can be procured, installed, and supported on ships by a contractor
 - Coordinate with UNOLS Ship Operators
 - Focus on Global & Ocean Class vessels (8 ships) first as they undergo regular USCG inspections to maintain their Certificates of Inspection (COI)
 - Coordinate with RCRV program as those ships will also have COIs
 - Address Regional, Coastal and Local class vessels after
 - Doug Russell will manage this aspect of the SSA implementation
- Where are we currently?
 - Decision made this week to move ahead
 - Identifying possible solutions
 - Digigone is one solution
 - Standard package of cameras, microphones, secure server based on ship's general arrangements
 - 2-3 installation by a 2-person team
 - Tested remotely monthly with reports provided regarding the status & health of each ship's system
 - Data stored in a locked secure server onboard the ship
 - If video is required for an investigation, Digigone reaches in via satcom to upload requested video and then download to a secure source that is delivered to the authorized recipient . No crew involvement
 - Data (video & audio) is retained on server for at least a year per USCG regulation
 - Investigating other possibilities / possible solutions / suppliers
 - Will start on development of a contract that will be executed through UW Procurement
 - Intend to install for all berthing area passageways – crew, marine techs & science party to afford increased safety / security for all
 - Will share plans with the UNOLS Community as the plans solidify