



Arctic Marine Research Capabilities Committee (AMRCC)

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What is the AMRCC?

- Committee established by UNOLS Chair and Council at the request of the NSF, ONR, and USARC
- *Purpose:* Review and refresh science missions and affiliated science mission requirements of future Federal icebreakers operating in the Arctic Ocean and other northern polar regions
- *Primary Tasks*
 - Assess whether existing SMs and SMRs meet current and emerging needs for Arctic research on Federal icebreakers
 - Identify any additional SMRs required to ensure that Federal icebreakers will meet the needs of the Arctic marine research community for the next 30 years
 - Review and refresh SMRs for (a) any commercially available polar icebreaker that may be acquired or procured and refit for operation by the Federal government; and (b) the conceptual design of future “medium”¹ or “heavy”² federal-flagged and owned icebreakers. - THIS IS A RANGE OF SHIPS AND DIFFERENT FROM OTHER SMR DEFINITIONS

Committee Membership

- Dr. Carin Ashjian, WHOI, Chair
- Dr. Lee Cooper, UMCES
- Dr. Laurie Juranek, OSU
- Dr. Jim Swift, SIO
- Dr. Jeff Welker, UAF
- Dr. Emily Eidam, OSU
- Dr. Laura Whitmore, UAF
- Dr. Christopher Cox, NOAA
- Dr. Bernard Coakley, UAF
- CDR William Woityra, USCG
- Ethan Roth, UAF
- Brendan Mendenhall, SIO

What has happened so far?

- Call for nominations in spring of 2024
- Committee established June 2024
- Kickoff Zoom meeting July 2024
- Relevant documents collected summer-early fall
- Second Zoom meeting Sept. 24
- First in person workshop Nov. 14-15, Seattle WA
 - Heard agency perspectives
 - Worked on community questionnaire
 - Set up working group for operators' questionnaire
 - Start selecting Science Missions for which to identify Requirements
 - Other discussions

Some emerging directions

- Consider science capabilities as “critical” vs. “nice to have”
- Consider how science capabilities could be modular and how the ships would need to be able to accommodate the modules (e.g., lab vans, portable winches)
- Consider what science our other assets cannot do
- Be forward looking – what are the science directions that will drive our needed capabilities over the next 30 years

What's next?

- Community questionnaire –early December
- Community meetings to relay information and collect input:
 - AGU Meeting, December 11, 1230-1330, Westin Hotel, Washington DC
 - Alaska Marine Science Symposium, week of January 27, date TBD, Anchorage AK
 - Arctic Science Summit Week, week of March 24, date TBD, Boulder CO
- Second in person workshop in April 2025

Questions?

