



Community Updates

Seafloor Eruption on the East Pacific Ridge

Scientist working in the *HOV Alvin* witnessed a seafloor eruption on the East Pacific Ridge. Although the eruption was predicted, they are rare. The scientists were working off of the Office of Naval Research's *R/V Atlantis*, a member of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet. To learn more about it you can read Wood Hole Oceanographic Institution's article here: [Scientists in ALVIN witness seafloor eruption on the East Pacific Rise](#).

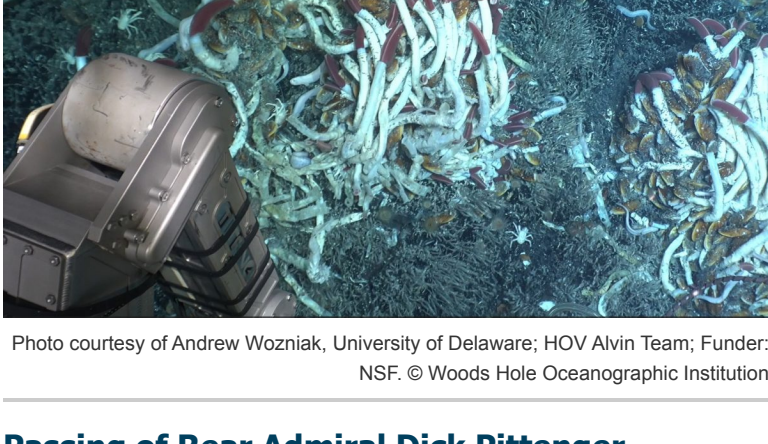


Photo courtesy of Andrew Wozniak, University of Delaware; HOV Alvin Team; Funder: NSF. © Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Passing of Rear Admiral Dick Pittenger

Rear Admiral Richard "Dick" Pittenger passed away on June 18, 2024. Dick was an oceanographer in the Navy and later was the Dirctor of Marine Operation at WHOI. During his time at WHOI Dick ensured access to first-class research vessels and vehicles for the oceanographic community. Read WHOI's obituary for more details about all that Dick Pittenger did for our community: [Rear Admiral Richard "Dick" Pittenger](#).

2026 Academic Research Fleet Scheduling Update

The UNOLS Ship Scheduling Committee is actively developing the 2026 ship schedules, focusing on Global and Ocean class research vessels. This is a complex undertaking, significantly influenced by varying federal funding scenarios from the National Science Foundation (NSF), Office of Naval Research (ONR), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Due to differing budget proposals across the Executive Branch, Senate, and House of Representatives, the Committee is preparing for a wide range of funding possibilities. This means difficult decisions may be necessary to balance "funded" science requests with available operational funding for the Academic Research Fleet. Ship schedulers are diligently reviewing previously funded projects. They're verifying current funding, identifying essential scientific goals, and seeking cost-effective execution methods. Their work involves creating flexible schedules and contingency plans to accommodate potential disruptions like shipyard extensions or budget resolutions. This detailed planning will provide federal agencies with comprehensive information for critical decision-making.

Your patience, flexibility, and support are greatly appreciated during this challenging time. Please ensure your Science Mission Essential (SME) information is always updated with any changes in funding or scope of work. This accurate information is vital for effective fleet scheduling.

USCG now using Marine Facilities Planning

The U.S. Coast Guard is now using Marine Facilities Planning (MFP) as the single method to apply for ship-time for all research projects on *USCGC Healy*. Researchers interested in submitting proposals for all research projects to the Arctic that would utilize the capabilities of the *USCGC Healy* should submit their requests in MFP making sure to select the ship in the process of completing the SME.

The Coast Guard will also use MFP for the scheduling of the project, the cruise planning for scheduled projects, and inventory management for tracking research equipment shipments to the *USCGC Healy*.

Requests submitted will be evaluated and considered for scheduling in 2026 and beyond. Researchers who may have questions may contact the USCG's Arctic Science Liaison, Ben Alsip (benjamin.m.alsip@uscg.mil).

ARF Featured By Mariner Influencer



Joe Franta, a Mariner and YouTuber, was recently invited to the Office of Naval Research's *R/V Sally Ride*, operated by University of California, to create a special episode about sailing on research vessels.

He accurately captured the important work dynamic between the crew and scientists and showcased this beautiful work environment. Please visit his YouTube channel to watch the whole episode [here](#).

Committee News

Council Update

The 2025 Spring/Summer Council Meeting was held virtually on July 10 & 11, 2025. Key discussions revolved around the significant budgetary uncertainties. A major focus was "Managing Potential Cuts and Protecting the Fleet," prompting discussions on potential fleet-wide actions, preventing attrition of crew and early career scientists, and exploring alternative funding models.

The meeting also included updates from various committees and working groups. The Deep Submergence Science Committee (DeSSC) discussed increasing access and tools for early career professionals and a New User Program in conjunction with the AGU meeting. Other updates included planning for an Early Career Workshop by MSROC, and ongoing efforts by RVOC to review incidents and recommend changes to the RVSS. RVTEC focused on improving cruise planning communication, flexibility and the need to keep technical expertise in the fleet. The Fleet Improvement Committee (FIC)'s brief focused on their work on updating the Fleet Improvement Plan and assessing a NOAA Class A Vessel. Lastly, the Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee (AICC) reported on the use of MFP for scheduling Healy and efforts to align science requirements with USCG mission requirements for icebreakers.

Also featured was the report by the NOAA NOME team and discussions around integrating the Academic Research Fleet (ARF) in mapping, exploring, and characterizing the US EEZ. Finally, Safer Seas initiatives were reviewed and discussed.

AMRCC Update

In last July's newsletter we reported on the formation of a new special committee, the Arctic Marine Research Capabilities Committee. The AMRCC was created to review and refresh anticipated science missions and affiliated science mission requirements for future Federal icebreakers operating in the Arctic Ocean and other northern polar regions. What have they been up to since then?

The committee has met in person twice in Seattle, held three community meetings in conjunction with other science conferences, conducted a community survey, and is working on a final report with recommendations for scientific capabilities that would be ideally designed for implementation in an enlarged USCG icebreaker fleet, including Arctic Security Cutters, as you likely have read about in recent news. While all that was happening – the Coast Guard purchased the former-ice capable Anchor Handling Tug Support Ship *Aiviq* in February 2025 and is now operating it as *USCGC Storis*. The AMRCC has also developed recommendations for incorporating science capabilities for *Storis* recognizing it will take time and funding to determine what changes can be implemented to the ship to support Arctic science. First, the USCG is evaluating the vessel's current condition and capability and identify requirements to attain full operational capability as a cutter operating in the high latitudes. This assessment will serve as the foundation of a plan for making necessary changes in the coming years.

Fleet Highlights



UNOLS-MATE MARINE TECHNICAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

APPLICATIONS ARE CURRENTLY BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE

2025-2026 LONG-TERM INTERNSHIP

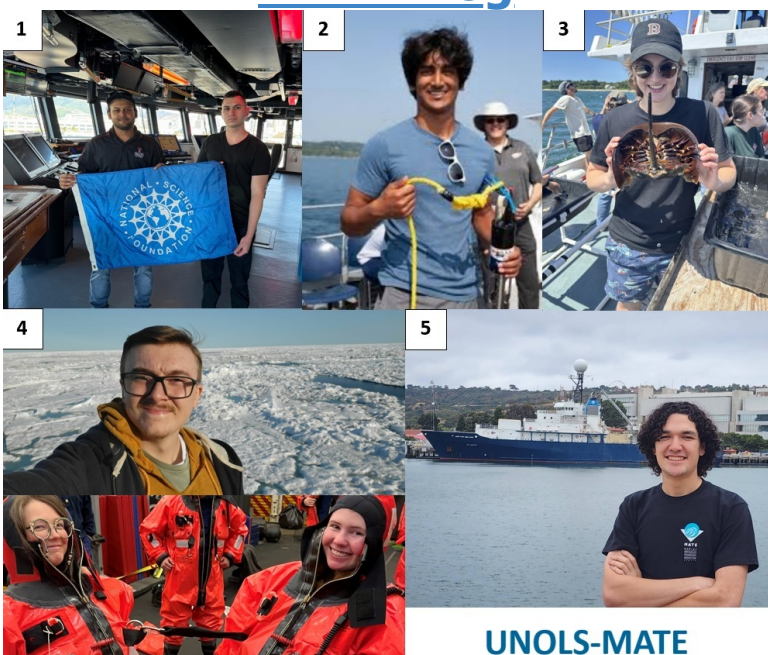
INTERNSHIP DATES: NOVEMBER 3, 2025 THROUGH MAY 22, 2026

DEADLINE TO APPLY: AUGUST 10, 2025

[Find out more about the internship description and requirements](#)

[ONLINE APPLICATION FORM](#)

Follow the 2025 UNOLS-MATE Marine Technical Interns on the MATE Blog



UNOLS-MATE MARINE TECHNICAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



1. [Raymond James Gallant](#) (right), *R/V Sikuliaq*
2. [Namith Kennedy](#), *R/V Sharp*
3. [Steph Long](#), WHOI NDSF Sentry Lab
4. [Brian Samuelsen](#), STARC, *USCGC Healy*
5. [Daniel Silguero](#), HOV Alvin, *R/V Atlantis*
6. [Micah Barton](#) (left) & [Kaleigh Ballantine](#) (right), STARC, *USCGC Healy*

Look who got a new paint job!



R/V Kilo Moana, photo by Tara Clemente

R/V Hugh R. Sharp, University of Delaware photo by Jon Swallow

The Office of Naval Research's *R/V Kilo Moana* is sporting a new green paint job and the University of Delaware's *R/V Hugh R. Sharp* has a shiny new blue paint job. Both vessels are looking great!



PDF versions of the Newsletter can be found [here](#). To unsubscribe from UNOLS News, please reply to this email with the word "unsubscribe" in the body. Thank you!

Featured Photo



The new *USCGC Storis* made a stop in Seattle on its way to its homeport in Juneau, Alaska.

Photo credit: U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Annika Hirschler

Upcoming Events

UNOLS 2025 RVTEC Meeting

3-7 November 2025

Scripps Institute of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA

UNOLS 2025 Fall Council Meeting and Annual Meeting

12-13 November 2025

National Science Foundation, Alexandria, VA

UNOLS 2025 Annual MSROC Meeting

13-14 December 2025

Loyola University, New Orleans, LA

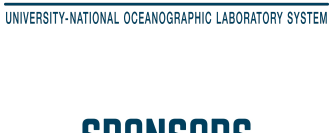
UNOLS 2026 Winter AICC Meeting

14-15 January 2026

USCG Base Seattle, Seattle, WA

Did you know...

You can see progress in real time at the [RCRV website!](#)



UNIVERSITY-NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC LABORATORY SYSTEM

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