

Annex VI: Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee (AICC)

1. INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Coast Guard, NSF and UNOLS have established a UNOLS Committee that shall address research support for U.S. academic science investigators carrying out Arctic research aboard icebreakers and other ice-capable Arctic research vessels. Particular concerns of this Committee are the icebreakers operated by the U.S. Coast Guard as well as UNOLS vessels such as the R/V *Sikuliaq*. It is envisioned that these vessels shall represent the major focus of the Committee.

The Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee shall operate pursuant to appointment by the UNOLS Chair with approval of the Council and in accordance with the UNOLS Charter. This annex shall be incorporated as Annex VI to the Charter.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the AICC is to provide Arctic science projects with planning assistance and to liaise and facilitate communications between U.S. Arctic scientists, funding agencies, and facility providers. Specifically, the AICC is to provide oversight and advice to the U.S. Coast Guard for the purpose of enhancing facilities and science aboard their icebreaker fleet. Incumbent in this is the requirement that AICC solicit, synthesize, and present the needs of the Arctic science community to the Coast Guard, fulfilling an ombudsman role when necessary, to facilitate efficient and effective utilization of U.S. icebreakers. It is also the responsibility of the AICC to promote new technology for Arctic assets in order to maintain cutting-edge capability for these facilities.

The purpose of the AICC is also to promote the best utilization of Arctic icebreaker facilities, provide sufficient lead-time for planning purposes, and provide information to the scientific community to organize research projects. The AICC shall work with the user community, U.S. federal sponsors, and the operators of other polar facilities to actively encourage expeditions using U.S. Coast Guard icebreakers and U.S. Academic Research Fleet ice-capable vessels in a phased manner that meets the needs of a wide spectrum of Arctic scientists. Additionally, the AICC shall actively encourage the advancement of cooperative international programs for the enhancement of multidisciplinary Arctic science throughout the academic community.

3. ORGANIZATION/MEMBERSHIP

a.) Membership

The Committee shall include eight polar scientists from U.S. institutions with diverse disciplines serving three-year terms. Individuals may not serve more than two consecutive terms. AICC membership shall include ex-officio representatives from the UNOLS Fleet Improvement Committee, the UNOLS Research Vessel Technical Enhancement Committee, the UNOLS Research Vessel Operators Committee, and the University of Alaska's R/V *Sikuliaq* Ship Committee. The intent of these ex-officio memberships is to facilitate communication among UNOLS sanctioned committees on opportunities for coordination and/or issues shared in common with icebreakers. Such issues could include safety, outreach opportunities, technical

developments, and joint activities that may involve multiple vessels. *Additionally, to facilitate opportunities for early career researchers to gain a broader perspective on oceanographic research activities on US icebreakers the Committee will include one Early Career Arctic Scientist serving as a non-voting member. This member will serve a 2-year term and will provide early career scientist input on relevant issues. Applicants/nominees who self-identify as early career may apply, with loose guidance of “early career” as typically defined within 7 years of Ph.D.*

Representatives from agencies including, but not necessarily limited to, the USCG, NSF, ONR, NOAA, BOEM, USGS, NASA, and the Arctic Research Commission shall be invited to participate in the Committee's meetings and activities.

b.) Nominations/Officers

Applications/nominations for membership to the AICC, and the AICC Chair will be reviewed and voted on by the standing AICC. The standing AICC will select one nominee for each open position and forward the nomination to the UNOLS Chair. The UNOLS Chair, with the endorsement of the UNOLS Council, shall appoint the AICC members and the AICC Chair from the nominations put forward by the AICC.

The AICC can appoint a Vice Chair who shall function as the AICC Chair in the absence of the Chair. In the event the Chair cannot participate in a UNOLS Council meeting, the AICC Vice Chair shall stand in and fully participate including participation in any votes that are required.

The Chair of this Committee shall be an ex officio member of the UNOLS Council and shall keep the Council and the UNOLS membership informed of its activities.

c.) Working Groups and Subcommittees

Upon the recommendation of the Chair, and with a majority vote of the Committee, various working groups and panels, as necessary to the work of the Committee, may be constituted. The charge and duration of action of such working groups and panels shall be stipulated at the time of inception.

4. SPECIFIC TASKS

Specific tasks of the Committee shall be:

- Provide continuing oversight of the scientific spaces and outfitting of *USCGC Healy* and any future research uses of *USCGC Polar Star*.
- Advise U.S. researchers on use of other U.S. ice-capable vessel assets in the Arctic, including the *R/V Sikuliaq*, as well as U.S. research uses of foreign ice-capable vessels.
- Assist U.S. Arctic scientists with planning and coordination of research on U.S. ice-capable vessels.
- Facilitate and encourage communications and outreach among individual chief scientists and appropriate Alaska Native communities.
- Facilitate liaison between the U.S. Arctic research community, funding agencies, and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to support USCG icebreaker utilization.
- Critique and coordinate feedback of science operations for all USCG icebreakers.
- Advise the USCG, UNOLS, and funding agencies on icebreaker science equipment needs.
- Provide advice to the USCG and UNOLS on technical support for U.S. Arctic research vessels.
- Advise U.S. Arctic scientists concerning international cooperation of scientific programs and facilities in the Arctic including icebreaker assets of other countries.

- Assess U.S. strategies for maintaining or expanding research icebreaker capabilities in the Arctic.

5. MEETINGS/REPORTS

The AICC shall meet no less than twice annually with at least one meeting in person, the second either in person, by telephone, or electronically depending on the needs of the committee to discuss issues within its charge. Funding for these meetings shall be administered similar to that of other UNOLS standing committees.

6. DOCUMENT HISTORY

Originally adopted: September 20, 1996, Arlington, VA

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