



# 2025 UNOLS Year in Review & 2026 Look Ahead

Doug Russell



# UNOLS Year in Review

## ● Meetings

- December 2024 - MSROC - AGU Alexandria VA
- December 2024 - AMRCC Town Hall @ AGU Washington DC
- January 2025 - AICC- Seattle
- January - AMRCC -Town Hall @ Alaska Marine Science Symposium Anchorage
- February - 2026 Ship Scheduling Kick-Off – U Miami
- February - SCOAR - NASA Ames Mountain View, CA
- March - AMRCC Community Meeting - Arctic Science Summit Week Boulder, CO
- April - AMRCC Workshop - Seattle, WA
- April - RVOC/ Safety - U Delaware Lewes - we have a new Safety Committee Chair!
- May - DESSC - Virtual
- May - MSROC Spring - Virtual
- May - FIC Spring - Virtual
- June - AICC Spring – Virtual
- July - Council Summer - Virtual
- Nov - RVTEC - Scripps La Jolla, CA
- Nov – Annual / Council – Alexandria, VA
- Dec – DESSC / DESSC New User Program – New Orleans, LA
- Dec – MSROC / MSROC Early Career Scientist – New Orleans, LA



ATLANTIS  
WOODS HOLE

ATLANTIS  
WOODS HOLE

# UNOLS Year in Review Cont'd

## • Issues / Areas of Focus

- **Federal Government Shutdown Impacts**
  - Scheduling decisions, agency participation in meetings / responsiveness to issues
- **Global / Ocean Class Replacement**
  - Advocacy, meetings with ONR, FIC letters to ONR
- **Marine Facilities Planning**
  - Vendor responsiveness, USCG incorporation, moving ahead with Inventory Management
- **Science Mission Requirements for Icebreakers**
  - AMRCC recommendations for USCGC Storis provided to USCG, finishing report with recommendations for Arctic Security Cutters
- **Ship Scheduling**
  - 2026 ship schedules being published, budget unknowns & their impact on scheduling – originally published through CY Q1
- **Safer Seas Act Installations**
  - Eight Global / Ocean Class vessel video & audio recording system installs completed
- **MATE Internship Program – 15 Internships in 2025 / start of 2026**
  - Funding gap
- **Tech Pool – 12 Marine Tech “fills” in 2025 & 15 Tech Exchanges**
- **Early Career Scientist Activities**
  - MSROC & DeSSC Early Career Scientist Events
- **UNOLS Office Grants / Cooperative Agreement status**
  - NSF, ONR, NOAA & USGS

## • UNOLS Office

- **Staffing –**
  - Admin Asst / Travel Coordinator – hiring new to replace Laine Ritter who is departing for for a different position with UW Marine Operations (we share the AA/Travel Coord UW Marine Ops) – Quinten Barlow
  - Students – hope to rehire once ONR funding issue resolved & we have clarity on 2026 agency funding



# And more

## • Other UNOLS Office Activities

- UNOLS Chair Meetings - biweekly
- Marine Superintendent Check-In Meetings – every 4-6 weeks
- Tech Manager Meetings – monthly
- CIWG Meetings – biweekly
- SATNAG Meetings – monthly
- Crewing Tiger Team Meetings – monthly
- Agency Coordination & Support – frequently as needed
- Committee Support & Meeting Scheduling, Planning, Preparation, Logistics, & Execution
- Budgeting, Reporting
- Procurement / Administration / Execution of Support Contracts
  - Telemedicine Support – GW MFA
  - MFP – Maas Software Engineering
  - UNOLS Legal Advisor / Risk Manager – Prof. Jon Gutoff
  - Scheduling Support – Ms. Elizabeth Brenner
  - MOSA Support – Capt. Eric Buck
  - Website Support – Inclind
  - Programming Support – Erich Gruebel / URI
- Quarterly Newsletters
- Crewing – weekly advertising of open positions / posting of available crew



**R/V Endeavor concluded its remarkable 50 year career!!**



**Congratulations to URI's Graduate School of Oceanography  
and all the Sailors, Marine Techs, Scientists and Students  
who have sailed on this great ship - the last of its class!!**



# Looking Ahead in 2026

## ● Anticipated Activities in 2026

- **Adapt to updated Executive Branch & Congressional guidance as determined by FY2026 budgets and agency allocation / direction**
- **Committee meetings** – return to normal level of in-person or operate in reduced more virtual manner – federal budget dependent
- **Ship Scheduling** - Updating / publishing remainder of 2026 ship schedules once there is a federal budget & agency direction
- **Ship Scheduling** – continue to pursue increased interaction / coordination with NOAA & foreign operators to complete funded science
- **AMRCC** - submit science capability recommendations to USCG for Arctic Security Cutters & work with the USCG icebreaker science capabilities R&DC project
- **MFP** – continue driving the developer to eliminate bugs / problems
- **MFP** – press ahead with the developer to implement Inventory Management
- **MFP** – investigate potential for implementing A/I capability to help with schedule development?
- **Global Class / RV Kilo Moana Replacement** – continue to advocate for formally beginning the process to acquire new vessels working closely with the federal agencies to best align recommendations with anticipated scientific capability needs and agency strategies
- **Advocacy** – continue to find better ways to inform the public, Congress, & new Executive Branch officials about the importance of ocean science and the the ARF & associated UNOLS facilities readiness & capabilities to support ocean science in accomplishing national priorities
- **Advocacy** – assist in finding better ways to publicize the great successes of our community
- **MATE Internship** – develop & submit proposal for a new 3-year MATE Internship grant to follow the current one that expires in 2026
- **Welcome the first RCRV – R/V Taani – to the fleet!**



---

# *Follow us on Social Media*



@unols\_org



@unols



@unols



Questions: [doug@unols.org](mailto:doug@unols.org)