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## UNOLS Newsletter October 2025 - Volume 39, No. 4

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UNOLS Office <office@unols.org>

Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at 10:59 AM

To: unols\_news@unols.org, unols\_representatives@unols.org



## UNOLS News

Exciting updates from UNOLS & the Academic Research Fleet

October 2025 - Volume 39, No. 4

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## Community Updates

### University of Washington Scientist and the Office of Naval Research's *R/V Atlantis* Featured in Recent News



University of Washington oceanographer **Dr. Deborah Kelley** and the Office of Naval Research's *R/V Atlantis* were recently highlighted in a news feature offering an in-depth look at the Ocean Observatories Initiative's (OOI) Regional Cabled Array.

During the summer field season, the Office of Naval Research's *R/V Atlantis* operated off the coast of Oregon to monitor the Axial Seamount—an active underwater volcano—and to replace critical sensors and instruments that are part of the Regional Cabled Array. These systems deliver real-time data on volcanic activity, helping scientists assess potential signs of an imminent eruption.

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### Featured Photo



R/V Langseth off the coast of the Galapagos.

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### 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 Safety Committee Meeting](#)

5 May 2026  
Woods Hole Oceanographic  
Institution, Woods Hole, MA

[UNOLS 2026 RVOC Meeting](#)

6-7 May 2026  
Woods Hole Oceanographic  
Institution, Woods Hole, MA

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### Did you know...

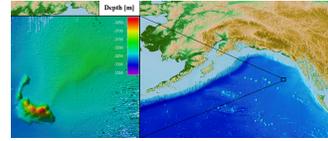
Did you know the USGS Advisory Committee on Undersea Features has provisionally approved naming a feature in the Gulf of Alaska

In the report, Dr. Kelley provides a guided tour of the vessel, showcasing its advanced scientific instruments and the sophisticated control room used to operate its remotely operated vehicle (ROV).

👉 [\[Watch the full video here.\]](#)

👉 [\[Learn more about the OOI Regional Cabled Array here.\]](#)

“Sikuliaq Hill” in honor of the collective captains and crews of the R/V Sikuliaq. Kudos to the R/V Sikuliaq team!



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## Passing of Bob Knox

Robert Knox, a former associate director of Scripps Oceanography and a visionary who helped steer the course of seagoing science in the United States, died Oct. 19 at his home in Del Mar, Calif. He was 82.

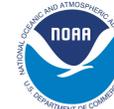
Bob received his doctorate in oceanography from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in 1971. Two years later, he joined Scripps as a research oceanographer studying equatorial circulation and dynamics and the use of acoustic remote sensing to measure currents.

The longtime associate director for ship operations and marine technical support at Scripps, Bob served as the chair of the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System from 1998 to 2000 after having served as a member since the 1980s. He was a persuasive advocate for oceanographic research vessels and the infrastructure necessary to conduct world-class ocean research. He was heavily involved in the design and construction of today's Global Class research vessels, including the Office of Naval Research's *R/V Roger Revelle*.

A respected administrator, Bob held several roles in Scripps leadership, including a stint as deputy director of research in 2008 and a role as acting director in 2009.

Bob was predeceased in 2023 by Dorothy "Muffie" Knox, his wife of 57 years. He is survived by his daughter Leila, son Jamie, grandchildren Calvin, Linnea, Phoebe and Felix, and extended family. Memorial services are pending in early 2026.

## SPONSORS



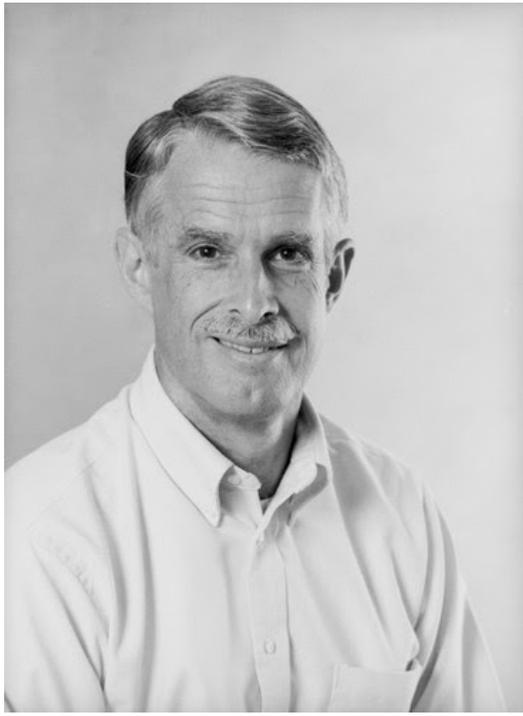


Photo Credit: Scripps Institution of Oceanography

## MATE's 25th Anniversary



Happy 25th Anniversary!

UNOLS is proud to announce that the [UNOLS-MATE Marine Technical Internship Program](#) has been coordinating internships with the Academic Research Fleet (ARF) and its supporting facilities for a quarter of a century. Since its inception, the program has placed more than 380 interns in at-sea and shore-based marine technical internship positions.

These experiences have exposed participants to a wide range of cutting-edge marine technologies, oceanographic instruments, shipboard equipment, and field professionals. Interns post weekly updates about their unique experiences on the [MATE Blog](#).

Overall, the program has been very successful in helping interns define their career goals and develop the technical, trouble-shooting, critical thinking, and interpersonal skills required to succeed in the marine workforce. After completing their internships, many participants have been offered positions as marine technicians, engineers, and pilots, working on ARF vessels, as well as with other marine industries, ocean science and engineering organizations throughout the country. The program tracks former interns about their career goals, employment and how their internships contributed to their career development. Table 1 shows results from 138 survey respondents after completing their internships:

Obtained work as Marine Technician or in closely related ship-based job	Obtained work on an ARF vessel or supporting facility	Continued studies and/or found work in Marine /Ocean Science/ Engineering Field	Continued studies and/or found work in STEM Field
80	47	106	136
58%	34%	77%	99%

While the program primarily owes its success to the immense support from the National Science Foundation and the collaboration between the former [MATE Center](#) (where it originated) and the UNOLS Office (managing the program since 2023), many others listed below have contributed to making this a participant-centered program that empowers the next generation of ocean technicians and engineers.

The program has developed relationships with faculty and advisors from colleges and universities throughout the country who play an important role in recruiting efforts. Many of these representatives run marine technical and engineering programs at their educational institutions. They attend RVTEC meetings and meet with the internship program manager to learn about the Fleet, the types of internships, and to understand the program application procedures and qualifications of top candidates. They share program information with their students, write letters of recommendation, encourage them to apply, and offer support throughout the process. Many design course projects to help their students develop competitive skills and prepare them for a potential placement in the internship program.

One of the most important components of this program is the ongoing collaboration with the Marine Technical Managers, Engineers, Scientists, and their teams, who host interns on board research vessels at-sea, in the shipyard, and at shore-based laboratories. These hard-working professionals dedicate time reviewing applications, interviewing applicants, selecting the top candidates, and participating in pre-internship meetings to help interns prepare for their journeys. During the internships, they provide ongoing support, supervision and training, while at the same time meeting their own demanding shipboard responsibilities. As mentors, they serve as professional role models who go above and beyond to offer interns a positive learning experience and the networking opportunities that will jump-start a rewarding career in the marine technical workforce.

One of the highlights of the program is the dedication and growing involvement by former interns as mentors and professional career advisors. Many former interns, most working as Marine Technical professionals, contribute by promoting the program at various professional events, sharing their experiences on social media, assisting with recruiting new applicants and the intern selection process, helping new interns prepare for their journeys before the internships start and mentoring them during the internships, offering professional career advice after the internships, and helping develop mentor training resources.

UNOLS is looking forward to creating new opportunities for interns and growing this incredible professional network. Applications for the 2026 program are being accepted (pending funding approval). The application form and instructions are available on the [Website](#). To receive new announcements [Sign Up](#).



Photo: UNOLS-MATE Alumni at the 2024 RVTEC Meeting

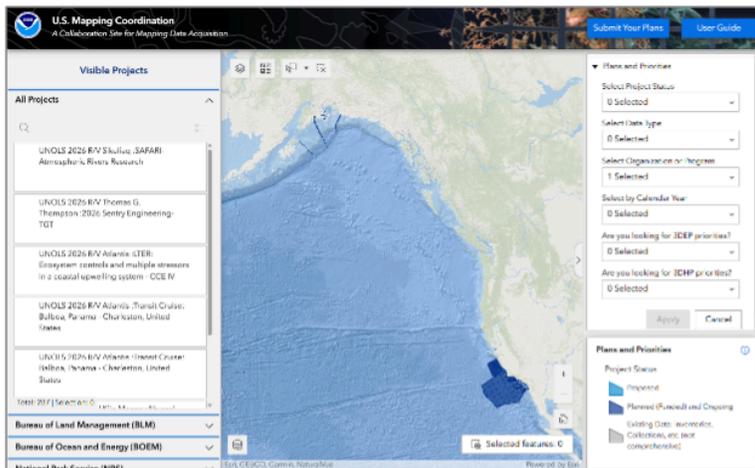
## **Map Once, Use Many Times - NOAA launches a new U.S. Mapping Coordination Site**

With the goal of “Map Once, Use Many Times,” the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS) is increasing collaboration with the [National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization \(NOMECE\) Council](#) to enrich functionality and increase interoperability between existing data products produced by U.S. Academic Research Fleet (ARF) and NOAA’s Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping Program (IOCM). This collaboration will enhance awareness of scheduled activities, help to fill empty spaces in ship schedules (i.e., white space), and provide areas for opportunistic sonar collection in data-poor areas during transit, or as manageable additions to existing collection efforts.

To assist with survey coordination, IOCM migrated the [U.S. Mapping Coordination site](#) from a third party to an in-house tool at the beginning of 2025. This site hosts footprints of prioritized, planned, and recently completed ocean and coastal data collection areas, as well as reference layers showing data that is available in public repositories. With the move, additional utility has also been built into the site, including increased ease of data access, data filtering, and the ability for site users to add their own reference layers to the map viewer. As partnerships continue to grow and strengthen between IOCM, the ARF, and other external stakeholders, IOCM is looking to further expand site infrastructure to better support ocean and coastal mapping coordination and collaboration efforts in service of the [National Strategy for Mapping, Exploring, and Characterizing the United States Exclusive Economic Zone \(NOMECE\)](#).

The ARF is uniquely positioned to bolster data collection efforts because of their geographically dispersed projects and vessels equipped with world-class scientific instruments. IOCM has begun working with UNOLS to build out a reporting function on the site that will integrate existing IOCM products (i.e., the [U.S. Bathymetric Gap Analysis](#), [Spatial Priorities Studies](#), and the [Existing Plans and Priorities Layer](#) of the U.S. Mapping Coordination site) into a reporting function that can assist project planners and principal investigators in finding data-poor areas in existing planned transits or nearby areas. The reporting feature will also assist in connecting potential project or funding collaborators with existing scheduled ARF projects, and provide information on ships with white space in proximity to data-poor areas.

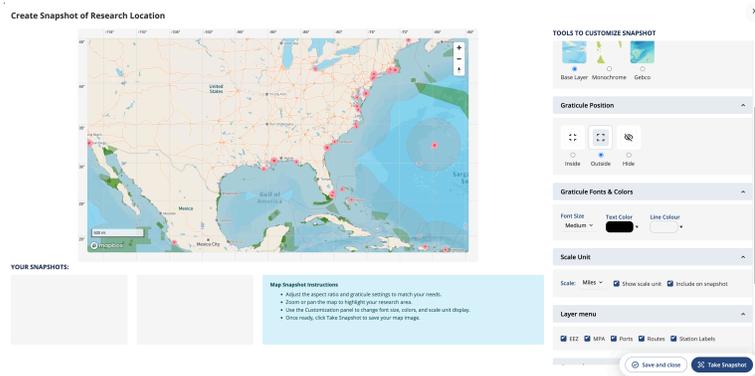
As a first step, the U.S. Mapping Coordination Site has included current [ARF 2026 planning footprints for multibeam equipped vessels on the site](#), where they can be viewed in conjunction with plans and priorities from federal agencies and external partners. Development on the reporting feature is underway and expected to be available by February 2026.



A screenshot of the [U.S. Mapping Coordination Site](#) shows current UNOLS plans for multibeam-equipped vessels in 2026.

## MFP Updates

New Screen Capture in Research Planning Module



MFP Research Planner now includes a new Capture Snapshot feature. You can access it by clicking the camera icon on the right side of the screen. This tool allows you to easily capture and save the location of your coordinates and waypoints. You can also upload coordinate files, then choose the aspect ratio, select the map type, adjust scale units, toggle layers, and more.

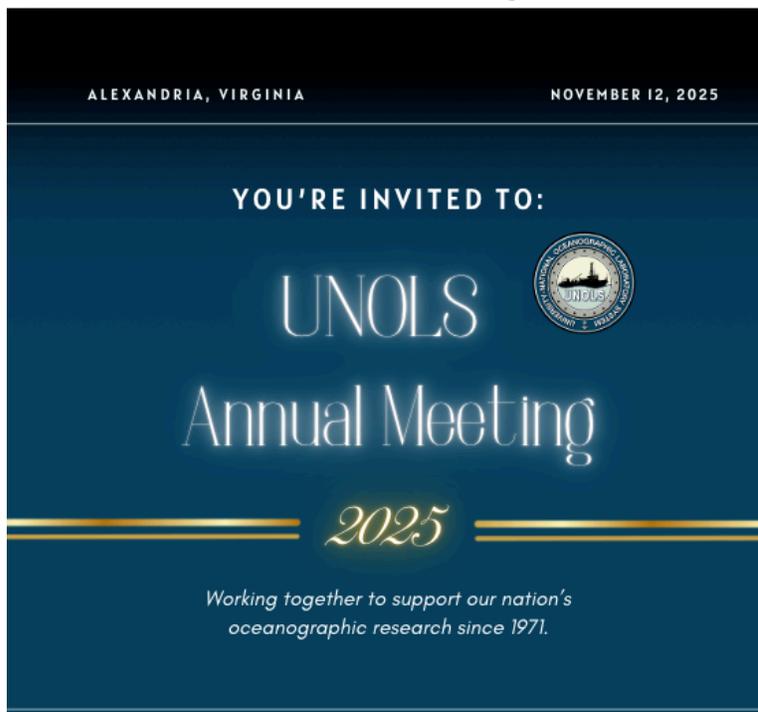
If you have any questions, please reach out to Stefani Martynenko at [stefani@unols.org](mailto:stefani@unols.org).

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## Committee News

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### 2025 UNOLS Annual Meeting



The 2025 UNOLS Annual Meeting is just around the corner. Come join us in Old Towne Alexandria on 12 November 2025. This meeting will be followed by a ½ day Council meeting on the morning of 13 November. Both meetings are open. Although there will be both in-person and virtual

components, we encourage folks to come in person! This is a great opportunity to network and out more about community initiatives. More information about the meeting, including the agenda, can be found [here](#).

Whether you want to attend virtually or in person, please RSVP [here](#). We look forward to seeing you and sharing the UNOLS activities over the past year.

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## 2025 UNOLS Ballot

Are you a UNOLS Member Institution Representative? If so, don't forget to vote! You should have received an email from the UNOLS Office. If you have not, check your SPAM folders. Voting is a key responsibility for UNOLS Representatives. Please contact [bridget@unols.org](mailto:bridget@unols.org) with any questions.

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## New DeSSC Members

Welcome to the new members of DeSSC:

- Victoria Preston / Olin College
  - Shawn Arellano / WWU
  - Adam Starke / MS State
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## Fleet Highlights

### **Farewell to a Floating Legacy: the National Science Foundation's *R/V Endeavor* Retires After 50 Years**



Photo courtesy of John McNamara, Pilot

After nearly five decades of service, the National Science Foundation's *R/V Endeavor*—a cornerstone of oceanographic research—has officially retired. Operated by the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography and owned by the National Science Foundation, the vessel completed its final mission on **September 20, 2025**, marking the end of an era in marine science.

Since its launch in 1975, National Science Foundation's *R/V Endeavor* carried out over **736 scientific missions**, traversed more than **one million miles**, and hosted thousands of scientists, students, and educators. From oil spill response off Nantucket to deep-sea exploration across the Atlantic and Pacific, the ship's legacy is rich with discovery and impact.

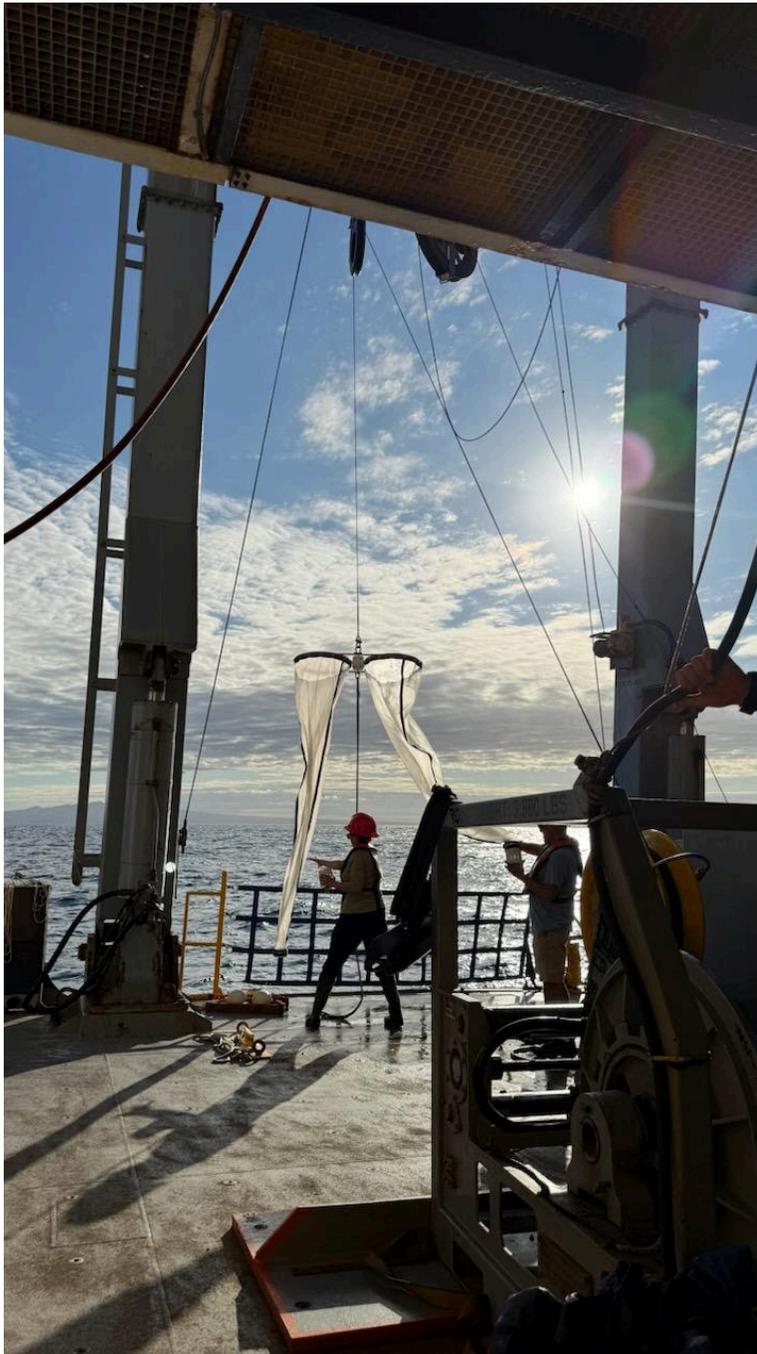
The retirement is bittersweet—while the vessel's contributions will be celebrated, its absence will be felt deeply by the ocean science community.

To explore the full history of the National Science Foundation's *R/V Endeavor* including its most memorable missions and milestones, visit the [ArcGIS StoryMap tribute](#).



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## **Exploring the Hidden Currents of Galápagos Biodiversity with the *R/V Marcus G. Langseth***



This summer, an international team of scientists embarked on an expedition in the Galápagos Marine Reserve aboard the research vessel *R/V Marcus Langseth*. Led by researchers from the Galapagos Science Center and the University of North Carolina, the mission focused on understanding how oceanographic processes—like internal tides and topographic upwelling—shape plankton biodiversity, the foundation of the region’s rich marine ecosystem.

What makes this expedition especially notable is the role of the *R/V Langseth*, a vessel typically known as an “MGG vessel”. The expedition successfully carried out approximately 90 CTD casts, 40 GoFlo deployments, and 70

Bongo net and seawater pump operations—many paired with the UVP camera. In addition, the team maintained near-continuous EM122 multibeam surveying with full ADCP coverage, and the ADCP drifter was deployed 33 times throughout the cruise along with deployment of WireWalker mooring. A lot of mods were made to all the vessel's lab spaces to support the variety of tasks being carried out.

[🔗 Read the full article here](#)



## Discover Small Research Vessels with the Non-Academic Research Fleet Inventory

The [Non-Academic Research Fleet \(Non-ARF\) Small Vessel Inventory](#) is a resource that highlights small research vessels operated by UNOLS Member Institutions. These vessels support a wide range of scientific and educational missions, often in coastal and nearshore environments. A new **interactive map feature** now makes it easier than ever to locate vessels by region and explore their capabilities. If your institution operates a small vessel and would like it included, please contact [bridget@unols.org](mailto:bridget@unols.org). Learn more and explore the map [here](#).



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!