

Minutes
Marcus Langseth Science Oversight Committee
(MLSOC)
31 July 2014 tele-conference- 3-5 pm EDT

Additional Notes to Discuss:

- Industry/Academia Seismic Collaboration Workshop led by Jamie Austin
- Langseth Science as presented in AGU talks, posters, town hall
- MLSOC membership and call for nominations. Matching committee membership disciplines with work the Langseth performs
- Seeking international colleagues who may be interested in Langseth

Executive Summary

The Marcus Langseth Science Oversight Committee, (MLSOC) held their summer tele-conference on Thursday, July 31, 2014. A review of the current year's operations, planning for 2015 schedules, organizing the plan for AGU and the next Early Career Workshop were discussed. The Early Career Workshop will be held in San Francisco on Saturday, December 13th and the MLSOC meeting will be held on Sunday December 14th 2014, just prior to the start of AGU which runs December 15-19, 201

Attendees

Dale Sawyer/Rice & MLSOC Chair
Debbie Hutchinson/USGS
Bill Lang/RAI
Sandy Shor/UH
Sean Higgins/LDEO
Dave Scholl/UAK/Fairbanks
Clare Reimers/OSU
Maya Tolstoy/LDEO
Suzanne Carbotte/LDEO
James Holik/NSF
Donna Blackman/NSF
Candace Major/NSF
Holly Smith/NSF
Jon Alberts/UNOLS (and minutes)
Alice Doyle/UNOLS

Minutes-

Dale Sawyer, MLSOC Chair opened the meeting with welcome remarks and introductions. Dale thanks the committee for their efforts on the letter the committee sent to the National Marine Fisheries Service in response to the comments on "Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Marine Geophysical Survey in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean Offshore New Jersey, May to August 2014". Special recognition and thanks go to committee member Dr. Debbie Hutchinson who led the effort on this letter.

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The committee discussed the benefits to these letters and it was agreed that letters to NMFS are beneficial for informing policy makers and the general public. This should be an ongoing effort by the MLSOC for future cruises as it is important to present factual information. Bill Lang was also thanked for collecting and disseminating news articles and reports which were shared with the MLSOC.

2014 Operations- A review of the 2014 operations was discussed.

Sean Higgins commented on the tremendous effort by many people who worked on permitting issues for the Mountain cruise. Despite the success of the permitting, the cruise had several problems. There was a failure of the wide Tow Streamer winch and then the P-cable was caught in the propeller causing significant damage to the cable. The P-Cable is no longer functional and was shipped back to the vendor. LDEO has re-rigged with (4)-3 km streamers for the next cruise.

A second failure occurred on 21 July when a shaft bearing on the generators failed and the ship had to return to Brooklyn, NY for repairs. These bearings had just been replaced by the shipyard in the spring of 2014. The science party from the Mountain cruise have left the vessel and a formal decision on what happens with this cruise is pending.

LDEO is setting up for the Extended Continental Shelf cruise and the Geoprisms cruise next. LDEO continues to look for other work for the open period in the schedule, October to December 2014.

2015 Operations-

The letter of intent for 2015 has one program for the Extended Continental Shelf program which if approved and funding is received from USGS will be off the U.S. East Coast.

Donna Blackman/NSF provided some news on programs for 2015. There are 4 programs which had been previously reviewed that may resubmit for the Aug 15th deadline. Sean Higgins also reported that LDEO is in discussion with PI's on other potential work for 2015.

MLSOC Early Career Workshop at AGU

The MLSOC Early Career Workshop will be held on Saturday 13 December 2014 and the MLSOC meeting will be Sunday 14 December 2014. Dale Sawyer requested committee members contribute to this effort. Dave Scholl and Debbie Hutchinson volunteered to help. Last year's format of having the ECW from 1 pm to 5 pm and then a combined dinner with the DESSC Workshop was agreeable to all.

For the regular MLSOC meeting on Sunday Dec 14th, a room at AGU has been requested by the UNOLS Office. The same format will be used with the meeting running from 10 am to 5 pm and having agency and operator reports in the morning, followed by science presentations in the afternoon.

A document of the AGU talks and presentations which involve the Langseth would be helpful. Alice Doyle has volunteered to do this.

A session on Environmental Compliance was suggested and Holly Smith will try to attend pending NSF travel approvals.

A survey of last year's workshop should be reviewed for any improvements we could

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make to the workshop this year. The UNOLS office will send the survey results to MLSOC.

Other Early Career Notes-

IRIS Webinars- Danielle Sumy from the IRIS group who also participated in the 2013 MLSOC Early Career Workshop is working on 2 webinars to be broadcast through IRIS. The first will be with Sean Higgins and will discuss the operational aspects of the LANGSETH on October 29th. The 2nd will be with a scientist who has worked on the LANGSETH and will discuss everything from preparing for a cruise through going on the cruise from the science perspective.

Other Meetings-

The Industry/Academia meeting which was postponed last year due to a government shutdown is being rescheduled. Jamie Austin is organizing this and the meeting dates are Thursday & Friday Dec 11th and 12th. The MLSOC asked if an official announcement for the meeting had been sent out but it doesn't appear this has been done. Dale will check with Nathan Bangs and Jamie Austin.

Other Efforts-

Dale Sawyer has sent a letter to 32 international colleagues to see if there would be interest in a workshop to inform our international researchers on the capabilities of the Marcus Langseth. Dale has received 8 responses to date. Being August, many people are on summer break, but Dale will keep us informed as responses come in. The MLSOC committee and the agencies support this effort. Dale thought that the workshop would be sometime in the spring.

MLSOC membership

We still have a vacancy in the membership for an industry type person and Paul Baker's term will be completed in September 2014. There was some discussion on whether it would be beneficial to invite industry type people to our meetings but not have them as members. Also the balance of seismic work and general oceanographic work was discussed and whether we should focus on new committee members with either type of background. Clare Reimers thought from a FIC perspective that it would be good to have a champion of the Long Core on the MLSOC. Donna Blackman mentioned that discussions/actions about modifying the LANGSETH to receive the Long Core are a few years out so for the short-term, it may not be necessary to have this type of person the committee. The inclusion of a foreign member was also discussed. Dale asked for suggestions from the MLSOC committee and a review of previous MLSOC members will be conducted.

Equipment Updates

Some of the recent upgrades to the ship were shared. This includes updates to the real time navigation displays. The Lead-In terminations have also been worked on with some success. They have 6-8 led terminations now.

Sean cautioned that we can't continue to work with a system that is 25 years old and an investment in a new system needs to be planned. The estimate for this upgrade is 10 million. NSF mentioned that without proposal pressure to use the Langseth, it is difficult to request such funds for a significant upgrade.

Meeting Adjourned: 5pm