

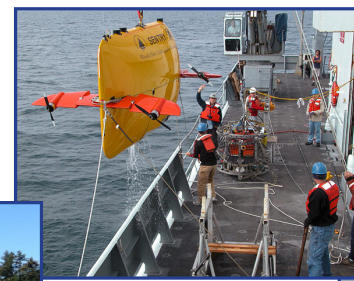
## UNOLS Goals and Initiatives

### UNOLS Standing Goals

- Promote broad, coordinated access to oceanographic research facilities
  - Maintain a system and procedures that facilitate and promote broad access to research vessels and other major ocean science facilities.
  - Support coordinated, efficient and effective scheduling of research vessels and facilities.
- Support continuous improvement of existing facilities
  - Foster co-operation among facility operators, funding agencies and research scientists with the goal of continuously improving the quality and capability of existing ocean science facilities and the quality, reliability and safety of their operation.
- Plan for and foster support for the oceanographic facilities of the future
  - Provide leadership and broad community input to the process of planning for and supporting the improvement, renewal and addition of facilities required to support the ocean sciences in the future.



R/V Oceanus



AUV Sentry



R/V Pelican

**UNOLS Chair:** Dr. Debbie Steinberg (VIMS)  
**UNOLS Chair Elect:** Dr. Craig Lee (U Washington)  
**UNOLS Past Chair:** Dr. Christopher Measures (U Hawaii)

#### UNOLS Office Personnel:

Jon Alberts - Executive Secretary  
Annette DeSilva - Deputy Executive Secretary  
Alice Doyle - Technical Services Manager  
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The Graduate School of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island

UNOLS is funded by:



## University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System



R/V Neil Armstrong



R/V Blue Heron



R/V Sally Ride

UNOLS is a consortium of 58 academic institutions and national laboratories involved in oceanographic research. This unique organization, originally created in 1971, ensures access to research vessels and other major shared use facilities that support U.S. research and education programs. UNOLS coordinates and reviews the scheduling and utilization of facilities (e.g. ships, aircraft, submersibles) for academic oceanographic programs. With the community of users, we review the current match of research program needs to available facilities. UNOLS makes recommendations for replacing, modifying or improving the number and mix of facilities, especially research vessels. UNOLS fosters federal and other support for academic oceanography, thereby continuing and enhancing the excellence of this nation's oceanographic programs.



The UNOLS organization consists of an elected Council and eight standing committees. All Council and committee members are volunteers.

**UNOLS Council**

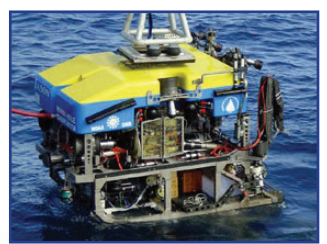
Represents and acts on behalf of the UNOLS membership as the operating and governing body of UNOLS. The Council makes recommendations to funding agencies regarding the needs for specialized or new facilities, the balance between facilities and funded research programs, and they accept charges for special studies and reviews.



**Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee (AICC)**  
Provides oversight and advice to the US Coast Guard for the purpose of enhancing facilities and science aboard their icebreaker fleet.

**Deep Submergence Science Committee (DeSSC)**

Provides input and oversight on the use of the National Deep Submergence Facility assets and promotes new technology.



ROV Jason

**Fleet Improvement Committee (FIC)**

Assures the continuing excellence of the UNOLS Fleet, to improve the effectiveness of individual ships, and to assure that the number, mix, and overall capability of ships in the UNOLS Fleet match science requirements.

**Marine Seismic Research Oversight Committee (MSROC)**

Provides scientific oversight, asset coordination and strategic advice for NSF-supported marine seismic facilities.

**Research Vessel Operators' Committee (RVOC)**

Promotes fleet standards, marine safety, efficiency, and quality of service among marine science research and educational institutions.

**Research Vessel Technical Enhancement Committee (RVTEC)**

Fosters activities and improvements that enhance technical support for sea-going scientific programs and oceanographic facilities.

**Ship Scheduling Committee (SSC)**

Develops and coordinates ship schedules to assure the most effective, efficient, and economic utilization of UNOLS ships and associated facilities.

**Scientific Committee for Oceanographic Aircraft Research (SCOAR)**



UV-18a Twin Otter

Provides advice and recommendations to the National Oceanographic Aircraft Facility manager and supporting federal agencies on aspects of operations, sensor development, aircraft fleet composition, utilization, and data services.

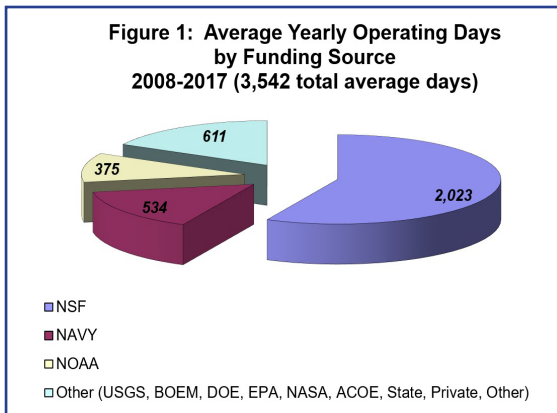
**UNOLS Academic Research Fleet**

The UNOLS Fleet consists of 18 research vessels. The Global Class ships are highly capable and are able to work worldwide. The Ocean/Intermediate Class ships are smaller in size than the Global ships and are ocean-going, but do not operate globally. The Regional Class ship is designed for operations in the shelf and coastal environments of the U.S. Coastal/Local Class ships are those smallest in size and play an important role in supporting research in the waters surrounding their homeport.

Vessel	Operator	Length (ft)	Year Built / Refit
<b>Global Class</b>			
THOMAS G. THOMPSON	(UW)	274	1991/2016
ROGER REVELLE	(UCSD)	274	1996
ATLANTIS	(WHOI)	274	1997
SIKULIAQ	(UAF)	261	2014
MARCUS LANGSETH	(LDEO)	235	1996 / 2007
<b>Ocean/Intermediate Class</b>			
NEIL ARMSTRONG	(WHOI)	238	2015
SALLY RIDE	(UCSD)	238	2015
KILO MOANA	(UHawaii)	186	2002
ENDEAVOR	(URI)	184	1976 / 1993
OCEANUS	(OSU)	177	1976 / 1994
ATLANTIC EXPLORER	(BIOS)	168	1982/2006
<b>Regional Class</b>			
HUGH R. SHARP	(UDelaware)	146	2005
<b>Coastal/Local Class</b>			
ROBERT G. SPROUL	(UCSD)	125	1981 / 1985
PELICAN	(LUMCON)	116	1985 / 2003
F.G. WALTON SMITH	(UMiami)	96	2000
SAVANNAH	(Skidaway)	92	2001
BLUE HERON	(UMN)	86	1985 / 1999
RACHEL CARSON	(UW)	72	2003 / 2017

**Funding Support for the UNOLS Fleet**

UNOLS Fleet operations are supported by funds principally from the National Science Foundation (NSF) (about 60%), Navy (about 15%), and National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) (about 10%). The remaining support for fleet operations comes from sources such as states, institutions, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the U.S. Geological Survey, the Environmental Protection Agency, and others. See Figure 1.

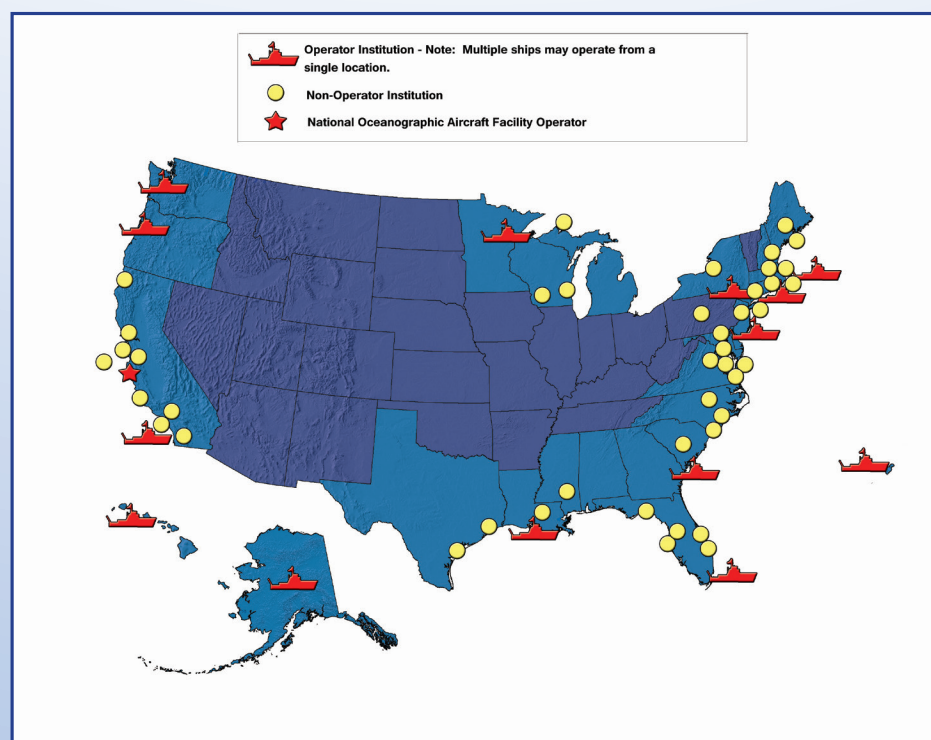


**UNOLS Fleet Renewal**

Fleet renewal is essential to ensure continued excellence of the UNOLS facilities available to support our nation's future oceanographic research initiatives. New ships and facility renewal activities that are currently under way include:

- The *R/V Rachel Carson* joined the UNOLS fleet in 2018 as a replacement for *R/V Clifford A. Barnes*. This new addition brings expanded endurance, ship handling and seakeeping capabilities, increased lab space, and increased load handling capability to the Academic Research Fleet's Coastal/Local Class.
- ONR is supporting the midlife refit overhauls of the Global Class *R/Vs Thomas G. Thompson, Roger Revelle, and Atlantis*. The mid-life overhauls will address regulatory requirements and upgrade/replace problematic systems to extend the service lives of these vessels beyond 30 years. *R/V Thompson's* refit began in 2016 and was completed in January 2018. *R/V Revelle's* refit is funded and planned for January 2019, and the refit for *R/V Atlantis* is funded and planned for January 2020.
- Two new *Ocean Class* research vessels have joined the UNOLS fleet. The *R/V Neil Armstrong* is operated by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and began science operations in May 2016. The *R/V Sally Ride* is operated by Scripps Institution of Oceanography and began science operations in November 2016.
- NSF continues plans for the acquisition of new *Regional Class* research vessels. A shipyard contract was signed in July 2017 to build one vessel with options to build a second and third RCRV.

**UNOLS Member Institutions**



**UNOLS**  
UNIVERSITY-NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC LABORATORY SYSTEM