

Wire Pool Policy

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The wire pool is a source of wire rope and electro-mechanical cable that can be accessed by the operators of UNOLS research vessels. Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the wire pool purchases and maintains a standard inventory of new wires and cables that are commonly used aboard UNOLS research vessels. There is a Wire Pool Coordinator who works directly with NSF to decide on inventory requirements, collect statistics on cable use, purchase and distribute cable, and direct vessel operator requests for wire to NSF. The new reels of wire are stored at two locations for operational efficiency; one on the East Coast (WHOI) and one on the West Coast (Scripps)

The wire distributed from the pool is an NSF resource. Operators accepting wire from the pool become the custodians of that particular wire or cable. They are responsible for tracking its use, condition, and location, as well as ensuring proper storage, so long as it is in their custody. Any change in custody needs to be authorized by the cognizant NSF Program Officer. Tracking and usage information is to be conveyed to the Wire Pool Coordinator on a routine basis where it will be entered into a database that monitors the wire from "cradle to grave". The vessel operator is also responsible for meeting all the inspection and testing requirements prescribed in Appendix A, *UNOLS Rope and Cable Safe Working Load Standards* of the Research Vessel Safety Standards (RVSS). If samples are not sent to the Wire Pool Coordinator for testing, it is the responsibility of the vessel operator to ensure the test results are sent to the Wire Pool Coordinator for inclusion in the tracking data base.

Requests for wire should originate with the vessel's Marine Superintendent and be directed to the Wire Pool Coordinator. The request should include the name of the vessel requiring the wire, an explanation of why new wire is needed, the reel number of the wire that is being replaced (as appropriate), and the NSF-funded programs that the wire will support. The Wire Pool Coordinator will forward this request along with current availability, and the status of the vessel's wire testing data to the cognizant NSF Program Officer for approval.

Unless the vessel operator has met the testing, inspection, and monitoring requirements prescribed in Appendix A for their existing wire, distribution of new wire will not be approved.