



UNIVERSITY-NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC LABORATORY SYSTEM

Moss Landing Marine Laboratories 8272 Moss Landing Road, Moss Landing, CA 95039

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May 2, 2002

Dear members of UNOLS,

As you know, planning to renew the UNOLS fleet has moved forward in recent months. A Federal Oceanographic Facilities Committee (FOFC) report: http://www.geo-prose.com/projects/fleet_rpt_1.html is now published, having been approved by the National Ocean Research Leadership Council (NORLC), which consists of the heads of the main ocean - related agencies: Secretary of the Navy, Director of NSF, NOAA Administrator, NASA Administrator, and several others (complete list in the report). UNOLS, especially the Council and the Fleet Improvement Committee, has worked hard and in cooperation with the agencies to bring matters to this stage, and UNOLS backs the report as the basic framework on how and when to renew this fleet. Overall the report is far and away the best game in town for starting toward fleet renewal, and we should be moving it forward. It even calls for its own reevaluation and adjustment at intervals in the future - plenty of scope for later refinement as needed.

Now, however, the hard work begins. The report lays out what should be done, but in itself it contains no funds or specific dates for any new ships. These elements of an ACQUISITION or IMPLEMENTATION plan are the central issues now. Creating such an acquisition plan and keeping it alive in a tough federal budget climate will be difficult tasks ahead. Depending on the ocean research agencies to carry the entire load and push it successfully past all the hurdles of individual agency budget processes, the overall administration budget machinery, and the congressional budget steps and thence into law/appropriations is asking too much of the agencies. Other stakeholders must now speak up and influence these proceedings.

Accordingly, on behalf of the UNOLS Council, I ask UNOLS member representatives to undertake any and all of the following steps that pertain in your individual settings.

1. Talk up the plan in your institutions, with your colleagues, with your deans and chancellors, with your institutional representatives or lobbyists in Washington, and in general strengthen the awareness and support of this plan within the academic community and among the community advocates in Washington.
2. Work with your representatives to CORE - the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education. Most UNOLS institutions are also CORE institutions. CORE, being supported by non-federal funds, can lobby in Washington in ways that UNOLS as an organization cannot, because the UNOLS Office is supported by federal funds.



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3. Press the need for an acquisition plan to your senators and representatives - as individuals (perfectly legal), through your institutional leaders or legislative affairs persons, or whatever makes most sense in your situation. Any congressional awareness and support is to the good. Obviously there are some key states and districts where the incumbents take an interest in such matters and also have considerable seniority and influence. Senators in Alaska, Hawaii, Massachusetts and Mississippi are examples, by no means an exclusive list. On the House side the Oceans Caucus is a relevant subset:

<http://www.house.gov/greenwood/OCEAN/index.htm>

This site is somewhat fragmented and its "membership" link does not work, but there is a list of Caucus members on the CORE site at: <http://www.coreocean.org/Dev2Go.web?id=202005&rnd=24355>

4. Connect with shipyards and the shipbuilding industry in your areas. They have a legitimate interest in seeing the plan executed, and they can bring helpful influence to bear on Capitol Hill in terms of jobs and the economy.

As you write letters or meet with legislators, staffs or industry people, and if you think it appropriate, the UNOLS Office would be glad to gather copies or synopses of these interactions, just to be aware of who is doing what, and of how various approaches have been received. But the main point is for our community of UNOLS institutions, and the individuals within them, now to be heard inside the Beltway and especially on Capitol Hill as foursquare in support of an IMPLEMENTATION plan that matches the existing FOFC/NORLC document.

Sincerely,

Bob Knox
UNOLS Chair

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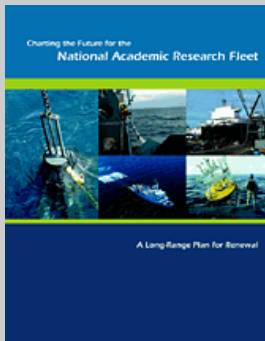
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Charting the Future for the National Academic Research Fleet A Long-Range Plan for Renewal



A report from the Federal Oceanographic Facilities Committee (FOFC) of the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP) to the National Ocean Research Leadership Council (NORLC).

Completed December 2001.

Editing and design by Geo Prose.

The Official Source for Information About the House Oceans Caucus

Next Briefing: To Be Announced

Our Mission

The House Oceans Caucus will create a voice within the Congress on ocean issues by building a constituency of interested members. The Caucus will serve as the focal point for increasing House of Representatives awareness on issues of ocean policy by developing legislation to meet national and international needs. During the remainder of the 107th Congress the issues that the Caucus will emphasize are security, governance, biology, and pollution.

The House Oceans Caucus will:

prepare and distribute summaries of key national and international ocean issues

establish a World Wide Web site providing summaries of issues and information and links to diverse information sources about ocean issues

organize and present briefings

host policy and science meetings

serve as a focal point for formulating policy, and

develop outreach products to educate the Congress and public about ocean-related policy issues.

Our Vision

As our quality of life, security, health, and economic well being are fundamentally tied to the World's ocean, the House Oceans Caucus will be a bipartisan forum, building awareness, exchanging information and ideas, exploring important issues, and developing and implementing ocean policy legislation to meet national and international needs.

For Additional Information About the Caucus, Please Contact:

Office of Congressman Curt Weldon - - 202-225-2011

2466 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3807

Attention: [Bruce F. Molnia](#), Ph.D. - - 703-648-4120



Consortium for
Oceanographic
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Ocean Caucus

In the Fall of 1999, Representatives Sam Farr (D-CA), Jim Greenwood (R-PA), Curt Weldon (R-PA), and Tom Allen (D-ME) joined together to establish a bipartisan Congressional Oceans Caucus to build a coalition of members of the House of Representatives with a common interest in ocean issues. According to the founders, who will serve as co-Chairs of the organization, the Congressional Oceans Caucus will, "provide the needed structure to better leverage resources and pro-actively address public policy issues affecting the health, resource development, and exploration of the world's oceans."

This is an important time to initiate new discussions of ocean issues on Capitol Hill. Scientists and policymakers are becoming increasingly aware of the significant linkages between the oceans and climate, human health, natural disasters, and our Nation's security and economic development. Advances in research and new efforts to integrate ocean observing systems are poised to provide a better understanding of ocean processes and the impact of humans, as well as better management of our living marine resources. The Congressional Ocean Caucus will be an important forum for the promotion of ocean science and discussion of these ocean-related legislative initiatives.

[House Oceans Caucus Official Web Site](#)

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