UNIVERSITY - NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC LABORATORY SYSTEM

UNOLS NEWS

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HIGHLIGHTS

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SHIP OPERATIONS AND SCHEDULES FOR 1988

Program managers from NSF and ONR together with ship schedulers from the 18 UNOLS operating institutions have had to scramble to reach working ship schedules for 1988. At the conclusion of last October's UNOLS Ship Scheduling Meeting, assembled ship schedules totaled about 5,400 days. A comparison of cost estimates and anticipated funding, then, together with information on science program funding, indicated that about 5,000 days would be a realistic final operating schedule. **By early 1988, the fleet schedule had been reduced to about 5,000; unfortunately, NSF ship operation funds had been reduced by deficit reduction measures, and ONR science program demand for UNOLS ship time did not rise to require all of the new ONR ship operations funding.** Negotiations continue among funding agencies and operating institutions to eliminate the still-significant potential shortfall. Schedules for 1988, as shown on the telemail bulletin board SHIP.SCHED88:

ALPHA HELIX began operations in early March with projects in Resurection Bay, Southeast Alaska and the Gulf of Alaska. Work will be in the Bering Sea from April through October, with two Gulf of Alaska projects interspersed (June and September). Projects are variously physical, chemical and biological.

ATLANTIS II, in support of ALVIN diving programs for the entire year, began with a short project off San Diego, then extensive investigations in Guaymas Basin, EPR and near the Galapagos, and will conduct several investigations on Gorda-Juan de Fuca and off Oregon-California. After several projects in California Basins and on eastern Pacific seamounts, the ATLANTIS II will return to Woods Hole for periodic maintenance and inspection, and for ALVIN overhaul.

BARNES will operate in Puget Sound for the entire year.

BLUE FIN will operate off southeast United States for the entire year.

CALANUS will work in Straits of Florida, Bahamas and Tongue of the Ocean for entire year.

CAPE HATTERAS began work in March off the Carolina coast, then began a two-month deployment out of Montego Bay. In June through November, work will be off Carolinas, Greater Antilles and Gulf of Maine.

CAPE HENLOPEN began work in Delaware Bay, and beginning in June, has work in Gulf of Maine, Georgia Embayment, Long Island Sound and Chesapeake Bay.

CONRAD began the year with MCS work on the Chile Ridge/Trench and off the Southern Andes. Mooring recoveries in the Southern Ocean are followed by marine geology and geophysics and surveys on the mid-Atlantic Ridge, Barbados Ridge, Caribbean, Kane Fracture Zone, Valencia Basin and North Atlantic.

ENDEAVOR began work in February in the North Atlantic and will conduct general oceanographic investigations in the North Atlantic and Arctic through mid-November.

GYRE is out of service.

ISELIN's season began in February off Miami and will include physical, chemical, biological and geological investigations in the Caribbean, off the Amazon, the Bahamas and in the Sargasso Sea.

KNORR began 1988 with South Atlantic work, then investigations in the Mediterranean and Black Seas. After investigations in the North Atlantic and Arctic, ship will be available for shipyard renovation in early November.

LAURENTIAN will work from May to November, almost all in Lake Michigan.

MELVILLE, after an early March investigation off San Diego, began an extensive biological investigation near the Galapagos, to be followed by physical and chemical studies off the west coast of the United States. In November, December, ship will transit, with biological and geochemical sampling through eastern South Pacific.

MOANA WAVE began year with an investigation of the Antarctic discordance followed by geological and geophysical investigations between Philippines and Taiwan, in the Subuyan Sea and on Central Pacific guyotes. In June and July, physical investigations will be made in the Western Pacific, followed by coring in the Sulu Sea, return to Honolulu and then microbiological and biological investigations in Hawaiian waters.

FRED H. MOORE is out of service.

NEW HORIZON will conduct a variety of oceanographic investigations off the west coast of the Unites States.

OCEANUS began the year and will continue work in the North Atlantic on a variety of investigations.

OSPREY will continue conversion through most of year. Scientific shakedown cruise in fall.

POINT SUR will work February through December off the California coast, on a variety of oceanographic projects.

ROBERT G. SPROUL will work off California and Mexico through the year. Geochemical, physical, microbiological and biological studies, together with equipment testing.

T.G. THOMPSON will conduct biological studies in the Gulf of Alaska and physical, chemical and biological studies in the Bering Sea, May through August.

RIDGELY WARFIELD will work February through December on a variety of estuarine studies in Chesapeake Bay, and one project in New York Harbor.

THOMAS WASHINGTON will work all year, throughout the North Pacific and Bering Sea. Geological and geophysical investigations and surveys will begin off Mexico to Central Pacific, followed by coastal physics investigations off the west coast and more geological and geophysical work near the Aleutians. After physical, chemical and biological investigations in the Bering Sea, geological/geophysical investigations will be made in the Northwest Pacific.

WECOMA will work in the North and Central Pacific throughout the year. Work will include physical, chemical, biological, biochemical and geological investigations, and equipment testing.

ALVIN PROGRAM

The ALVIN Review Committee held two planning workships, one in December 1987, proceeding the Fall AGU Meeting in San Francisco, and the second in January, before the AGU-ASLO Ocean Sciences Meeting in New Orleans. Although some notices of intent to use ALVIN were received and some useful information for planning was gained, there were very few presentations from potential ALVIN users. The extremely limited opportunity for interaction between the ARC and the ALVIN user community is of concern since good planning for the ALVIN program depends on broad user input. Unless planning workshops can be made more effective, they will be discontinued.

ALVIN will spend 1988 in the Eastern Pacific. Most work will be related to spreading center/ridgecrest/hydrothermal system sites. ALVIN/ ATLANTIS II will return to Woods Hole at year's end.

The ALVIN Flyer, announcing opportunities for oceanographic research in 1989, solicited ALVIN Time Requests for investigations in the North Atlantic (including reasonably high latitudes), in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean, in the Equatorial and South Atlantic and in the Eastern Pacific (but probably excluding high northern latitudes). The ALVIN

Review Committee will meet in June to review proposals and make recommendations for a sound 1989 schedule.

The Flyer described plans for ALVIN/ATLANTIS II for the entire period between ALVIN overhaul, mid-1989 through 1991: Operations in the Atlantic would begin in mid-1989 and continue for a few months. Operations would then continue along an efficient route into the Pacific, either through the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and Panama or through the Scotia Sea. Operations for 1990 would be in the Pacific for the entire year, in areas decided by the merit of requests/proposals. Operations in 1991 would likely also begin in the Pacific, but ALVIN/ATLANTIS II would return to the Atlantic in time to do some work, including, possibly, cooperative work on mid-Atlantic Ridge, before returning to Woods Hole for the next scheduled ALVIN overhaul.

A RESEARCH VESSEL WITH ICE-BREAKING CAPABILITY

NSF's Division of Polar Programs is progressing toward acquisition of a research vessel with ice-breaking capability for use in supporting Antarctic programs. DPP representatives have reported recently that twelve responses had been received to their solicitation. Although some responses did not meet specifications, more than half are credible bids and these include some for U.S. construction. Evaluation of contractors/bidders was underway in early March. DPP has funds in 1988 and in the 1989 budget request for a six-year lease arrangement with two, two-year extensions.

NAVY RESEARCH VESSEL PLANS AND ACTIVITIES

Bids have been received in response to NAVSEA's RFP for design and construction of AGOR-23, the first new federally-funded research vessel to enter the UNOLS fleet since the CAPE HATTERAS in 1982. Although bid evaluation and contractor selection processes are closely held by NAVSEA, representatives of the University of Washington, the selected operating institution for AGOR-23, were on hand in early May as observers.

The refit program for AGOR-14 and 15 (KNORR and MELVILLE) is on track. Details and schedules for this program were reported in **UNOLS NEWS, Vol. 4, No. 3, December 1987.** This refit program will result in two ships "meeting most ongoing science mission requirements" (e.g., for WOCE, GOFS, RIDGE). Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution is the prime contractor.

Contrary to earlier rumors in the oceanographic community, virtually all funds for the refit program have been retained in the 1988 Navy/ONR budget and in 1989 budget estimates.

A second vessel to be constructed by the Navy for the academic fleet is in abeyance. Earlier design studies by NAVSEA for a SWATH research vessel have been suspended. (This is the SWATH design on which UNOLS and all UNOLS Member institutions earlier made a recommendation against, because it would be ill-suited to oceanographic research and too costly to operate in the UNOLS fleet.) Navy plans still could accommodate a

second ship for ONR programs in academic oceanography, but if it is to be acquired on schedule, it would need to be built to plans and design now nearly completed.

ONR has plans that would have the Navy-owned part of the UNOLS fleet at five ships, including MOANA WAVE, KNORR, MELVILLE, AGOR23 and AGOR(X). To reach this level they would retire three AGOR3's, the CONRAD, THOMPSON and WASHINGTON and they have already notified TAMU of cancellation of their charter-party agreement for the GYRE.

ONR could have as much as $8.5 million for UNOLS ship operations in 1989. It is uncertain, though, that their science program ship requirements will be that high.

NSF FUNDS FOR SHIP OPERATIONS

Representatives from NSF's Oceanographic Centers and Facilities Support, Ocean Sciences Division, recently gave a comprehensive budget report, including their current plan for 1988, the NSF request for 1989 and implications for ship and facilities funding.

NSF BUDGET ESTIMATES
1988

	1985	1986	1987	1988	Request 1989
OCEAN SCIENCES DIVISION	$ 120.7 M	119.5	133.7	135.3	146.5

Oceanographic Facilities Detail

Operations					
			1	2	
Ship Operations	23.8	24.0	26.0	25.8	
ALVIN, Aircraft, Misc.	2.9	1.6	1.8	1.8	
Marine Technicians	2.4	2.5	3.1	3.1	
	$ 29.1 M	28.1	30.9	30.7	32.1
Acquisitions and Development					
Science Instruments	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.6	6.7
Shipboard Equipment	1.7	1.4	1.7	1.5	
Technology Development	1.6	1.7	2.4	2.6	
AMS Center	-	-	-	0	1.8
UNOLS, Ship Const., Misc.	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.8	0.7
	$ 5.8 M	5.6	6.3	6.5	9.2
TOTAL	$ 34.9	33.7	37.2	37.2	41.3

[1] In 1987, an additional $1.5 million was provided by the Ocean Drilling Program.

[2] In 1988, an additional $1.2 million is estimated from the Ocean Drilling Program.

Examination of the comparison of 1985-89 budgets for Operations, especially Ship Operations, shows virtually no growth, and that 1989 would be at the same level as 1988. Effects on fleet operations in 1988 have already been felt, and problems in 1989 would be equally serious. Deficit-reduction measures in 1988 reduced the NSF requested budget by about 14% (and Ship Operations funding is less than in 1987). That reduction is not fully recovered in 1989.

Global Geosciences remains at the highest priority in Ocean Sciences, but implementation of programs dependent on new money must be delayed at least a year. (E.g., establishment of a center for accelerator mass spectrometry will be deferred until 1989.)

ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

The UNOLS Advisory Council has chosen Art Maxwell, University of Texas, as their chairman for 1988. John Martin, who has been chairman, will remain on the Advisory Council through the year. The Council thanks John for his contributions over the last two years, and anticipates equally fine leadership from Art.

Tom Malone, University of Maryland, was selected again to be Council vice-chairman.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND INSURANCE FOR THE UNOLS FLEET

NSF is sponsoring a study of risk management and insurance for the UNOLS fleet. E.R. Dieter, on sabbatical from the University of Alaska, is directing the year-long study. One goal is to investigate the feasibility of group insurance for the fleet. The study takes account of a 1975 study sponsored by UNOLS.

Operating institutions in UNOLS have been surveyed and have provided information on their insurance costs and claims history.

Preliminary findings have documented a dramatic increase in insurance costs since 1975 and suggest options for limiting cost increases. A comprehensive report on the study should be available by Fall 1988.

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