

FIC Report to UNOLS Council March 2003

FIC is pleased to report that thanks to a large number of people in our community the Science Mission Requirement (SMR) reports for Ocean and Regional Class research vessels are complete. Our goal of creating SMRs that more effectively assess the science requirements while keeping the reality of shipbuilding has been achieved. The process became rather complex with considerations of many hull types by JJMA Inc. and new constraints on costs. However, in the end we have realistic SMRs that will facilitate the next step in the ship replacement process.

The agenda addresses many FIC related topics so I'll just give an overview here.

Impact of New Regulations - One issue that has always been discussed but never quantitatively studied regards the impact of going beyond 500 tons. A study by Bay Marine that will be reported on during the meeting appears to provide good information on the topic.

Acquisition Process - The FIC and representatives from the University of Hawaii will examine the acquisition process KILO MOANA. This was a more streamline acquisition process. The pros and cons of the process will be identified.

JJMA Phase II effort – FIC will work the Regional (and later Ocean) Class steering committees to provide input to JJMA's Phase II effort. This may include some level of prioritization of the SMRs.

KILO MOANA - The first UNOLS SWATH research vessel is operational now. FIC has interviewed the chief scientists in an effort to get a clear understanding of its capabilities. A draft letter to EOS based on those interviews is attached that summarizes our findings. The FIC plans to continue the phone debriefs. FIC also recommends that the ship motion for monohull and swaths be evaluated. Sea state versus motion of ship and it's impact on science operations should be evaluated.