

**Ship Scheduling Committee Report**  
**UNOLS Council Winter Meeting**  
**March 5 - 6, 2003**

For many vessels, the 2003 schedules have become unstable due to a number of factors. Acoustic permitting, weather, clearance problems, instrumentation availability, endangered species permitting, civil unrest, and the potential war with Iraq are the leading factors.

EWING has had to defer about 50 days ship time into 2004 because of weather windows and the Venezuelan strife. Venezuela cruise re-scheduled for Jan 2004. The Venezuela problem also affected THOMPSON. The Venezuela cruise has a large OBS component which eliminated a December OBS cruise on THOMPSON. It will be re-scheduled in 2004. THOMPSON also lost a 49-day Vietnam cruise due to permits not being processed by the Vietnamese government. Unknown if this cruise will be re-scheduled. Also, one day of instrument/JASON trials lost because instrumentation won't be ready. Total days lost/postponed for THOMPSON are 67. MELVILLE also has problems with Vietnam clearances. Navy LWAD cruise off Taiwan cancelled, also. This leaves MELVILLE with open time from mid-May (in Cape Town) to August (in Cairns). With transits and port stops included, MELVILLE can lose up to 95 days in 2003. REVELLE has 41 days in the Gulf of California deferred to 2004 for eco-political reasons. ENDEAVOR and OCEANUS have a 13-day two-ship cruise scheduled for the Navy that could get cancelled/shortened if the Navy needs its vessels for the Persian Gulf. PELICAN lost a 54-day NMFS survey cruise along the East Coast because of endangered species permitting problems. Finally, CAPE HENLOPEN moved a 3-day January cruise to December because of ice on the Bays. Also, there is a good chance that a 31-day, three-ship cruise (with ENDEAVOR and OCEANUS) will be shortened by an as yet unknown amount because of acoustic permitting problems.

Ship time requests for 2004 are still trickling in as of late February. A few schedulers have submitted initial Letters of Intent to start the 2004 scheduling process, but it's too early in the game to see what lies ahead, especially when 2003 schedules are still in flux.

Joe Ustach