

Ship Scheduling Committee

As reported to the council at the July Council meeting schedulers were busy preparing for the summer Ship Scheduling Meeting. The schedulers met at NSF in Arlington, VA JULY 21, 2004 to present their 2005 schedules. The meeting proved to be very productive. Business was conducted expeditiously with the help of program managers that were on hand to make decisions for pending or problematic cruises. A few issues were left unresolved to be worked on in the following months. The process went so smoothly that it was decided there would be no need for a fall Ship Scheduling meeting. In the months following several conference calls were made in order to resolve issues. Schedulers continued working with P.I.'s and the funding agencies to accommodate the science on the right ship and at the right time of year.

Committee chairs along with members of the funding agencies and large ship schedulers met via phone conferencing for a Scheduling Review meeting September 14, 2004. By that time most of the 2005 UNOLS fleet schedules were firming up and were ready to take on the challenge of the NSF Ship Operations proposal with its new formatting requirements. Luckily for most of us the NSF Ship Operations proposal will not be due until November 1, 2004.

Below are some of the problems/issues that came out of the Scheduling review meeting:

Alpha Helix has only 8 days funded. Lay-up to be determined at a later day once OPP funding decisions have been announced, sometime after Thanksgiving. 59 days pending.

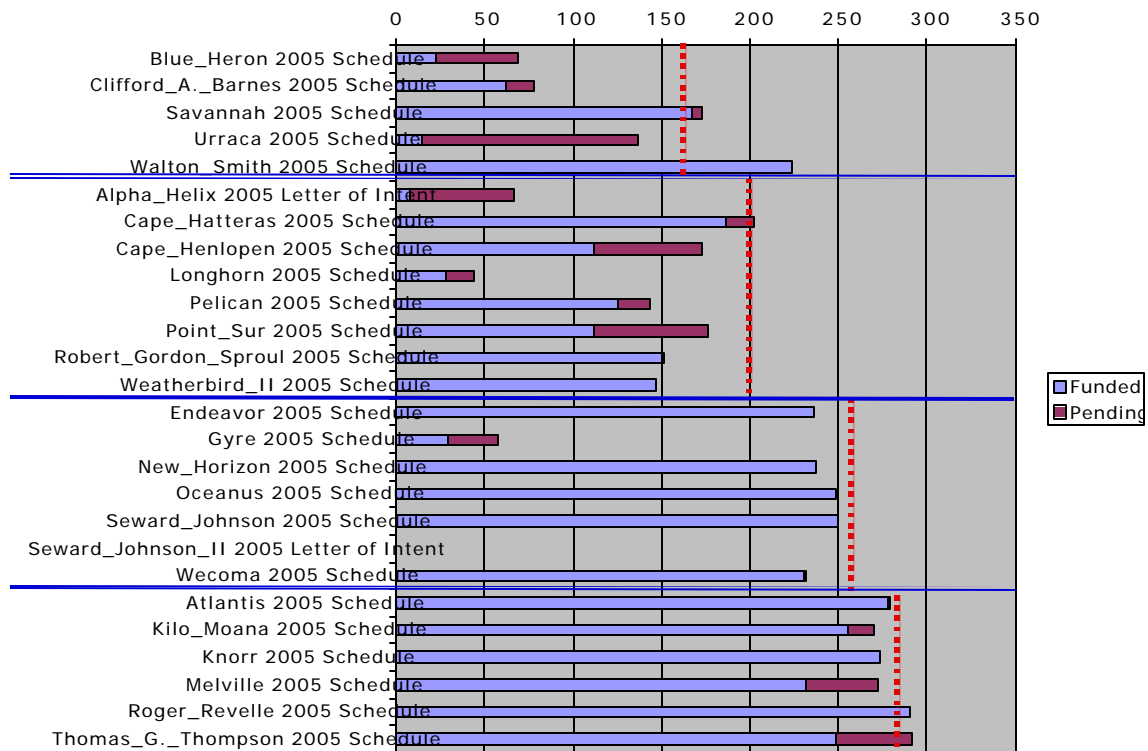
Seward Johnson II lay-up/maintenance for 2005

Cape Henlopen will layup at the end of September and operate for 3/4 year.

Revelle and Melville both in home port at the same time. Difficult for crew rotation and for shore side personnel.

NOAA days are still listed on pending. Could be problematic especially on large ships schedules.

The goal set by NSF and ONR for approximately 3 months of down time and maintenance in homeport for the large ships in 2005 has been for the most part accommodated. This helped NSF keep within their anticipated projection of funding just under 3200 days for the CY2005 that includes transit, mobilization and demobilization days in ports other than homeport.

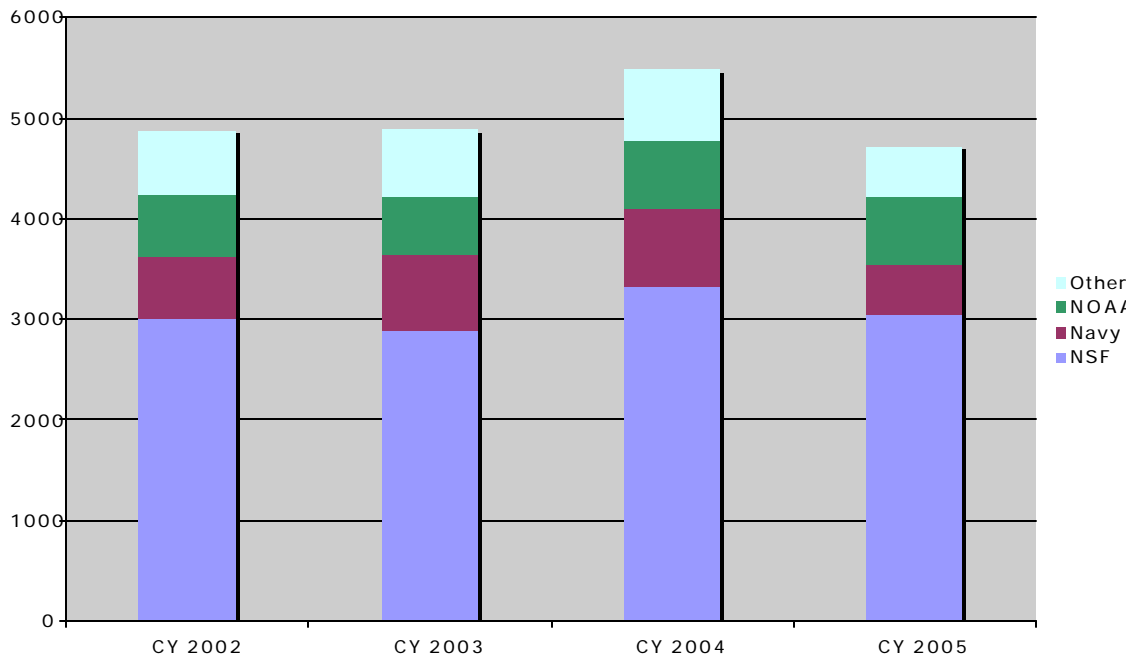


Approximately 274 days were reassigned in 2005. The science programs were either scheduled onto smaller ships or to a ship outside the fleet.

Approximately 379 days were deferred to 2006, this number is greater than the previous years deferment of approximately 327 science days.

Both the reassignment and deferment of science days are due to a variety of reasons. Two examples are the lack of a suitable ship in the requested operating area or the over-subscription of facilities as in the DSL vehicles and OBS's.

Total UNOLS Fleet Operating Days by Agency
CY 2002 - CY 2005



Again as in past years, NSF provided the largest amount of funds to operate the UNOLS fleet with approximately 67% of the entire 4740 operating days. Followed by NOAA at 13% and Navy for 11%.

Ship Schedulers continue working with Liz Tirpak and Roberta Barnes at the U.S State Department. Without their assistance it would be difficult for us to obtain the growing amount of

clearances necessary for scientists to carry out work in foreign waters and for underway data collection.

UNOLS operating institutions are still in the learning curve for IHA and EA permitting process. We anticipate that in the future the identification of what type of work will need permitting will become clearer.

We would like to thank Mike Prince, UNOLS Executive Secretary and Linda Goad our NSF program manager for the assistance they continue to provide the scheduling committee with their extremely useful spreadsheets that have streamlined the entire scheduling process.