



National Oceanographic Partnership Program

The Federal Oceanographic Fleet Renewal Plan Status and Schedule

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The Federal Oceanographic Fleet Renewal Plan

Timeline for Completion

- ✓ Working Group developed a final draft by 30 March.
- ✓ Technical Writer/Editor/Designer was brought on board to assist.
- ✓ NORLC was briefed on the status of the Plan development at their “last” meeting in July.
- ✓ A final draft for FOFC approval to be briefed in September.



The Federal Oceanographic Fleet Renewal Plan

The Message

- The Federal oceanographic research and survey fleet provides the infrastructure needed to support the nation's science and operational requirements funded through specific federal agency missions.
- These ships are invaluable national capital assets critical to the future success of the broad ocean community.
- To accomplish federal agency missions, at a minimum it is necessary to maintain current fleet capabilities.
- Regardless of the budget environment, ships age and need to be replaced.
- Implementation of this fleet renewal plan maintains current agency mission capabilities and considers the integration of new technologies.



The Federal Oceanographic Fleet Renewal Plan

The Message – cont'

- Types of ships needed for agency missions have been grouped into two categories, Research and Survey, and three classes, Global, Ocean, and Regional
- Based on agency budget projections, the overall fleet size will decrease from 48 ships to 47 by 2015; 18 ships will be retired and 17 new advanced ships are planned during this period.
- Assuming a typical ship has a functional service life of 30 years, by 2025 an additional 14 ships will be retired while only 2 new, advanced ships are planned, decreasing the fleet size to 35 ships.
- If funding for these replacements, and others not yet being planned, is not appropriated, the fleet will decrease from 48 to 21 ships by 2025, seriously compromising the ability to support agency missions.



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Projected Fleet Status

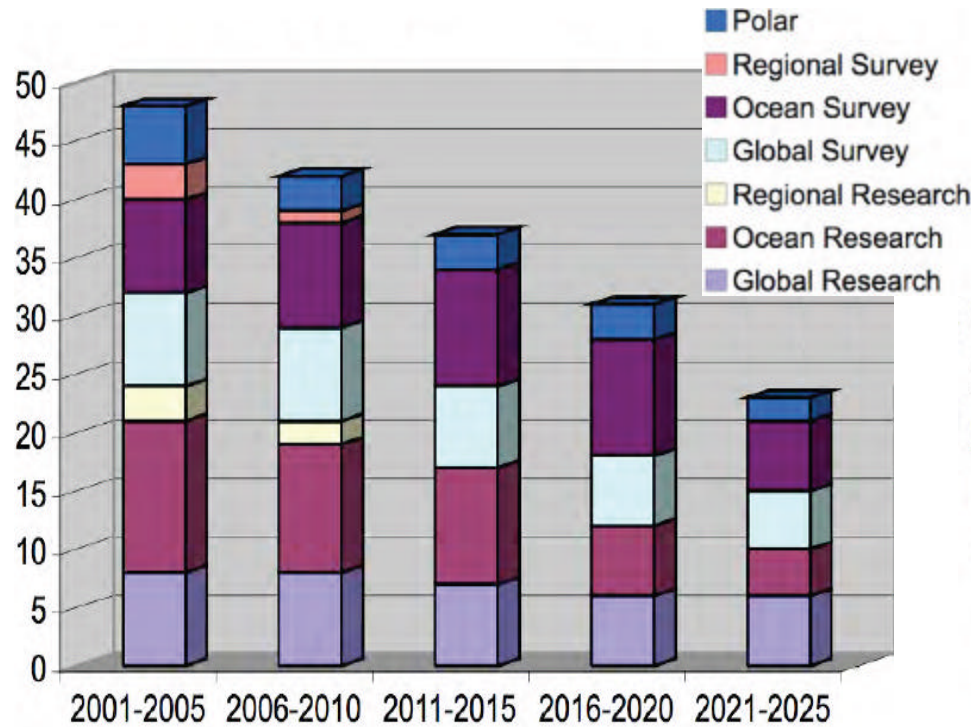


Figure 1: Fleet Composition by Year, with Appropriated Ships. If additional ships are not appropriated, the fleet will decrease from 48 to 35 by 2015 and to 21 ships by 2025

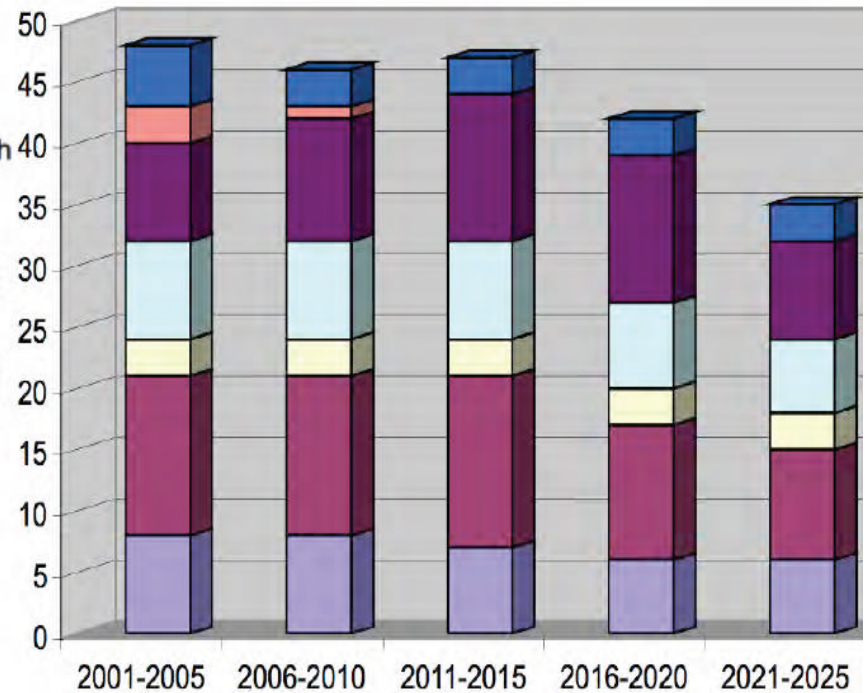
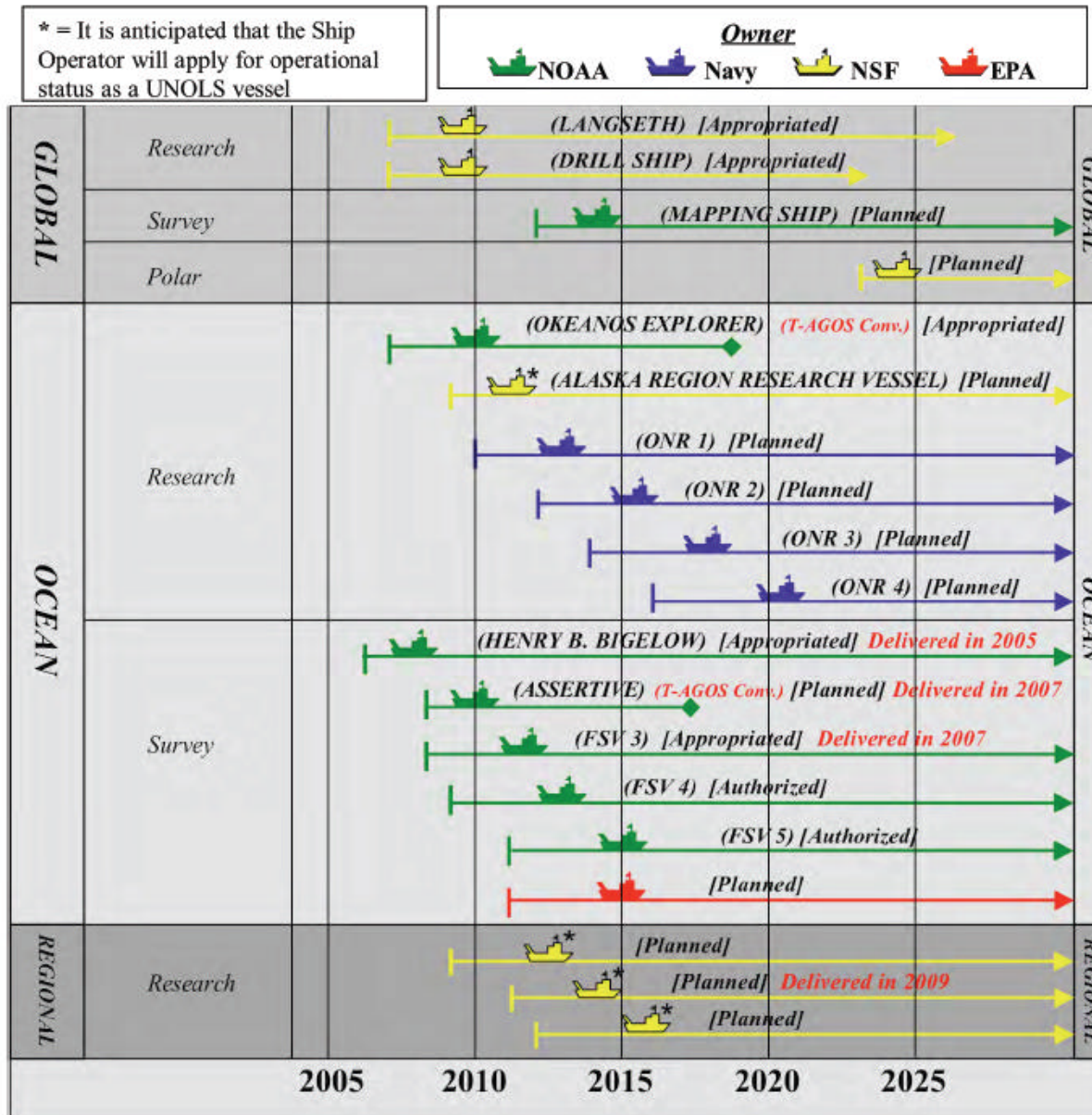


Figure 2: Fleet Composition by Year, with Authorized, and Planned Ships. During the next 10 years, the fleet is projected to decrease from 48 to 47 by 2015 and then to 35 ships by 2025

Agency Plans by Class, Type, and Year





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Report Conclusions

- At a minimum, there is a need to maintain fleet capabilities
 - Must have an on-going process of renewal and upgrades
- The fleet should be sized to balance current and projected requirements with federal agency budgets.
- There is the potential for rapid reductions in the fleet if appropriations for planned and authorized vessels does not materialize, or if ships now being funded are not allowed to continue through to completion.
- Planning suggests that renewal is keeping up with aging fleets.

Issues

- Escalating operating costs coupled to sustained or increasing science requirements
- Changing scene of fleet appropriations
 - Coordinated federal funding mechanisms
- National advocacy of Oceanographic Fleet



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What's Next?

- ❑ Incorporate FOFC and Reviewer feedback
- ❑ Re-write Abstract, Executive Summary, and Conclusion to strengthen message
- ❑ FOFC Review of Revised Draft – 15 Dec 2005
- ❑ Agency Review - Dec/Jan
- ❑ JSOST Review – Jan/Feb,
ICOSRMI Approval – Feb/Mar