

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Guidelines for Research Vessels

Background:

- NSF has indicated the need for new ship construction and ship conversion efforts to address ADA requirements.
- Although UNOLS vessels are not passenger vessels and fall under USCG Subchapter U Classification, vessels that support Federally funded academic research should be equipped and arranged as feasible to accommodate persons with disabilities.
- Procedural guidelines to carry out shipboard operations by persons with disabilities are needed.

ADA Guidelines for Research Vessels

Tasks:

- Draft Preliminary ADA Guidelines for the Regional Class Acquisition effort.
- Convene a 2-day Community Workshop to define shipboard and procedural guidelines required to accommodate sea-going scientists with disabilities.
- Establish General ADA Guidelines for new ship construction/conversion.
- Draft procedural guidelines for at-sea research operations by seagoing scientists with disabilities.

ADA Guidelines for Research Vessels

Timeline:

- Preliminary ADA Guidelines for Regional Class Ships – date? Is March too late?
- Workshop – date? Winter months (January or February)?
- ADA Guidelines for new ship construction and conversions – date?
- Procedural ADA Guidelines for at-sea operations – date?

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Membership Suggestions:

- FIC Member - Terry Whitley (UAF) - Chair
- Risk Manager - Dennis Nixon (URI)
- Safety Committee Rep – Matt Hawkins (UDel)
- Seagoing scientists with disabilities
- Ship Master - Eric Buck (SIO)
- Marine Superintendent – Al Suchy (WHOI)
- Langseth Conversion Rep
- David Chapman (UDel)

Action – Form a Subcommittee