

**University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System**

**UNOLS**

**ADA Guidelines for Research Vessels**



**February 10, 2006**

# Committee Member and Observers

## Committee Membership:

- Terry Whitledge (UAF) – Chair, FIC Member
- Amy Bower (WHOI) – Sea-going Scientist
- Eric Buck (SIO) - Ship Master
- David Chapman (UDel)
- Jim Cochran (LDEO) - Langseth Conversion Rep, FIC Member
- Matt Hawkins (UDel) - Safety Committee Rep, New Vessel Operator
- Dennis Nixon (URI) - Risk Manager
- Al Suchy (WHOI) - Marine Superintendent
- Joe Ustach (Duke) – RVTEC Rep

## Observers:

- NSF – Dolly Dieter and Holly Smith
- NOAA – RADM Behn and Stephan Manzo
- UNOLS – Peter Wiebe and Annette DeSilva
- Naval Architect – Dan Rolland (JJMA)
- PEOShips Rep?

# **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.
- In turn, 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.

## Task:

### **Draft Preliminary ADA Guidelines for the Regional Class Acquisition effort.**

- Evaluate existing documentation and activities to determine recommendations that are feasible for the Regional Class design. These could include:
  - The draft ADA paper by Terry Whitley.
  - The draft ADA Guidelines for passenger vessels <<http://www.access-board.gov/pvaac/guidelines.htm>>.
  - Modifications implemented or included in the designs for the ARRV, *Marcus Langseth*, and *Hugh R. Sharp*
- Provide Recommended Guidelines to NSF by appropriate deadline.

**Task: Convene a 2-day Community Workshop to define shipboard and procedural guidelines required to accommodate sea-going scientists with disabilities.**

- Is a Workshop Needed? If so when?
- Submit a proposal to NSF for support of the workshop
- Consider the usefulness of a pre (or post) meeting survey.

**Task: Convene a 2-day Community Workshop to define shipboard and procedural guidelines required to accommodate sea-going scientists with disabilities.**

- Convene speakers or a panel with expertise in the area (suggestions):

- U.S. Coast Guard representative
- US Access Board representative
- Sea-going Scientist with disability
- Naval Architect

- Broadly announce the workshop and ensure that participation will include the science community, sea-going scientists with disabilities, Naval architects, ship master, marine superintendents, agency representation, and a risk manager.

## **Task: Establish General ADA Guidelines for new ship construction/conversion.**

- Define the UNOLS philosophy for accommodating persons with disabilities at sea.
- ADA guidelines for UNOLS Vessels should take into consideration:
  - The various vessel sizes
  - The nature of the disability (hearing, vision, and mobility).
  - Levels of compliance should be recommended.
- Estimated costs associated with the various design modifications necessary to accommodate ADA requirements should be evaluated and defined.



**Task: Draft procedural guidelines for at-sea research operations by seagoing scientists with disabilities.**

- The guidelines should consider:
- Shipboard mobility and access areas
- Research operations
- Evacuation / safety procedures

# Suggested Project Reference Material

- Draft ADA Guidelines paper drafted by Terry Whitley.
- Evaluate guidelines on how to implement ADA requirements for passenger vessels <<http://www.access-board.gov/pvaac/guidelines.htm>>.
- Findings from David Chapman's research project.

# Discussion of Procedural Strategy

- Class of Vessel
- Science, Living, and Weather Deck Spaces
- New Construction vs. Refit
- Type of Science Mission

# Timeline

- Preliminary ADA Guidelines for Regional Class Ships – date? Late March /early April?
- Workshop – date?
- ADA Guidelines for new ship construction and conversions – date?
- Procedural ADA Guidelines for at-sea operations – date?

# Next Steps

- Create project web page
- Etc.

End