

RVOC Safety Committee

April 30, 2024

COVE, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Opening

- Call to Order and Welcome – Jeff Garrett
- Introductions
- RVOC Chair Comments – Doug Baird
- Safety Committee Agenda – Jeff Garrett

Committee Meeting Agenda

- 0830 Call Meeting to Order, introductions – Jeff Garrett
- 0835 Safety committee actions since April 2023 meeting – Jeff Garrett
- 0845 RVSS Waivers granted since last meeting – Jeff Garrett
- 0900 Lithium-ion batteries: RVSS updates needed?
- 0930 Appendix A cable/line testing requirements (Section A.5.2) – Rick Trask
- 1045 Safer Seas requirements – Doug Russell
- Potential Appendix E updates – Emily Shimada
- 1130 Break for Lunch
- 1215 Equipment issues:
- Update on new SCBA kits – Jon Swallow
 - RPC-90x line control display issues – Josh Eaton
- 1245 New safety coordinator position in UNOLS Office – Doug Russell
- 1300 Safety issues identified by NSF Inspection Team – Blake Powell
- 1320 Any additional issues that merit review by the Safety Committee
- 1345 Safety Committee Membership review – Jeff Garrett
- 1400 Meeting concludes
- COVE facility tour, RVOC reception

Safety Committee Terms of Reference – 2023 Update

Research Vessel Operators Committee

Safety Committee Terms of Reference *(Updated 2023)*

Charge to the Safety Committee

As part of the Research Vessel Operators Committee (RVOC), to provide a continuing forum for:

- Maintaining the UNOLS Research Vessel Safety Standards (RVSS) for the Academic Research Fleet (ARF), through updates and revisions as required. Changes to the RVSS will be forwarded through RVOC and to the UNOLS Council for approval.
- Considering requests for waivers of RVSS requirements, with approval or disapproval by the Committee as appropriate.
- Discussion of mishaps and other current safety issues relevant to the ARF.
- Providing advice to UNOLS funding agencies on safety issues.

Membership

Voting Members. The committee will normally consist of ten members, with the objective of wide representation of the various classes ARF vessels, operating institutions, the Research Vessel Technical Committee (RVTEC), and other oceanographic research and maritime expertise. The Committee will select new and renewing members

Safety Committee Subject Matter Experts. Non-voting advisors, who are invited to Committee meetings and can advise the Committee as appropriate.

Other interested persons. Representatives from UNOLS members, Federal agencies and other interested persons are welcome to attend Safety Committee meetings and to observe as non-voting participants.

Term limits – Three years with renewal as needed.

Reporting – The Safety Committee will report to the Chair of RVOC.

Meetings – At least annually, usually in conjunction with annual RVOC meetings.

Actions since May 2023 Meeting

- Significant revisions to Appendix A approved by RVOC & UNOLS Council; RVSS revised
- Updated committee charge approved
- Appendix A & B training seminar organized by Meegan Corcoran at WHOI, Jan 2024; well-attended, excellent presentations

RVSS Waiver Requests

Received and considered 3 RVSS waiver requests:

- May 23 – *Armstrong*: Coring with FoS of 1.5; after discussion, **no waiver needed**
- Oct 23 - *Thompson*: D/d waiver for side rollers; **granted**
- Jan 24 – *Sikuliaq*: Synthetic line FoS, D/d for sheave & rollers; **granted**

Review of Recent Safety Issues in the Fleet

- Mishaps?
- Near Misses?
- Lessons Learned?
- Other safety issues?

Lithium-Ion Batteries

- Section 9.4.1 of the RVSS – last updated July 2018
- Risks of Li-ion batteries continue to make the news –
M/V Conception, car carriers burning at sea
- Comments from the NSF inspection team – Blake Powell
- Do we need to update the RVSS?

Appendix A cable/line testing requirements

Section A.5.2

“...vessel operator shall send samples to ... NSF Wire Pool for consistency of testing and maintaining statistics. For steel cables & wire rope ... send a 7-meter (23-foot) test sample with at least one end terminated with the fittings normally used in the field.”

- Cost & availability issues for some fittings?
- Loss of breaking load info if wire/cable is tested without the termination?

Safer Seas Requirements & Personal Behavior & Individual Safety

Safer Seas Legislation - enacted to combat sexual assault & sexual harassment aboard U.S. vessels; addresses:

- Master key control
- Video monitoring
- Signage & reporting
- And may affect safety management system (SMS)

Personal Behavior & Individual Safety (RVSS Chapter 6 & Appendix E)

- MERAS has suggested an update (last updated Dec 2017)

Equipment Issues

- New SCBA kits being acquired – Jon Swallow
- RPC-90x line control display issues – Josh Eaton
- Other equipment issues?

Safety Coordinator Position In UNOLS Office

--Doug Russell

Safety Issues Identified in NSF Inspections

--Blake Powell

Anything Else?

Membership Status

1. Chair: Jeff Garrett – 2015–2024
2. Jon Swallow/UDEL – 2015–2024
3. Quentin Lewis/BIOS – 2016-2024
4. Doug Baird/UAF – 2018–2024
5. Kerry Strom/WHOI – 2018-2024
6. Matt Durham/SIO – 2019-2025
7. Stewart Lamerdin/prev. VIMS – 2022-2025
8. Drew Cole/prev. SIO – 2021-2027
9. Ash Hayden/URI – 2021-2027
10. Erich Gruebel/URI, RVTEC Rep` – 2024-2027

Subject Matter Experts (continuing):

Aaron Davis/SIO
Rick Trask/WHOI
Josh Eaton/WHOI

Back-up Slides

Definitions

U.S. Academic Research Fleet: *Vessels scheduled through the University National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS)*

Federal Oceanographic Fleet:

- *U.S. Academic Research Fleet*
- *National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) research and survey fleet*
- *U.S. Coast Guard polar icebreakers*
- *Vessels chartered by the National Science Foundation (NSF)*

[May 2013 Federal Oceanographic Fleet Status Report]