

Community Updates

U.S. Academic Research Fleet to Adopt the USCG Safer Seas Act

The 2023 James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act implemented requirements that focus on eliminating sexual harassment and assault onboard ships. There are several key aspects of the law that are being implemented on ARF vessels. They include:

- Key Control – establishing a master key control system
- Signage – displaying information on operating institution policies, reporting procedures, and measures to address sexual harassment and assault
- Safety Management System – incorporating processes and procedures in ship operators' Safety Management Systems for addressing sexual harassment and assault
- Video and Audio Surveillance – installation of video and audio surveillance systems in passageways into which doors from staterooms open, procedures for maintaining secure surveillance data, and processing if needed for investigative purposes.

With NSF support, the UNOLS office is working with UCSD's HiSeasNet group to contract with a vendor to develop, install, and support the video and audio surveillance systems starting with the Global and Ocean Class ships. The new RCRVs and other ARF vessels will follow. UNOLS' Meegan Corcoran is working with the vessel operator and their institutions' Title IX Offices to facilitate their addressing the aspects of the Safer Seas Act requirements into their ship operations including key control, signage, reporting processes, and Safety Management System updates. Please contact doug@unols.org and/or meegan@unols.org with any questions you may have.

New UNOLS Technical Services Manager

My name is Tara M. Clemente and I'm very excited to have recently joined the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS) as the new Technical Services Manager. In this new role I'm responsible for the management, recruitment, and training of Marine Technicians for UNOLS operating institutes via the UNOLS Technician Pool. I directly support the Research Vessel Technical Enhancement Committee (RVTEC) community and initiatives to further enhance the research fleet science system and support capabilities. I support the National Science Foundation's Program Director for Ocean Instrumentation and Technical Services and I'm an active participant and contributor to various UNOLS Committees.

Prior to joining UNOLS, I worked at NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) and the University of Washington's Cooperative Institute for Climate, Ocean, and Ecosystem Studies (CICOES) as the Field Operations Manager for the Global Tropical Moored Buoy Array (GTMBBA) program. The GTMBBA program is a multi-national effort to provide data in real-time for climate research and forecasting. In this role I managed, coordinated, supported project personnel, conducted and led field operations involving the turnover of deep-sea moorings in support of GTMBBA research objectives and in collaboration with our foreign partners in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Preceding my time at PMEL I worked at the University of Hawaii as the HOT - SCOPE Program Operations Manager for the Hawaii Ocean Time series (HOT) and The Simons Collaboration on Ocean Processes and Ecology (SCOPE), two collaborative oceanographic field programs investigating the temporal and spatial variability of the hydrography, chemistry and biology of the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre. I received my M.Sc. degree in Biological Oceanography from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where I studied the spatial variability in plankton size structure and community composition along biogeochemical gradients in the Pacific Ocean, supervised by Dr. David M. Karl. To date I have participated in over ninety research cruises with the HOT program and dozens of other research cruises between Hawaii, Alaska, California, American Samoa, Chile, Rapa Nui, Grand Canaria, Mauritius, Maldives, South Africa and Antarctica, totaling 1500+ days at sea. I've led, planned, and organized oceanographic research data collection and have served as chief scientist on numerous oceanographic expeditions.

In my new role I'm extremely excited to draw upon all my previous experiences to support the Marine Technicians, field operations and research objectives of the UNOLS institutions and Academic Research Fleet. Outside of studying, researching and teaching about the sea, I love to spend my time sailing, paddling, hiking and exploring the world's infinite wonders!

Post Cruise Assessments are Important

Have you recently participated in a voyage aboard an Academic Research Vessel or are you planning to do so in the near future? Please ensure that you complete your Post-Cruise Assessment Report (PCAR). These reports serve as crucial evaluation tools for vessel operators and funding agencies, allowing them to assess the effectiveness and safety of the fleet. PCARs contribute significantly to enhancing operational insights and identifying opportunities for further advancement of the fleet. The Post Cruise Assessment Report form can be found in the Scientist Portal of the Marine Facilities Planning site (www.mfp.us). If you have questions, please contact mfp@unols.org

Ship Scheduling

The ship schedulers continue to make good progress in developing the 2025 ARF ship schedules. Publishing most, if not all, of the 2025 ship schedules in September 2024 is on track. Some ship operators have already published early segments of their 2025 ship schedules when needed to facilitate cruise planning processes including the submittal of Marine Science Requests to the State Department for foreign clearances where needed. Many of the ship schedulers, especially for the Global and Ocean Class, are focused on resolving schedule details at this time with PIs to ensure the schedules will work for the science parties, other facility operators (i.e. NDSF), and the ship operators. As a reminder to PIs, if you are considering adjusting your ship time request from what was originally approved by a funding agency per your original Sliptime and Marine Equipment (SME) request, you must contact your science program manager to determine whether it is possible. Ship schedulers may have a good idea as where the ships may be operating and whether there may be enough flexibility in the developing schedules to accept additional work, but they have no authority to approve additional work. The schedulers won't incorporate additional work into the developing schedules until they know it is approved and funded.

Committee News

Arctic Marine Research Capabilities Committee (AMRCC) Created

A new special committee, the Arctic Marine Research Capabilities Committee (AMRCC), was recently created. This committee will focus on developing the Science Mission Requirements for any future Arctic icebreaking capability. The Committee brings together scientists, technicians, and operators who have extensive experience at conducting oceanographic science in the Arctic. WHOI's Dr. Carin Ashjian is the Chair of the AMRCC. Taking this important step now ensures that the U.S. government is ready to move ahead to develop future any future Arctic icebreaking capability that includes the ability to support oceanographic science - such as been done by U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker HEALY for the past 24 years. It is anticipated that the AMRCC will host a community workshop at some point to engage with the Arctic science community to solicit their input and support for the emerging science mission requirements that anticipate the future of polar science. The AMRCC is expected to deliver its report summer 2025. Please contact doug@unols.org for any questions you may have.

New UNOLS Travel Reimbursement Specialist

The UNOLS expert travel reimbursement specialist Su Tipple recently retired (for the second time). Although we are sad to see Su go we are excited to introduce Laine Ritter, our new travel reimbursement specialist. Laine will be working part time with the UNOLS office to process the office and committee travel reimbursements. Laine comes to the UNOLS office after working as an Administrative Specialist in UW Medicine. Laine Ritter is a retired U.S. Naval Officer, a trained chef, an avid pickler (pickleball enthusiast), a cancer survivor, a grateful wife and proud mother of 3 children. A published food journalist, blue ribbon winning baker, and a food adventurer, Laine will bravely travel any street corner around the world to eat a local dish. Laine trained with Su and has already proven herself through the University of Washington's financial transformation. Welcome Laine!

Fleet Highlights

Highlights from the R/V Atlantis AT50-26 Axial Seamount cruise

Axial Seamount stands as the most active submarine volcano in the Northeast Pacific, having experienced eruptions in 1998, 2011, and 2015. Dr. William Chadwick has recently concluded the Multi-Scale Geodesy 2024 cruise at Axial Seamount aboard the R/V Atlantis, supported by NSF award OCE-2226488. The expedition employed ROV Jason and AUV Sentry (AT50-26) to achieve its scientific objectives. For a concise overview of the cruise highlights, please view the [3.5-minute video](#) crafted by videographer Marley Parker (miparkermedia.com).

Follow the 2024 UNOLS-MATE Interns on the Internship Blog!

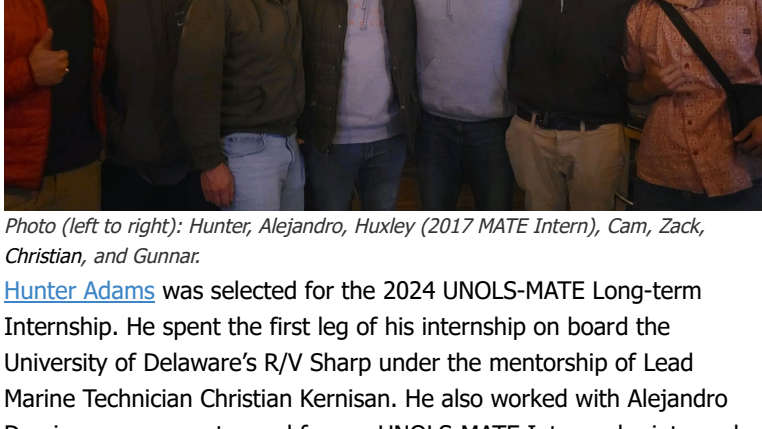


Photo: Josie Adams (left) and Claire Mayorga inside the KU band antenna dome.

[Josie Adams](#) is interning with the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography on board the R/V Endeavor under the guidance of her mentor, Marine Technician Bonny Clarke. Josie is also working with newly hired Marine Technician and former UNOLS-MATE Intern Claire Mayorga who completed an internship last year on the R/V Langseth. Josie has been working with a variety of oceanographic equipment and instruments, and received an in-depth introduction to the satellite internet systems on the ship. Read more about Josie's internship experiences on board the [R/V Endeavor](#).



Photo (left to right): Hunter, Alejandro, Huxley (2017 MATE Intern), Cam, Zack, Christian, and Gunnar.

[Hunter Adams](#) was selected for the 2024 UNOLS-MATE Long-term Internship. He spent the first leg of his internship on board the University of Delaware's R/V Sharp under the mentorship of Lead Marine Technician Christian Kernisan. He also worked with Alejandro Dominguez, co-mentor and former UNOLS-MATE Intern who interned last year on the Sharp and was hired as a full-time Marine Technician. Hunter wrote: "*[The Sharp's crew was] incredibly welcoming, and it's been a fantastic opportunity to work with the engineers and researchers from WHOI and NOAA as well!*" [Hunter is currently completing the second leg of the internship with the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences on the R/V Atlantic Explorer](#). Read all about it in [BIOS, BATS and BVALCIOUSNESS](#). Stay tuned for updates about the upcoming third leg on the USCGC Healy where Hunter will intern with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography's Ship-based Technical Support in the Arctic (STARC) Team.

Consultate General visits the R/V Thompson

A delegation from the U.S. Consulate in Chennai, India visited R/V Thomas G. Thompson while the ship was docked in Chennai during an intermediate port call of the ONR-funded ASTRAL-EKAMSAT project in the Bay of Bengal. Watch a short video clip of the visit [highlights here](#).

Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee (AICC) Arctic Chief Scientist Training Cruise

The Arctic, a focal point for environmental change and advanced oceanographic research, necessitates specialized vessels like the R/V Sikuliaq and USCGC Healy for accessing remote field sites. These platforms are often sought after by researchers, though the process for junior scientists involves navigating high entry barriers.

To equip early career investigators with the necessary skills, the AICC, supported by the National Science Foundation and U.S. Coast Guard, will host an Arctic Chief Scientist training cruise in 2024. This program includes a 10-15-day transit of the Northwest Passage aboard USCGC Healy, featuring training modules on Arctic research practices, project development, and onboard operations. Mentors with diverse expertise will guide participants, who may assist in scientific sampling aligned with the voyage's objectives.

Prior to embarkation, a 2-day pre-cruise workshop near the departure port will cover agency insights, interpersonal dynamics, and team-building exercises. Pre-cruise planning meetings from March to July will further prepare participants for this unique educational opportunity. Find out more information and follow along with the cruise participants [here](#).

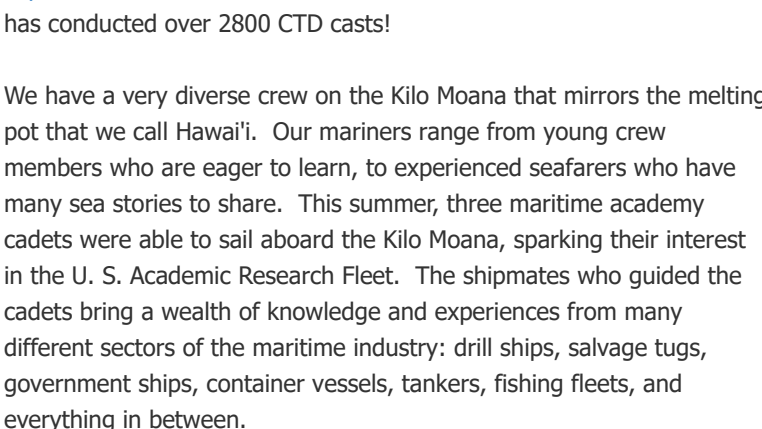
MFP News

MFP Help is Here!

The UNOLS office has engaged Stefani Martynenko to monitor and drive forward the implementation of the Marine Facilities Planning (MFP) system. Stefani's primary role involves ensuring that end-user requirements are effectively addressed and managing the diverse array of system requests and updates. She collaborates closely with Alice Doyle and the development team to drive the project's progression forward.

Stefani brings valuable experience from her prior tenure as a student worker at the UNOLS office and has a bachelor of science degree in Oceanography. Her contributions are expected to enhance the fleet's utilization of this impactful tool. Please write to mfp@unols.org with any MFP issues or questions.

Featured Ship



R/V Kilo Moana pier-side in Papeete French Polynesia, Feb. 2024

R/V Kilo Moana
Year Built: 2002
Place Built: Atlantic Marine Florida LLC, Jacksonville, Florida
Midlife Refit: TBD, possibly DDAX to 204
Science Berthing: 21 (expandable to 24 upon request)
Crew Berthing: 20
Owner: U.S. Navy
Operator: University of Hawai'i Marine Center
Class of Vessel: Ocean Class

Kilo Moana meaning - The Hawaiian words kilo moana literally mean "one who is looking for understanding of the deep sea" or "oceanographer". Kilo means "to watch closely, spy, examine, look around, observe", and moana means "ocean, open sea". Kilo can also be used to describe someone who is an expert in kilo practice, or to refer to a Hawaiian observation approach that focuses on subtle things in the environment.

The R/V Kilo Moana is a 186' Small Waterplane Area Twin Hull (SWATH) vessel owned by the U.S. Navy and operated by the University of Hawai'i Marine Center. Because of the unique SWATH design, the Kilo Moana is a very stable and comfortable platform from which to conduct oceanographic research. The ship was designed as a multi-purpose oceanographic research vessel with extensive equipment for geophysical (2 magnetometer echosounders, sub-bottom profiler, gravimeter and magnetometer), physical oceanographic (Acoustic Doppler current profilers, CTDs, pCO2); meteorological and radioisotope research. Over 2500 sq. ft. of space is provided in 8 different laboratories and over 4000 sq. ft. of exterior working space is available on the aft main deck and the forward 01 deck. The Kilo Moana was built in 2001 and commissioned in 2002. The vessel operates out of Honolulu, Hawai'i, and has worked throughout the Pacific. The cruising speed is 12 kt., with a minimum speed of less than 1 kt. and station keeping supported by dynamic positioning.

During its twenty-two years of going to sea, the Kilo Moana has taken part in 142 Hawaii Ocean Time-series (HOT) cruises. The HOT program is a long-term oceanographic study based at the [University of Hawaii at Manoa](#). HOT utilizes deep-water station ALOHA, located 100km north of Oahu to conduct long time-series observations of climate-relevant variables in the ocean. Scientists working on the HOT program have been making repeated observations of the [hydrography](#), [chemistry](#) and [biology](#) of the [water column](#) at a station north of Oahu, Hawaii since October 1988. The objective of this research is to provide a comprehensive description of the ocean at a site representative of the [North Pacific Subtropical Gyre](#). Measurements of the primary structure, [water column](#) chemistry, currents, optical properties, [terrestrial production](#), [plankton](#) community structure, and rates of [particle export](#) are made on each cruise. After 142 HOT cruises the Kilo Moana has conducted over 2800 CTD casts!

We have a very diverse crew on the Kilo Moana that mirrors the melting pot that we call Hawai'i. Our mariners range from young crew members who are eager to learn, to experienced seafarers who have many sea stories to share. This summer, three maritime academy cadets were able to sail aboard the Kilo Moana, sparking their interest in the U. S. Academic Research Fleet. The shipmates who guided the cadets bring a wealth of knowledge and experiences from many different sectors of the maritime industry: drill ships, salvage tugs, government ships, container vessels, tankers, fishing fleets, and everything in between.

About a third of Kilo Moana's crew are local Hawaii residents, and many of them were born and raised in Hawaii. In a time when it is increasingly expensive to live in The Aloha State, it is especially rewarding to provide well-paying jobs, complete with benefits to our local community. Many of the local crew extend the "Aloha Spirit" to their out-of-town shipmates, by showing them around the island in their off time. It's this "Aloha Spirit" that unites our crew into one "ohana", which means "family".

Kilo Moana's "ohana may not look alike, or come from the same place or background, but it is brought together by the understanding that everyone has something different to contribute to Kilo Moana's success.

Crew after completing an internal ISM audit with smiles and big shaka! (R/L Chief Mate William Head, Captain Ben Morgan, 2AE David Herst, QMED Kaiola Yuen, AB Kealani Fernandez, AB Gary Curry, 2M Corey Thomas, 3M Abraham K-Aloha, QMED Alle Gretzinger, AB Gregory Benjamin)

Captain Eric Pomeroi, Chief Mates Jamie Gleber, and Ben Morgan arriving in San Francisco Bay.

Featured Photo



Sunset from the R/V Atlantis near the Axial Seamount. Photo by Marley Parker.

Upcoming Events

2024 Fall FIC Meeting
19-20 September 2024
University of Washington
Seattle, WA

2024 RVTEC Meeting
21-25 October 2024
University of New Hampshire
Portsmouth, NH

2024 Fall Council & Annual Meeting
20-21 November 2024
Savannah, Georgia

2025 Winter AICC Meeting
8-10 January 2025
USCG Base Seattle
Seattle, WA

Did you know...

Did you know that the schedules can be viewed and downloaded from MFP as a table view? This view is more similar to the old STRS view and might be easier to read. As part of this, the schedules can be downloaded to your calendar to make sure you receive LIVE updates of the ship schedules. For a quick tutorial watch the <1min video [here](#).

UNOLS

UNIVERSITY-NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC LABORATORY SYSTEM

From the Editor

Thank you to all who contributed information and articles for this issue of UNOLS News. Articles are always welcome and encouraged. Copy, links, or images and questions can be submitted by e-mail to mfp@unols.org.

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