



TECH POOL UPDATE 2024

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History



- 2012 Small-scale start of pool (2 techs)
- Jan 2015 NSF issues RFP for 5-year Cooperative Agreement
- Jan 2016 Final agreement between NSF and TAMU;
pool to run through February 2021.
- March 2016 Pool begins operations with 2 members; 7 by year end
- February 2021 No-cost extension
- June 2022 New 5-year contract with TAMU;
- October 2024 In year 8, 19 techs deployed this year, 48 have participated to date
(10 have accepted permanent positions with UNOLS or other operators)

Goals of Program

1. To retain a pool of experienced technicians and ensure that the necessary technical support is available for oceanographic research cruises when the ship's operator does not have the necessary support in house;
2. To provide opportunities for new/younger marine technicians to sail on multiple ships and learn the latest techniques from senior operatives they would likely not meet otherwise;
3. To ensure that experience built up over many years of marine operations is retained within the marine technician community even as older operatives retire; and
4. To work with UNOLS Technical Support Manager and handle all necessary support functions for technicians, including being a voice.





How it Works



- Technicians employed as independent contractors
- Initial agreement plus individual service supplements for each deployment
- Group insurance covers Maritime Employers' Liability and Marine General Liability insurance (2 claims to date); technicians responsible for own medical coverage
- Paid at standard day rates (depending on experience/abilities) based on 8 hr/day ashore, 12 hr/day at sea; includes travel and mob/demob days. Pay rise of 5% at all levels started 1/01/22.
- Eligible for attending training workshops if complete 100 days at sea/yr
- Work **NOT** guaranteed and techs may opt in and out of assignments and/or pool



Tech Pool Participation

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Techs	7	13	14	15	11	16	16	18	19
Cruises	21	44	45	48	26	28	42	35	39

- Since 2016, 48 Techs have participated in 328 Cruises.
- 24 Ships have used the Tech Pool
- 2024: 19 Techs have participated in 39 cruises, so far.



Deployment Variety



Tech #	Deployments	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
2	42	8	7	4	9	6	3	3	1	1
3	24	1	4	3	5	2	1	7	1	
7	13	1	2	2	2	1	1		1	3
10	23		5	5	2	1	4	2	2	2
12	13		1	5		3	1	2		1
13	9		1		1	2	3			2
18	25			1	9	3	1	6	3	2
19	22				1	3	3	1	7	7
20	2				1				1	
21	4				1	1	1			1
27	4						1	1	2	
28	7						1	3	2	1
32	10							2	4	4
37	2								2	
39	3								1	2
40	6								3	3
41	4								1	3
43	2									2
44	1									1
45	1									1
46	1									1
47	1									1
48	1									1

Work With:

- Different Ships
- Different Technicians
- Gain & Share Knowledge & Experience





Days Worked



Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sea Days	267	971	886	746	455	618	836	761	716
Shore Days	82	370	394	198	217	164	346	286	293
Total	349	1341	1280	944	672	782	1182	1047	1009



Conclusion



- Pool has relieved ship operators from having to keep additional techs in house
- Pool has provided operators with ability to see techs in action before hiring them permanently
- Techs have more freedom to work when they want to although pay not guaranteed
- Pool provides techs with additional opportunities to sail on multiple vessels and meet other techs, as well as get training in new techniques and with new equipment



Thank You!



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