

Cruise Support Agreement

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The Problem

Principle Investigators/Chief Scientists (PI/CS) often **request additional resources**—such as in-port time, equipment, and personnel—**after the cruise schedule has already been finalized.**

These late-stage requests place significant pressure on schedulers, cruise planners, operators, and supporting agencies, requiring reallocation of resources and scheduling adjustments, which can be both **costly and time-consuming.**

Contributing Factors

- Uncertainty of available Resources
- Changes in Plans
- Underestimating Mobilization and Demobilization
- Late Schedule Release
- Limited Resources for early cruise planning

Goal

A solution that will

- **Find major resource challenges** early in the process, BEFORE scheduling
- **Limited additional effort/resources** to the Cruise Planning Process
- **Be worthwhile**
- Get **buy-in** from stakeholders

Two-phased approach

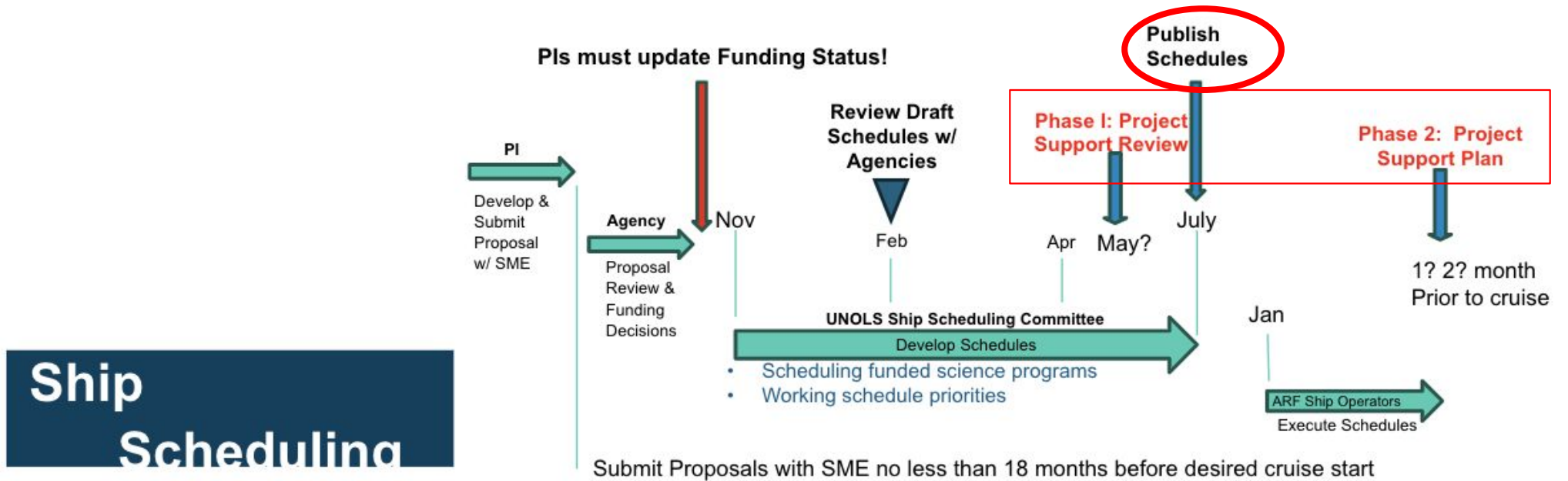
PHASE 1: Project Support Review

- **Preliminary review of the project.** The Ship Operator, any requested facilities (e.g. NDSF, Pools, MarSSAM), and the PI/CS will update the SME as required and “sign off” that this is their level of support prior to scheduling.

PHASE 2: Project Support Plan

- **Later review of all Cruise Planning process.** The Ship Operator, any requested facilities (e.g. NDSF, Pools, MarSSAM), and the PI/CS will be required to “sign off” on the plan that this is their level of support.

Revised Ship Scheduling Timeline



SME – Shiptime & Marine Equipment request, submitted via UNOLS Marine Facilities Planning

<https://mfp.us>

Hurdles / Comments / Concerns

- **Timing:** Will the proposed timeline work?
- **Resources:** Do the institutions have enough people and time to complete both PHASE 1&2?
- **Culture Shift:**
 - For PI/CSs. There is concern this will just be one more thing to "nag" the PI/CS about.
 - Our operators are ingrained in helping to the nth degree even if it breaks them
- **Teeth?:** What happens if the PI/CS do not complete the Cruise Planning info on time?

What's Next?

- Review by all the stakeholders & further discussion
- Implementation in MFP

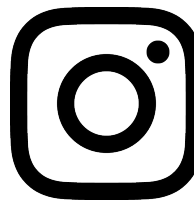
Questions?



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