

2008 Committee of Visitors Report for the Facilities
Programs of the Division of Ocean Sciences
Update of Actions as of September 24, 2010

Findings and Recommendations

Corporate Knowledge of IPS facilities staff.

Action: We will continue to work with WHOI, DESSC and the RHOV AOC on a smooth transition from Navy to ABS certification.

Update: The ALVIN Upgrade Project Final Design Review was held 21-24 September 2010 at NSF. One of the primary topics of discussion was the certification of the upgraded vehicle. The Panel strongly supported the need for continued Navy involvement in the certification of the vehicle. Recent meetings have now confirmed that Navy leadership at both the Chief of Naval Research and Naval Sea Systems Command support continued participation by Navy and the NSF, WHOI and NAVSEA Teams are developing a consolidated schedule that meets all the requirements of both the ABS Classification and the NAVSEA Certification processes. The RHOC, DESSC and science community will be kept apprised of the progress of the certification process.

Funding balance between facilities and research.

Action: We fully agree with the importance of achieving the right balance between science and infrastructure and will be using all the tools available to us at the IPS, OCE and GEO levels, including the efforts of the Interagency Working Group on Facilities and the new Ocean Studies Board Project looking at infrastructure issues.

Update: We are continuing to work with the other federal agencies on these issues through the Interagency Working Group on Facilities and Infrastructure and consider this action item closed for reporting purposes.

Post-cruise assessments (PCA) and Communications.

Action: We will continue working with UNOLS to identify ways to improve the submission rate of PCAs and track actions taken in response to issues identified.

Update: The tracking of PCAs has continued and we are investigating a new approach to databasing and tracking the high priority issues identified in the PCA reports as well as the NSF ship inspections.

NDSF recommendations.

Action: We will consider and evaluate all available options for the next 5-year NDSF proposal review.

Update: NDSF past performance was reviewed and its significant contributions to the success of the science research efforts was demonstrated, resulting in no required changes. SENTRY was formally included into the NDSF facility on a probationary basis and the ALVIN Upgrade Project continues to move ahead. The MOU between NSF, Navy and NOAA for NDSF was formally extended. This action item is considered closed for reporting purpose.

Streamlining the Tracking of maintenance and upgrades of research vessels.

Action: NSF will remind IPS Program Officers to include documentation in e-jacket on actions taken to address identified problem areas and will keep this recommendation

open.

Update: The IPS Program Officers have been up-loading related correspondence in e-jacket as necessary. In addition, IPS has implemented a Vessel Condition Summary spreadsheet that consolidates information from the NSF Ship Inspection Program, Ship Ops MOSA funding, and equipment grants to better track the condition of the vessels and long-term planning for upgrade. Findings on the first vessels to be monitored under this program will be presented to the UNOLS community at the UNOLS annual meeting in October 2010.