

POLAR FLEET STATUS
U.S. Coast Guard Report
UNOLS RVTEC Meeting

8 Nov 2005

VESSEL STATUS

- POLAR STAR and POLAR SEA are currently beyond their economic service life and require major machinery overhaul or replacement
- DF 06, POLAR STAR remains in Seattle. NSF has chartered Russian icebreaker KRASIN. **Based upon budget constraints imposed by NSF**, the Coast Guard will be placing POLAR STAR in “caretaker” status after POLAR STAR is no longer in standby status to support DF06.
- POLAR SEA in shipyard for ongoing repair of main motors, and other systems. Polar Sea should be ready for DF07.
- HEALY conducting research in Arctic w/ODEN – reached N Pole on 12 Sept. Expected to continue Arctic polar research missions each year.

FLEET STATUS

- Presidents FY06 budget shifts polar icebreaking funding from USCG to NSF
- USCG and NSF signed an MOU on 8 Aug 05
 - o Funding
 - o Scheduling
- Mission Analysis Report (Booz Allen Hamilton) on Polar Ice Operations foresees demand for heavy icebreakers to support federal agencies research and science support needs, as well as support of USCG roles in Maritime Safety, Security, and Mobility, Protection of Natural Resources, National Defense, and Maritime Homeland Security.
- Mission Needs Study (Booz Allen Hamilton) completed; pending approval by USCG leadership.
- National Academies independent study "Assessment of US Coast Guard Polar Icebreaker Roles and Future Needs"
 - o Mandated by DHS FY05 Appropriations Bill
 - o Assess the role of USCG polar icebreakers in supporting U.S. operations in the Arctic and Antarctic, including scenarios for continuing current operations and potential alternative approaches.
 - o Recommend what major acquisition projects will be needed to support future operations.
 - o Interim report expected December 2005, with delivery of final report during July 2006.

- Following completion of NAS study and receipt of report, the OSTP has indicated intent to produce a Presidential Directive on national polar icebreaker needs, including size and structure of the federal icebreaker fleet.