

# NOAA's Fleet Assessment and Recommendation Action Item from 5<sup>th</sup> OEAB Meeting

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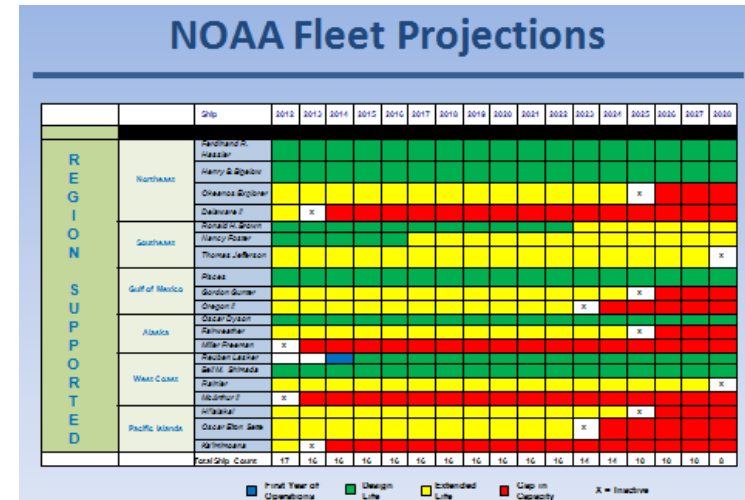
# OEAB Action Item

- Review NOAA's fleet utilization and provide assessment and recommendations
  - Assigned
    - 4/27/16 (5<sup>th</sup> OEAB Meeting)
    - Lance Towers



# 2017 NOAA Fleet Status

Location	Ships	Within Design Life	Extended Life
Northeast	3	Ferninand R Hassler	Okeanos Explorer
		Henry B. Bigelow	
Southeast	3	Ronald Brown	Nancy Foster
			Thomas Jefferson
Gulf of Mexico	3	Pisces	Gordon Gunter
			Oregon II
Alaska	2	Oscar Dyson	Fairweather
West Coast	3	Reuben Lasker	Rainier
		Bell Shimada	
Pacific Islands	2	n/a	Hi'ialakai
			Oscar Elton Sette



In 2017 56% of NOAA's Fleet will operate in an extended life status.

# Fleet Operating Metrics (Year 2015)

- 16 Ships in NOAA Fleet
- 2702 achieved fleet days at Sea (DAS)
  - 169 Average ship DAS (2702/16)
  - Age and status of fleet impacting DAS
- 250 DAS typical standard/goal ship utilization

Assuming 250 DAS per ship standard/goal  
NOAA's 16 Ship Fleet is achieving an 11 ship equivalent.

# Assessment

- NOAA's fleet utilization of 169 DAS versus standard/goal of 250 DAS conveys the following perceptions:
  - Inefficient fleet utilization
  - Excess capacity exists.

Actual fleet utilization may contribute to reduced congressional support

# Recommendations for Consideration

- Conduct a cost and DAS assessment to determine if efficiencies can be gained by:
  - Mothballing 1 to 4 ships, transferring the associated budget to the remaining fleet to improve reliability and average fleet DAS.
  - Sell the oldest ships to offset the cost of procuring a new ship(s)

# Recommendations for Consideration

## OE Consideration Only

- Okeanos Explorer is on the last few years of operation
- A potential option is consider reallocating the Ron Brown to replace the Okeanos Explorer
- The Ron Brown
  - Is big, robust, could do tele-presence, has years of life and lots of bunks
  - Is currently under utilized too and is a globally ranging ship that should not for traditional work rules reasons be confined to a single geographical area (I/e., Southeast)

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