NOAA’s Fleet Assessment and Recommendation
Action Item from 5th OEAB Meeting

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NOAA – OEAB Member
Sep 2016
OEAB Action Item

• Review NOAA’s fleet utilization and provide assessment and recommendations

• Assigned
  • 4/27/16 (5th OEAB Meeting)
  • Lance Towers
### 2017 NOAA Fleet Status

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

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)