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**IRSO 2015- First Information-
13 April 2015**

Dear Colleagues:

We are pleased to provide you with details of the 28th International Research Ship Operators (IRSO) meeting which will be hosted by the National Science Foundation, Office of Naval Research and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The meeting is being co-hosted by Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the University-National Oceanographic laboratory System (UNOLS) which will facilitate the meeting. The meeting venue is the Robert Paine Scripps Forum for Science, Society, and the Environment in La Jolla, California, USA and the dates for the meeting are October 20-23, 2015.

Background Information

The International Research Ship Operators organization was founded in 1986 and is an annual meeting of managers of ocean research ship fleets for the purpose of discussing topics and sharing information of mutual interest. This includes discussions on new research vessels, marine scientific equipment, ship systems, marine operations, changing scientific requirements, scheduling, manning, training, classifications, regulations, certifications, as well as insurance, vessel barter, and lessons learned. The meeting is held each year at one of the member countries. IRSO minutes, news, and other information can be found at the website:

www.irso.info

Venue- Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Scripps Institution of Oceanography was founded in 1903 largely through the efforts of William E. Ritter, a UC Berkeley professor, and it became part of the University of California in 1912. At that time, it was named Scripps Institution for Biological Research in recognition of the support of philanthropist Ellen Browning Scripps and E. W. Scripps, the noted newspaper publisher. The research programs expanded to include all aspects of the oceans, and the name was changed to Scripps Institution of Oceanography in 1925. Today, Scripps is part of UC San Diego and has become one of the world's oldest, largest, and most important centers for ocean and earth science research, graduate training, and public service.

It now occupies 170 acres along the Pacific coastline, below the UC San Diego main campus. The waters immediately offshore are part of the California Marine Protected Areas and the institution has a 1,084-foot research pier that supports a scientific diving program, small boat deployment, and research and data collection.

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In its most recent survey of graduate schools, the National Research Council ranked Scripps the number one oceanographic program in faculty quality, distinction, and scholarly publications. Scripps's preeminence in many scientific fields reflects its continuing commitment to excellence in research, modern facilities, distinguished faculty, and outstanding students.

Students at Scripps have access to some of the nation's most sophisticated and specialized laboratories and facilities for oceanographic and earth science studies covering a wide range of disciplines from biology and physiology to geophysics and atmospheric sciences. Scripps offers facilities for detailed experimental studies, including two large experimental aquarium rooms. The Marine Science Development Center is equipped with a comprehensive set of materials and machine tools and can fabricate and test a wide range of research devices. The Hydraulics Laboratory features a 150-foot wind-wave channel and a 110-foot glass-walled wave channel. Computer resources include access to the San Diego Supercomputer Center. The various marine life and geological specimens housed in Scripps's Oceanographic Collections comprise a vast and unique "library" available for scientific studies both within Scripps and at other institutions and are the world's largest university-based oceanographic collections.

Scripps operates a fleet of oceanographic research vessels recognized worldwide for its outstanding capabilities, including the research vessels *Roger Revelle*, *Robert Gordon Sproul*, *Point Loma*, and the research platform FLIP. In 2016, Scripps will begin operating the newest research vessel in the US Academic Research Fleet, the *Sally Ride* in 2016. These vessels, equipped with a variety of instruments to explore the oceans, constitute mobile UC San Diego laboratories and observatories that serve students and researchers from Scripps, UC San Diego, and institutions throughout the world. Research cruises range from short missions offshore San Diego to months-long expeditions into the most remote areas of the world's oceans, and are supported by professional mariners, technicians, and shore-based staff in the Scripps Ship Operations and Marine Technical Support department.

28th IRSO Meeting Programme

IRSO Workshop- Theme: Polar Research- Research Vessel Operations in Polar Regions

The workshop is scheduled for Day 1, (Tuesday 20 October) Times: 0830 to 1430- Suggested topics are: International R/V Operations in the Polar Regions, IMO Polar Code, US Navy/ONR Arctic Operations, USCG Oil Spill Technology, and Icebreakers.

Special Event

On Tuesday afternoon, 20 October, we will have a private docent led tour of the USS Midway <http://www.midway.org/>

A tour bus will depart at 1430 to transport participants from La Jolla to downtown San Diego. The tour will be followed with an icebreaker reception on the fantail sponson deck.

As we step aboard the USS Midway Museum, we will explore and relive nearly 50 years of world history aboard the longest-serving United States Navy aircraft carrier of the 20th century.

Formal IRSO Meeting

The formal meeting shall begin on Day 2- Wednesday 21 October with registration at the meeting venue starting at 0800.

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Evening of Day 2

On the evening of Wednesday, 21 October, the IRSO Conference dinner and reception will be held at the Scripps Birch Aquarium. <http://aquarium.ucsd.edu/>

This amazing aquarium sits high on a hill in La Jolla, overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Day 3- Thursday 22 October

Day 4- Friday 23 October- The meeting will adjourn on Friday 23 October 2015 at noon.

Registration Fee

The cost for each member participating in the IRSO meeting will be \$ 325 U.S Dollars.

Guests: A fee of \$ 75.00 per guest will cover the tours, icebreaker, and IRSO dinner at the Birch Aquarium. Registration fee will cover continental breakfasts, lunches, USS Midway tour & reception, Birch Aquarium reception & dinner, as well as tour bus transportation to the Midway and the Birch Aquarium. Details on the payment process will be sent to each of you soon.

The registration form will be located on the UNOLS website in the coming weeks. The URL is: www.unols.org

Meeting Location

The meeting venue, provided by Scripps Institution of Oceanography, is the Robert Paine Scripps Forum for Science, Society, and the Environment. This seaside venue, on the Scripps campus in La Jolla, California, with a backdrop of the Pacific Ocean will be a memorable experience.

<https://scripps.ucsd.edu/about/venues/seaside-forum>

Hotel Information- A block of rooms for IRSO are at:

La Jolla Shores Hotel
8110 Camino del Oro
La Jolla, CA 92037
#800-237-5211

The Reservation Cut-Off date for booking a room to receive the UNOLS discounted rate of \$142.00/night, Standard Room, is **Saturday, September 19, 2015.**

There are two ways to reserve a room for this rate with the La Jolla Shores Hotel.

#1 If you are planning to book between the dates of 10/19/15 and 10/23/15;

Go to www.ljshoreshotel.com

Type in arrival date and click # of nights.

Click "Book Now; Left side of the screen is a grey box that says "Edit" Click "Edit"

Click "Optional Fields"

Under "Group Code" type in UNOLS2015

Click "Modify"

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Per the contract, the hotel is only able to offer rooms two days prior (10/17 & 10/18) and two days post (10/23 & 10/24) based on hotel's occupancy.

#2 If you are planning to book earlier "shoulder" dates prior (10/17 & 10/18) or post (10/23 & 10/24):

It is advised that you call the hotel reservation line directly at 800-237-5211 and reference the UNOLS Meeting (IRSO) meeting block to book your discounted room for the extended stay.

Airport Information

The closest and most convenient airport to La Jolla, is the San Diego International Airport <http://www.san.org/>

Transportation.

The San Diego airport and car rental facility are approximately 13 miles south of the meeting/hotel locations in La Jolla. Shuttle vans, taxis, and rental cars are all available at the airport.

Accompanying Guests Program-

Guests are invited to the Midway tour, icebreaker and Birch Aquarium dinner. Information on places of interest around the La Jolla and San Diego area will be provided.

Visas

Participants are encouraged to check with their travel agencies and embassy for details on US Visa requirements.

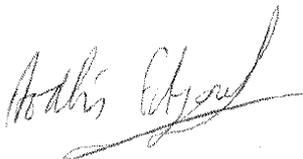
Confirmation of Participation

The registration form is currently being developed. We would like to have the registration process completed by September 11, 2015.

Agenda

The agenda is being developed now and will be posted on the meeting website. Please send any suggestions for agenda items to the IRSO organizing committee at IRSO2015@mail.unols.org

Best Regards,



Aodhan Fitzgerald/ Marine Institute - Foras na Mara- IRSO Chair

Bauke Houtman- National Science Foundation-IRSO Co-Chair

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