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October 8, 2004

Vice Admiral Harvey E. Johnson Jr.
Commander, Coast Guard Pacific Area
Building 51-6
Coast Guard Island
Alameda, CA 94501-5100
Ph. 510-437-3522; email: HJohnson@d11.uscg.mil

Dear Vice-Admiral Johnson:

We are writing to express our appreciation for the efforts of Captain Dan Oliver, the officers and crew of the USCGC Healy (WAGB 20) on behalf of the participants of the Western Arctic Shelf-Basin Interactions (SBI) science research project that successfully completed three major research cruises in 2004. The professional character, capabilities and resources that these USCG personnel brought to our collaborative efforts were instrumental to the completion of our science missions, not only in 2004, but also previously in 2002 and 2003. The SBI program is the most complex interdisciplinary research program ever mounted from a US Coast Guard icebreaker, with upwards of 50 shipboard science party members on each cruise engaged in interdisciplinary research. This included microbiology, primary production, optics, water column and benthic biology, tracer and nutrient chemistry, physical oceanography and educational outreach, all done in the context of understanding environmental change in the Arctic. The Healy met every challenge of this broad research effort, and enabled us to collect a groundbreaking data set.

Captain Dan Oliver was a strong advocate for overall science operations. In daily meetings with him and the lead officers effective science planning and ship operations coordination were undertaken, with many issues resolved initially without significant effort. Dan is an outstanding commanding officer, is extremely knowledgeable about ice operations, ship engineering and capabilities, effective as a manager, personable, and respected. The Operations Officer LCDR Daryl Peloquin provided daily, often around-the-clock support for our science operations coincident with USCG ship needs. Executive Office CDR William Rall was a key interface for ship management issues and scientist needs. Master Chief Navigator Joe Gispert provided essential navigation oversight. Chief Engineer LCDR Gregory Stanlick (spring) and LCDR John Reeves (summer) kept the ship running smoothly throughout the experiment, and in particular, were instrumental in working on a ballast tank filling procedure that enabled our scientists to maintain the integrity of incubation experiments by providing appropriate temperature cooling water to outside incubators. Valuable support for science was provided by the lead Marine

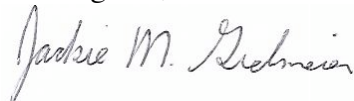
Science Technicians MSTC Glen Hendrickson (spring) and MSTC Don Snider (summer, fall), who along with their dedicated staff (MST2 Dan Gaona, MST3 Chad Klintecker, MST2 Josh Robinson, MST2 Eric Rocklage, and MST2 Suzanne Scriven) worked tirelessly around the clock to keep the many scientific deck operations and experiments going. The Science Officers LTJG Neal Amaral (spring) and LTJG Jessica Noel (summer/fall) were effective liaisons between the science party and crew. The Aviation Detachment under the direction of LCDR Edward Beale (spring), LCDR Mark Fluitt (summer), and LCDR Dan Kenny (fall) were a valuable asset for scientific purposes, logistics, and USCG search and rescue that were necessary missions during the 2004 SBI field deployment.

We would like to highlight some key efforts made during the 2004 cruises that enabled the science party to complete the objectives of the SBI project. The spring (HLY0402) and summer (HLY0403) cruises were multi-disciplinary in scope, with a full capacity 51-person science team on both process cruises. A wide range of disciplines, from physics, to biology, biogeochemistry and geology were incorporated into the work effort, requiring the use of all types of sampling equipment (e.g., CTD deployment, optical instruments, vertical zooplankton nets, bottom-sampling grabs, cores and trawls, and off-ship ice and small boat operations). The MSTs were extremely helpful during deck operations and science operations. Ship-handling by the Captain and officers on watch enabled sampling in a wide range of ice and open water conditions. The officers and crew worked daily to keep science ongoing 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week, from food preparation to equipment repair to adjusting ship location as dictated by scientific needs. During the fall cruise (HLY0404) we successfully recovered 14 moorings throughout our work area. The crew quickly became adept at such operations that made it possible to overcome the deteriorating weather and sea conditions in late September. Finally, Captain Oliver worked with us to maintain positive relations with the local Alaskan Native community throughout our cruise operations, including hosting representatives from Nome, Little Diomedea and Barrow coastal communities that were very well received. We cannot overemphasize the key role that the USCGC Healy played in these local relationships by responding successfully during two search and rescue efforts.

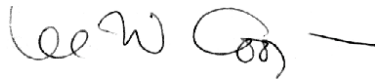
In conclusion, the captain, officers, and crew of the USCGC Healy were an essential and key asset for the success of the US SBI global change project during the 2004 Arctic deployment and we hope that our words convey our sincerest thanks for a job well done.

Please feel free to contact me or the other Healy 2004 chief scientists if you have any question or comments.

Best regards,



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