

Breakout Session #1 - A Shared Vision of Future Logistics
Monday a.m., 7 October 2013
Group 4 Summary: Geopolitics to Sleeping bags

A wide-ranging discussion covered a lot of ground, but came down to some key points. Some things that came up repeatedly were the differences/disparities/tensions between different needs:

- Projects with major fixed infrastructure needs vs those requiring small, mobile field sites,
- Projects/disciplines that could (in some cases must) rely on remotely acquired data (satellites, moorings, ROVs, etc) vs those that need people on the ground, sometimes in relatively large numbers (archaeology)
- Related to this, disparate budget needs constraints of high tech vs, labor intensive

In summary, we consistently came back to a number of points at different levels:

The desirability of improved interagency and international collaboration and coordination is clear. There is a perception that this would reduce duplication of effort in providing logistics, as well as fostering more interdisciplinary science

The need for an improved model for small mobile camps that would increase safety/reduce risk, while maximizing time spent on research rather than camp management. Currently researchers have very different experiences depending on where they are working. It seems that there is likely to be an increased need for this sort of support in the near term at least in a variety of disciplines. One possibility would be to deploy logistics specialists in field camps to manage these aspects of day to day life and safely, freeing time for PIs to do research instead of camp management.

Parallel with this, the desirability of logistics hubs, regionally and/or internationally which could coordinate research on a number of levels, and even foster informal networking between researchers as they came into or left the field.

We considered the benefits and costs of increased use of remotely collected data, which for some disciplines holds a lot of promise, but which requires a lot of expensive research and development. There is a dichotomy among disciplines though, with many not likely to be able to take advantage of these sorts of developments due to the nature of their data.

Finally, we considered ways to foster collaboration and coordination of logistics and interdisciplinary science. The importance of face-to-face meetings is paramount, either formally or informally, but ideas such as a long term planning calendar where agencies, and individual researchers could identify proposed research plans years in advance to facilitate coordination were also raised.