



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations  
Marine Operations  
2002 SE Marine Science Drive  
Newport, OR 97365

January 6, 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR: Rear Admiral David A. Score, NOAA  
Director, NOAA Corps

FROM: Rear Admiral (lower half)  Anita L. Lopez, NOAA  
Deputy Director, NOAA Corps

SUBJECT: NOAA Ships Recommended for Designation as Unusually  
Arduous Sea Duty in Calendar Year 2016

The schedules of NOAA ships for calendar year 2016 were reviewed based on the latest approved FY2016 Fleet Allocation Plan (dated July 20, 2015), FY2016 detailed sailing schedules, and NOAA fleet operational assumptions for the first three months of FY2017. NOAA vessels designated as unusually arduous sea duty must meet the following three criteria:

- (1) The projected absences of the ship from its home port will exceed 183 calendar days in the calendar year,
- (2) It is anticipated that the deployments from home port will be periods greater than 90 days at a time; and
- (3) Members will not be allowed to return to home port frequently.

After a review of the criteria by OMAO and MO staff I recommend the following NOAA vessels that are commissioned and currently operational be designated as unusually arduous for calendar year 2016: *Rainier*, *Oscar Dyson*, *Fairweather*, *Ronald H. Brown*, *Okeanos Explorer*, *Pisces*, *Henry B. Bigelow*. If changes to ship schedules warrant additional designations of unusually arduous status later in the year, a memo will be generated requesting those additions.

Once approved, the Director, NC provides the Director, CPC with an approved list of those ships that qualify as ships involving unusually arduous sea duty. The Director, CPC will maintain the approved designated list and sufficient lists from prior years to substantiate entitlements of members who report to ships that qualify under the regulation but are subsequently removed from the list. The Director, CPC will publish the list of qualifying ships and announce any changes to this list.

*Concur,*  


