

Proposal to USCHC47:

Collaboration opportunities with testing uncrewed survey vessels

Submitted by:	United States and Canada
Executive Summary:	Opportunity to collaborate on uncrewed survey testing in the Great Lakes next summer onboard the NOAA Ship Thomas Jefferson, or other opportunities, to gain experience with the Drix uncrewed technology for future use within the respective hydrographic offices.
Related Documents:	
Related Projects:	

Introduction/Background

Over the past several years, both Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) and NOAA OCS (NOAA) have been investigating and implementing uncrewed survey vessels into their operations via either purchased equipment and/or through contracted survey services. The goal is to test the viability of these uncrewed survey technology and determine the best mix of solutions to meet the future needs and requirements of the hydrographic office.

There is a possible opportunity for collaboration during the summer of 2025 onboard the NOAA Ship Thomas Jefferson when they are surveying in the Great Lakes with the uncrewed technology Drix. This opportunity would allow both NOAA and CHS to get a better understanding of the technology for future planning and viability in uncrewed technology implementation into survey plans.

Analysis/Discussion

Understanding the nature of international travel, berth space onboard the NOAA Ship Thomas Jefferson (CHS has already requested space) and other logistical challenges would need to be overcome, the survey in the Great Lakes in summer 2025 would be a great opportunity to learn about the challenges and opportunities in implementing uncrewed survey technology such as the Drix. The lessons learned in an operational environment could be considered when reviewing other similar technologies.

There are also possible collaboration opportunities at the University of New Hampshire that both parties are also investigating.

Conclusions

This collaboration opportunity with the Drix uncrewed technology would be beneficial to both NOAA and CHS to gain a better understanding of the technology, its uses and implementation strategies within the hydrographic offices.

Recommendations

USCHC to consider this proposal. If agreeable, designate national points of contact for continuity of planning and coordination.

Action Required of USCHC

USCHC is invited to:

- a) Note and discuss this paper
- b) Consider, decide, issue guidance (as warranted) on this activity