



[www.internationalsubmarineraces.org](http://www.internationalsubmarineraces.org)

October 2020

**To volunteers and supporters of the International Submarine Races:**

First and most important, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Underwater Research and Education (FURE), I hope that each of you and your loved ones are well and meeting the challenges of this worldwide pandemic.

The purpose of this email is to provide initial information/status regarding the 16<sup>th</sup> International Submarine Races.

The COVID 19 pandemic has had and is expected to continue to have significant impact on travel, large event attendance, delivery of educational material at all levels of education, and on almost every aspect of everyday life.

The Board of Directors of the Foundation for Underwater Research and Education, the sponsoring organization for the International Submarine Races, has been and will continue to plan for ISR 16 currently scheduled for 20 – 25 June 2021 at the David Taylor Model Basin, Naval Surface Warfare Center in West Bethesda, Maryland. We are carefully monitoring the progress of the Corona (COVID-19) virus, the progress towards a successful vaccine and therapeutics, the status of state regulations in the Washington DC area, as well as the other impacts that COVID has had on everyday life. We take this information and are identifying possible impacts to the safe and effective conduct of the race. I want to make it clear that we are working with the US Navy and our sponsors to ensure a safe event.

While we have accomplished much, significant work remains. No decision on conduct of the race has been yet been made.

Successful execution of the International Submarine Races requires, among many things, that teams have had sufficient opportunity to prepare for the race to include the design, build and testing of their submarine. At the race we must plan for a large

number of personnel, including team members and volunteers, operating in close proximity. There is also the requirement that volunteers and race participants be able to safely travel to and stay during the event.

The Board developed a short questionnaire for past teams to respond to that will provide the Board feedback on their status of their boats and measure potential participation. This survey was sent several weeks ago to the teams and we continue to collect responses.

Depending on the results of the team survey, we may also issue a short survey to gauge volunteer participation in the upcoming race. If we issue this survey, we expect to issue it in the November timeframe. I ask you be on the lookout for future emails from me. In any case I will provide an update to you in November. We plan on having a final go/no-go decision for the race early in calendar year 2021 as commitments will need to be made in that timeframe.

Finally, if there is additional information or questions you would like to ask or inform the board of, please feel free to drop me an email

Many thanks – we look forward to seeing you at the race!

Best regards,

Charlie Behrle  
President,  
Foundation for Underwater Research and Education (FURE)