

“Mission Organization”

The mission was initially rather clear; test Biosphere 2. The management was patterned after the maritime system of a captain, boatswain, chief engineer, navigator, sailing master, mates and able seamen. The maritime management model is certainly one that in an emergency the crew of a ship on its way to another celestial body will need to [use] but it is not necessarily the best [model]. In Biosphere 2 several situations arose where this [type of management] seemed insufficient. For instance, problems arose with the functioning of Biosphere 2, as did medical questions concerning crew safety, each requiring miniature research programs to solve. Several Biospherians felt that a looser...structure allowing {better sharing of information} and independent action, would have aided the research.

maritime: of or relating to sailing on the sea

boatswain: an officer on a ship whose job is to take care of the main body of the ship and all the ship's equipment

navigator: person who finds out how to get to a place

mate: a deck officer on a merchant ship ranking below the captain

able seamen: an experienced seaman qualified to perform routine duties at sea

insufficient: not having or providing enough of what is needed