

SCOR meeting on Coordination of International Marine Research Projects, Venice Italy 23-24 September 2004

Request for background information

Data Management Discussion

Has your SSC discussed and considered the recommendations of the data management meeting? If so, will the recommendations be implemented? What additional actions could/should SCOR or other organizations take to help with this topic?

GEOHAB was represented at the meeting on Data Management for International Marine Research Projects by Wolfgang Fennel. A report on data types and management within GEOHAB was presented by Wolfgang at this meeting. A decentralized data management and distribution system with a centralized index is proposed for GEOHAB. The components, centralized under the supervision of an IPO, will include a comprehensive inventory of databases relevant to GEOHAB, as well as meta-data, with links to their locations and contact persons.

The GEOHAB SSC has not had the opportunity to discuss or implement the recommendations of the data management meeting. The recommendations will however be considered at our SSC meeting in November in Cape Town.

GOOS Discussion

Please provide any information from your project documents that specifies project plans to interact with GOOS and describe any interaction your SSC or IPO has had with GOOS activities. Have SSC members attended GOOS Steering Committee, OOPC, or COOP meetings? If so, what was their role at the meeting? Has your SSC discussed what is, or will be, available from GOOS and other observing systems? Has your SSC identified any specific observations to which your scientists would like access? Have you ever had a presentation about GOOS at an SSC meeting? What research observation systems would your project like to see become operational?

LOICZ, GLOBEC and GOOS have clearly been identified as international programmes with scientific interests that overlap with those of GEOHAB. It is acknowledged that GOOS will encourage the implementation and development of observing systems required to document HAB trends, evaluate the efficacy of management actions and define those areas that require additional research. In turn the knowledge and tools generated by GEOHAB will benefit the coastal component of GOOS in the form of more effective operational monitoring systems, data-based risk assessment, and improved forecasts of the timing, magnitude and effects of HABs.

Marcel Babin has represented GEOHAB as a member of COOP and contributed to writing the Science and Implementation Plans of the coastal module of GOOS [attended 3 meetings: Oct 2003, Jan 2004 and June 2004]. Marcel contributed to the preparation of the Implementation Plan as an expert on marine optics and ocean colour remote sensing.

The GEOHAB SSC has not discussed in any detail, observations by GOOS, to which GEOHAB scientists would like access. The SSC has not had a presentation detailing GOOS. The last

GEOHAB SSC meeting, in December 2002, focused on finalizing the GEOHAB Implementation Plan. The COOP Science Plan was only published in 2003, and the COOP Implementation plan will be published in 2005. The next GEOHAB SSC meeting in November 2004 will therefore offer an appropriate opportunity to further explore the benefits that may be derived from GOOS. The proceedings of the Workshop on Real-time Coastal Observing Systems for Ecosystem Dynamics and HABs, held in Villefranche sur Mer in 2003 [available at: <http://www.HABWATCH.org>], will serve to indicate the operational observation systems from which GEOHAB will benefit.