



Project Answers to Questionnaire

Data Management

During its inaugural meeting in June, 2004 the GEOTRACES SCOR Planning Group discussed the importance of data management, both in terms of a policy and of a system to archive and disseminate the data. However, GEOTRACES Planning Group members had not been informed previously about the recommendations of the SCOR data management meeting, so there was not an opportunity to discuss these recommendations in detail. Nevertheless, it is anticipated that GEOTRACES will be generally compliant with the SCOR recommendations, and GEOTRACES will certainly comply with the data submission requirements of participating funding agencies.

GOOS

GEOTRACES has had no interactions with GOOS to date. However, the development of new sensors to monitor the time-varying concentrations of trace elements is of high priority to GEOTRACES, as is establishing the relationships between the time-varying concentrations of trace elements and basic hydrographic and chemical parameters.

Southern Ocean Research

The Southern Ocean is of particular interest to GEOTRACES because of the widely-held view that biological productivity, nutrient utilization and, consequently, the natural sequestration of CO₂ in the deep ocean is regulated, in part, by the supply of iron (and possibly other trace elements) to phytoplankton in the Southern Ocean. GEOTRACES seeks to better constrain the sources of iron and other trace element micronutrients to Southern Ocean ecosystems, and to better understand the processes removing these trace elements from the water column, thereby limiting the biological availability of these essential micronutrients.

GEOTRACES has submitted a statement of interest to the international IPY office. We have also participated in the broader planning activity for Southern Ocean Research under the leadership of Steve Rintoul (CSIRO, Australia). The document describing these plans is posted on the SCOR web site: <http://www.jhu.edu/scor/PC-SO.pdf>. GEOTRACES sees a mutually-beneficial opportunity for collaborating with CLIVAR studies worldwide, and this is particularly true in the Southern Ocean.

Time-Series stations

GEOTRACES anticipates making use of data and samples collected from time-series stations. However, GEOTRACES does not anticipate establishing any new time-series

stations. At most, we might augment existing stations or new stations (e.g. within SOLAS)

Environmental Assessments

GEOTRACES has not participated in any environmental assessments.