

Second SCOR Meeting on Coordination of International Marine Research Projects

Request for Background Information

Answers from GEOHAB

Data Management Discussion

GEOHAB will leave most data management to its Core Research Projects (CRPs), which are just starting. Some of the CRPs will attempt to mine past data to make comparisons of data that already exist.

Condensed from the GEOHAB Implementation Strategy:

GEOHAB data are relevant to scientists and managers beyond the GEOHAB community. Therefore, GEOHAB will participate in co-operative non-governmental and intergovernmental data management systems. GEOHAB will participate in data management processes of the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) activity of IOC. The Intergovernmental Panel on Harmful Algal Blooms (IPHAB) has recommended that “the IOC ensure that data-quality management and data exchange relevant to GEOHAB be given due consideration, in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Group of Experts on Biological and Chemical Data Management Exchange Programme (GE-BCDMEP), and that a GEOHAB representative be included in the GE-BCDMEP.” GEOHAB will use a decentralised data management and distribution system with a centralized index. The components, centralised under the supervision of the IPO, will include a comprehensive inventory of databases relevant to GEOHAB, as well as meta-data, with links to their locations and contact persons. All investigators should be prepared to share their data and data products within two years from the time those data are processed, and should recognise the “proprietorship” (rights to first publication or authorship) of data acquired from other investigators. Each GEOHAB CRP should address the long-term archival of observational data and data products to ensure a lasting contribution to marine science. Data management issues will be handled by a small GEOHAB Data Management Committee, which will be responsible for ensuring that the GEOHAB data management policy is followed by participating projects and will assist the International Programme Office in data-related issues. The GEOHAB data management policy will be posted on the GEOHAB Web site.

1. Please present the status of your project in terms of management of data and/or metadata.

The GEOHAB SSC has adopted a decentralised data management strategy for its Core Research Projects. GEOHAB will establish a central metadata-base of research data.

2. Has your project done anything to encourage visualization of project data?

Project data are only just starting to exist. There is no initiative for visualisation so far.

3. Is your project keeping track of project cruises and collecting any information about the cruises? Not centralised, but within each Core Research Project.

4. Has your project discussed data archiving with a World Data Center yet and/or involved in WDC staff in your data management discussions? No. So far there is no interest in the SSC to share primary data. The challenge of many data parameters, formats, and methods has posed a barrier for agreement on data sharing.

GOOS Discussion

1. Does your project have ongoing interactions with GOOS? Yes. Joint endorsement and production of manual on real time observation systems (expected release early 2007). Joint initiative to assist GOOS Regional Alliances to included observations to generate data on HAB observations (initiated November 2006).

2. Have you had any GOOS scientists or staff attend a project SSC meeting, or have any project SSC members or IPO staff participated in a GOOS meeting? Yes, but not recently.

3. Do you have a link to any element of GOOS on your project Web site? Yes

4. Has your SSC discussed what is, or will be, available from GOOS and other observing systems? Yes, but not all SSC members may have full overview.

5. Has your SSC identified any specific GOOS observations to which your scientists would like access? No.

6. What research observation systems would your project like to see become operational? Real-time observation systems for harmful algal occurrences (operational in a few places, but coverage is scattered). Measurements of physical and nutrient properties in HAB-prone areas.

Time-Series Stations

1. Will implementation of your project require observations from time-series stations? If so, in what locations?

Stations in coastal upwelling areas and other HAB-prone areas. Referring to the OceanSITES map and location data at <http://www.oceansites.org/network/index.html>, time-series sites that are of particular interest to GEOHAB at this time are in the Monterey Bay/California current, the Humboldt Current off Chile, and possible sites in the South China Sea and around India.

2. How will such stations be supported? GEOHAB has no funding to contribute to time-series stations, but can provide supporting letters and documentation about the importance of time-series stations in HAB-prone areas.

3. Has your project identified time-series sites (either existing or new) that are a priority for achieving project goals? No, but see above.

Southern Ocean Research and Observations

1. What activities has your project undertaken or planned for the Southern

Ocean? Have you coordinated your Southern Ocean research with other projects? Do you have any special plans for the 3rd International Polar Year in 2007-2009 or later?

2. What is the status of planning and funding for your project's Southern Ocean cruises, observations, and experiments?

Not applicable to GEOHAB

Education and Capacity Building

1. What activities, plans, and ideas does your project have in relation to education and capacity building? For each CRP the SSC will define areas where capacity building is desired and the intention is to integrate training opportunities in the implementation of the CRPs. Capacity building will be accomplished primarily through Training Through Research and targeted workshops on a particular method, technology, or data interpretation.

2. How are you funding your education and capacity-building activities? Via CRP projects and to the extent IOC and SCOR succeed in raising funds earmarked for capacity building. Capacity building in the context of GEOHAB is integrated in IOC efforts towards renewed funding for its HAB Programme 2008-2013.

Satellite Availability and Needs

1. Is your project using satellite data or does it plan to do so? Yes, as complementary data. (The GEOHAB SSC includes a remote sensing specialist.)

2. Which satellite observations are most crucial for your project to meet its goals? GEOHAB could benefit most from satellite observations of sea surface temperature, winds, and ocean colour, particularly with multispectral sensing for different groups of phytoplankton.