

## **ARCTIC OCEAN SCIENCES BOARD (AOSB)**

### **Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Arctic Ocean Sciences Board held in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Ottawa, November 7, 1984**

#### **1. Introductory Remarks:**

The Chairman in welcoming members to Ottawa, indicated his desire for the Board to give its officers specific guidance on developments relating to the Board's association with international organizations, its approach to other countries seeking membership and the steps to be taken in program implementation.

The Vice Chairman was unable to be present but had telexed his views on the above matters.

A request had been received from the Secretary SCOR/IOC Committee on Climatic Changes in the Oceans (CCCO) that a summary of the AOSB meeting be sent to him so that he could inform the Committee members on matters of particular interest. The Board agreed to send a copy of the minutes of this meeting.

#### **2. Minutes of AOSB Meeting held in Bremerhaven, May 15/16, 1984**

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of its first meeting held in Bremerhaven May 15/16, 1984.

#### **3. Affiliations with International organizations**

The Chairman reported on the work of the officers in seeking working relationships with ICES, SCOR, ICSU, WCRP etc.

Discussions were held with officials of ICSU (in Ottawa), ICES (in Copenhagen) and SCOR (in Roscoff) outlining the objectives of AOSB and its wish to secure affiliations with appropriate bodies having interests in Arctic ocean sciences. Positive reactions were obtained from all groups with the following points emerging:

- (i) ICES, being an intergovernmental body, felt that it would be possible, at some future time, to develop a linkage through a memorandum of understanding detailing the form of cooperation on scientific projects.
- (ii) Although no official reply was received from ICSU the understanding was that it would most likely be more appropriate for AOSB to associate with existing bodies (e.g., SCOR) rather than seek to establish an additional affiliate in the ICSU family.
- (iii) The Secretary CCCO (at the SCOR Executive Meeting, Roscoff, October 19, 1984)

gave a positive response to the plans outlined by AOSB and stressed WCRP's complementary interests in sea ice and climate.

- (iv) The SCOR Executive Committee discussed AOSB overtures and presented the subject to its General Meeting on October 25, 1984. (See attachment from E. Tidmarsh, Executive Secretary, SCOR.) SCOR indicated that it would welcome a request from AOSB to become a Corresponding Organization.

Following consideration of the above responses the Board agreed that a link with SCOR would be most appropriate. It further agreed that an official proposal would be forwarded to SCOR seeking an affiliation as a Corresponding Organization and indicating:

- (i) The aims and objectives of AOSB.
- (ii) Membership of the Board.
- (iii) The Board's desire to keep SCOR informed of its activities.
- (iv) Its wish to have SCOR comment and offer advice on AOSB activities, e.g., the Greenland Sea Project.
- (v) Its request to receive information from SCOR on matters of mutual interest in Arctic ocean science developments.
- (vi) The Board's willingness to cooperate in the establishment of joint working groups when deemed appropriate.

This proposal will be forwarded to SCOR by December 31, 1984.

#### **4. Program Plans**

At its first meeting in May 1984, AOSB agreed on the steps to be taken in the development of "The Greenland Sea Project" to include studies of (i) air/sea/ice interactions, (ii) horizontal fluxes of energy and material (iii) ventilation and bottom water formation and (iv) associated chemical behaviour and the application of remote sensing techniques.

The Board decided to establish a Science Planning Group and requested that the U.S. representative seek an appropriate chairman through the offices of the National Academy of Sciences. The representatives of Norway and the FRG were asked to identify a Co-Chairman from Europe.

For the remaining membership it was felt that it should be representative of the relevant disciplines as well as the major national participants from Canada, Denmark, FRG, Norway and the USA. A tentative list of participants was drawn up, subject to availability and future additions.

The tasks of the Science Planning Group are to:

- (i) Develop a program plan for an international Greenland Sea Project.
- (ii) Describe the resources needed to carry out the program and, in collaboration with the Program Coordinator (to be named by Canada) ensure that the science planning is consistent with the available resources.
- (iii) Produce a draft preliminary program plan by May 31, 1985 and a final plan for the Board meeting to be held September 30, 1985.

In the development of the program the Board recommended that its group consult closely with WCRP/CCCO and other relevant organizations having activities in the Arctic. Careful attention would also need to be given to existing documents/plans relating to past and present efforts in cooperative projects in the Arctic.

The Vice Chairman in a telephone discussion with Board members concurred with this approach to scientific planning.

## **5. Approach to Other Countries**

The cooperation and participation in the Board of representatives from the following additional countries will be sought immediately:

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| U.K.    | Natural Environment Research Council  |
| USSR    | a) Hydrometeorological Centre, Moscow<br>b) Institute of Oceanology, Moscow |
| France  | Centre Oceanologie de Bretagne  |
| Sweden  | Swedish Polar Research Secretariat  |
| Finland | Institute of Marine Research, Helsinki                                      |
| Japan   | National Institute of Polar Research, Tokyo                                 |

Invitations will request the nomination to the Board of a representative who will be able to speak on behalf of the national interests and not just those of his/her institute. With the invitation will be included statements of the aims and objectives of the Board, its current membership, progress with respect to its affiliation with SCOR and a brief outline of its ongoing project activities.

## **6. Other Matters**

### **(i) Arctic Ecology**

Recognizing the importance of ecological considerations in the Arctic regions the Vice Chairman agreed to bring forward for the Boards consideration in September 1985 a preliminary project proposal dealing with this matter. Due note was taken of the conference on "Marine Living Systems of the Far North" planned to take place May 13-15, 1985 at the Institute of Marine Science, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

**(ii) Remote Sensing of Arctic Regions**

Recognizing the growing importance of the application of remote sensing to oceanographic studies in the Arctic it was agreed that this subject would be explored in a one day workshop to take place at the time of the next meeting of the Board.

Representatives from NASA, ESA, Japan, Canada and Norway will be invited to participate.

**7. Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Arctic Ocean Sciences Board would be held June 12/13, 1985 in Washington, D.C. The first day will be devoted principally to the scientific plans for the Greenland Sea Project with the following day to be given over to the workshop on Remote Sensing.

**LIST OF ATTENDEES**

Mr. Gerald N. Ewing (Chairman), Assistant Deputy Minister, Ocean Science and Surveys, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa, Canada.

Professor Richard M. Goody, Center for Earth and Planetary Physics, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

Dr. Leonard G. Johnson, Director, Arctic Programs, Office of Naval Research, Arlington, Virginia, U.S.A.

Professor Martin Mork, Director, Geophysical Institute, University of Bergen, Norway.

Dr. E. Lyn Lewis, Head, Frozen Sea Research Group, Institute of Ocean Sciences, Sidney, British Columbia, Canada.

Dr. E.F. Roots, Science Advisor, Department of Environment, Ottawa, Canada.

Dr. A. Walton, Special Scientific Advisor to the ADM, Ocean Science and Surveys, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa, Canada.