

**Arctic Ocean Sciences Board
18th Meeting
29 March - 1 April 1999
National Institute for Polar Research
Tokyo, Japan**

Draft Action List

1. International Arctic Polynya Program (IAPP)

The Board approved the concept for a polynya symposium in 2001. The symposium is expected to address a number of scientific issues relevant for polynyas in both the Arctic and Antarctic. Issues likely to be addressed include:

- o physical mechanisms responsible for the opening of polynyas;
- o effects of these mechanisms and the environmental characteristics of polynyas on ecosystems and carbon cycling;
- o intercomparisons of the physics, chemistry, biology and carbon cycling in polynyas; and
- o interannual variability in the time of opening, extent, biological productivity and carbon sequestration in sediments of polynyas, based on remote sensing archives (sea ice, ocean color, etc.) and sediment records.

The Board will explore the possibility of obtaining joint sponsorship by appropriate bodies.

The Scientific Coordinating Group (SCG) for the IAPP will identify a Steering Committee for the symposium under the chairmanship of Dr. Jody Deming. Other members will be invited who are knowledgeable regarding the Laptev Sea; Antarctic polynyas; other coastal polynyas; and polynya research in Japan. The symposium will be open to all; some key speakers will be invited. In addition, special sessions on polynyas are expected to be held at the upcoming Ocean Sciences and ASLO Meetings.

The Board agreed that the SCG should be small, but have necessary expertise. The eight present members interested in continuing are approved; nominees from Japan and Norway would be welcome; and the SCG is invited to approach the five nominees they have identified and then come back to the Board for final approval of their overall membership. Thus, the Board suggests a membership of approximately twelve to fifteen. The Board also recommends that the SCG keep open the opportunity for some scientists to participate in SCG activities as corresponding members.

2. APARD

The Board welcomed the report and acknowledged with appreciation the work being done in APARD. The Board encouraged expansion of the active distribution of information regarding APARD.

3. GRASP

The AOSB will communicate to the appropriate Danish/Greenland authorities that, should they wish to consider internationalization of GRASP, the Board would be prepared to consider assisting in this process, possibly by distributing the report to the countries interested in Arctic Ocean research and/or convening an international workshop to consider such a program.

The Board approves the request of the SCG/IAPP to explore the concept of and consider options for a study of the Lincoln Sea polynya. Information on this request will be included in the Board's invitation to the Danish authorities. Dr. Gudmandsen was asked to review microwave imagery of the region to determine the frequency of occurrence of the Lincoln Sea polynya.

4. AOSB/NATO Symposium on the Freshwater Budget of the Arctic

The conveners and the Board will arrange for publication of information regarding the results of the workshop in relevant national and international publications; for distribution to appropriate national and international funding agencies and similar institutions; etc. In particular, the Board requested Dr. Lyn Lewis, co-chairman of the Symposium and editor of the proceedings, to submit a short pre-publication article to EOS covering the major priorities for future research.

5. Shelf-Basin Interactions

It was agreed that the AOSB should play a role in the more formalized communications between/among the various programs on shelf-basin interactions in the Arctic. The Board will seek to improve cooperation with appropriate Russian authorities regarding approval/permits for future research in Russian waters, e.g., transect(s) between Franz Josef Land and Novaya zembya.

The Board noted that there is expected to be a meeting of an international "SBI principal investigators group" in 2000. The Board will ask the scientific coordination office established by NSF to assist in this effort. The Board will ask this group to provide input for an AOSB Newsletter on the SBI.

6. VEINS

Dr. Dickson would like comments from other experts and would like to call on the Board for support to achieve access when necessary.

7. Arctic Ocean Data Management

The Board will approach IASC to determine why ocean databases for the Arctic and adjacent regions appear to not be included in IASC's Arctic Data Directory.

The Board agreed to approach appropriate Russian authorities to seek release of Russian geomagnetic data, including gravity data.

8. AOSB Future Programs

The Board agreed that "Arctic variability and global change: Arctic Ocean link ages" should be a focus of its future efforts. The Board set up a drafting group to produce a short paper to summarize recommendations for needed research and related activities, especially regarding pilot research projects and needed data archaeology. This paper should aim at a clear presentation of what the problems are and why we need to study them and that AOSB is pursuing this on a multilateral basis.

The paper should be addressed to AOSB Members and other interested scientists, funding agencies, and international organizations. This should be issued as an AOSB Newsletter. The paper should be completed in time for the Tromso meetings by a small drafting group chaired by Dr. Bob Dickson. The group will work via email and distribute the paper to the full Board for review and comment.

Important scientific issues to be addressed are:

(to be prepared by the small drafting group)

9. Management Issues

The Board supported the rationalization of meeting schedules and, to this end, will communicate to IASC its willingness to schedule our meeting in 2000 back-to-back with the Arctic Summit Week, provided that this can be arranged so as to avoid the Easter and May 1st holidays. These meetings could be arranged either early in April or in late April/early May. The Board will also offer to participate in the Summit Week through participation of key members in relevant meetings/symposia.

The Board asked its Chair to interact regularly and formally with the President of IASC and the Chair of the EPB to promote effective interaction with these important organizations.

The Board will explore the possibility of Chinese and Korean participation in future AOSB activities.