



THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTIC RESEARCH

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Circular 770

Nomination of National Representatives to the IBCSO Board by SCAR Members

5 December 2008

Dear Colleagues,

At the 10th International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Sciences in Santa Barbara, the Expert Group on the International Bathymetric Chart of the Southern Ocean (IBCSO) held its 1st Business Meeting. One of the major topics was the structuring of the IBCSO Expert Group. It was agreed to establish (i) an IBCSO Editorial Board, (ii) an IBCSO Advisory Board and (iii) an IBCSO Board with representatives from SCAR countries

We seek national nominees for the IBCSO Board, to be the national points of contact for all issues related to the work of the Expert Group. Your nominee should be able to:

- communicate to IBCSO on behalf of the SCAR member country
- provide information about existing echo-sounding data
- provide information about planned scientific cruises
- prompt Principle Investigator to acquire bathymetric data at all times during any such cruise

The nominee must be given the authority to act for the member country on issues relating to communication, information, and promotion of the IBCSO.

The success of the IBCSO Expert Group in preparing high quality maps and digital products depends strongly on information about planned cruises in the Southern Ocean, and on continuous echo-sounding data acquisition during logistical expeditions or research cruises.

IBCSO will deliver various products and services to other SCAR groups as well as to other Southern Ocean efforts like the planned Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS). Nomination of a point of contact by each SCAR member is a pre-condition for ensuring that IBCSO is effective for the benefit of all.

In particular the IBCSO Expert Group is responsible for:

- conceptual design and implementation of the IBCSO database,
- assembling existing echo sounding data,
- inventory of existing data including the generation of metadata,
- data processing including quality control, analyses, and description,
- data merge and modelling for optimized visualization,
- identification of bathymetric data gaps for future activities,
- generation of final products – printed map series, web maps, metadata.

This endeavour is wider than just SCAR. The IBCSO is co-sponsored by:

- SCAR Geosciences Standing Scientific Group
- Hydrographic Committee on Antarctica (HCA) of the International Hydrographic Office
- Consultative Group on Ocean Mapping (CGOM) of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

In addition, the IBCSO liaises with the GEBCO Sub-Committee on Digital Bathymetry (SCDB), the GEBCO Standing Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) and the Standing Committee for Antarctic Geographic Information (SC-AGI) of SCAR.

It seems to us that the SCAR Expert Group on the International Bathymetric Chart of the Southern Ocean should include representatives from as many SCAR Members as possible in order for it to be fully effective. We therefore look forward to contacting your nominated representative.

Please send your nominations to me by 1 February 2008.

Yours Sincerely,



Colin Summerhayes
Executive Director, SCAR