



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTIC RESEARCH*

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* SCAR is an Interdisciplinary Body of the International Council for Science (ICSU)

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Circular 777

Request for re-supply ship information as a contribution to the Southern Ocean Observing System

To: SCAR National Committees
Permanent and Associate Members

3 November 2008

Dear Colleagues,

The purpose of this circular is to request those countries that use re-supply vessels to send the SCAR Secretariat information on the approximate routes your ships follow plus details of any type of ocean or surface meteorology measurements they collect routinely en route.

The reason for this request is because SCAR, through the SCAR/SCOR Oceanography Expert Group, is in the process of drafting a plan for a Southern Ocean Observing System. The Southern Ocean is vast, remote and logistically difficult to access and thus is one of the least sampled regions on Earth. Design and implementation of an observing system that encompasses physical, biogeochemical and ecological processes is therefore a formidable but important challenge. There is huge potential to use re-supply ships to collect data routinely as part of such an observing system and we therefore ask that you respond to this important request, preferably by email (mds68@cam.ac.uk).

For further information see:

<http://www.clivar.org/organization/southern/expertgroup/SOOS.htm>

Yours faithfully,

Dr Michael Sparrow
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