



SDM 41  
Agenda Item: 9.2  
Person Responsible: S Chown

**XXXV SCAR Delegates Meeting  
Davos, Switzerland, 25-26 June 2018**

## **SCAR Member Reports and their Future**

### **Report Author**

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### **Summary**

SCAR currently requests reports from its Members on an annual basis, providing information on activities, science being undertaken and outcomes, and on involvement of their scientists in SCAR activities. With some notable exceptions, Members routinely do not provide reports in response to the requests. The response rate has also been declining. Thirteen reports were received in 2016, four in 2017, and one has been received to date for 2018.

### **Recommendation**

The Delegates consider the proposal that the annual reports from Members be discontinued and their content subsumed within the general news feed of SCAR, and that Members alert the Secretariat to important news from their programs in a timely manner as they see fit.

### **Summary Budget 2017 to 2020**

No direct financial implications, but a reduction in workload for the SCAR Secretariat in sending out requests and reminders will increase Secretariat time available for other work.



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### **Introduction**

The SCAR Secretariat requests annually from each Member that a report be provided on the Member's activities and outcomes for that year. The Report format has been considerably shortened compared with the original requirements.

### **Current Situation**

Although some Members are consistent in their delivery of an annual report to SCAR, many Members either deliver such reports sporadically, or have ceased doing so entirely at all. By far the majority of Members either do not submit reports or do not do so annually. In 2016, 13 reports were received, in 2017 just 4, and to date only 1 report has been received for 2018.

The Secretariat spends time requesting, tracking and following up on reports, often repeatedly where a response is received that a report will be forthcoming, but nothing then is received. Such work often has no outcome other than no report delivery, and use of Secretariat time.

In the meantime, electronic communications via web pages and social media mean that the notable events from Members and their scientific community are available from Members in real time. Summaries of outcomes are also posted to national program or equivalent home pages.

The SCAR Secretariat also reflects many of these notifications in SCAR's social media and web-based news streams.

### **Proposal**

Based on these circumstances, it is suggested that the annual reports from Members be discontinued and their content be subsumed within the general news feeds of SCAR. Members should alert the Secretariat to important news from their programs in a timely way. Such alerts should also concern the publication of annual reports from Members' relevant organisations such that the community may be alerted to their appearance and availability as appropriate.