

REPORT OF THE ADVISORY PANEL ON *CONTINUOUS PLANKTON RECORDER SURVEY IN THE NORTH PACIFIC*

The Advisory Panel on Continuous Plankton Recorder Survey in the North Pacific (hereafter CPR-AP) met from 18:00–19:30 hours on October 28, 2008 in Dalian, China, during PICES XVII under the chairmanship of Dr. Charles B. Miller. A list of participants and meeting agenda is given in *CPR-AP Endnotes 1* and *2*.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Funding for the North Pacific CPR program

Dr. Sonia Batten reported on her ongoing work with the North Pacific CPR program and on its funding status. The program is continuing, but on a reduced scale due to funding difficulties. At present the budget forecast includes: \$50,000 from the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) for 2008, starting from June with promise of \$50,000 from NPRB for each year from 2009–2013, and \$75,000 for 2008–2009 from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, with a promise of \$50,000 for three following years. The 2008 money has been spent on late-season collecting and some partial sample analysis.

Dr. Batten informed the Advisory Panel that only 40% of the required support was secured for the next three years: 2009, 2010 and 2011, that is, \$150,000 more each year was needed for full support of sampling, sample counting and Dr. Batten's efforts in all those years. A proposal to the U.S. National Science Foundation by Dr. Russell Hopcroft at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, may provide some money but the terms are difficult because the money, if granted, cannot be directly used by SAHFOS or Dr. Batten. It would help, however, principally by supporting sample analysis in Alaska.

Extended discussion of potential U.S. participation in support of CPR, particularly through NOAA, included the means to move the question upward to the levels in NOAA that might be able to decide on a contribution. These means will all be attempted. Private funding possibilities were also considered, particularly the Moore Foundation, which is funding several other marine initiatives, including CMORE (marine microbial ecology with David Karl, Sallie Chisholm and others), and a plastics-in-the-sea study program. The Moore Foundation does not accept proposals, but CPR-AP should find a means to approach them.

Japanese funding has been sought and Dr. Hiroya Sugisaki will continue to follow up on it. Helpful initiatives include (1) a proposal from Dr. Ryosuke Makabe to the British Royal Society International Scholarship program to work with SAHFOS and (2) a plan by Dr. Sanae Chiba to submit a proposal in Japan to work on the E–W CPR samples. Success for either of these initiatives could stimulate Japanese interest in supporting CPR work.

The Advisory Panel proposed that a new letter from Governing Council or the Secretariat be sent to appropriate U.S. governmental officials, thanking NPRB and DFO for their contributions and asking again that NOAA, USFWS, even possibly the State Department, contribute. (After the CPR-AP meeting, Drs. Miller and Phillip Mundy drafted this letter and forwarded it to the standing PICES committees.)

AGENDA ITEM 2

Scientific activities of the program

The funds in hand for 2008 were spent on getting CPR samples collected and stored. The E–W run was sampled in May, July and September, the N–S run in June, August and September. The N–S run was thus reduced from 6 runs to 3, losing the valuable early spring tows. A reduced analysis of the 2008 N–S samples shows a later development schedule than in the most recent years. A paper in progress by Dr. Batten reviews

CPR-AP-2008

the variation in developmental timing of the dominant copepod species across the Gulf of Alaska. In 2009 it is planned to concentrate the N–S run on early spring tows and the E–W runs in spring.

Dr. William Sydeman reported that progress continues on writing the bird census results from the E–W run. A manuscript is promised by early 2009.

AGENDA ITEM 3

CPR workshop at PICES-2009

Dr. Sugisaki suggested that a workshop on the CPR program might be a good idea for PICES-2009 in Korea. Dr. Batten noted that by then the CPR program will be 10 years along – an anniversary of sorts. It was eventually decided that a review workshop on CPR, to be held shortly (June 22–26, 2009) by the GLOBEC program, will fully exploit the market for interest in CPR, and not holding another workshop at PICES-2009.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Future CPR workshop at PICES-2009

Dr. Miller asked to be relieved as Chairman of CPR-AP and, pending approval by MONITOR, Dr. Mundy agreed to take over. (MONITOR approved Dr. Mundy's appointment at its meeting on October 29.)

CPR-AP Endnote 1

CPR-AP participation list

Members

Sonia D. Batten (Canada, SAHFOS)
Charles B. Miller (U.S.A., Chairman)
Phillip R. Mundy (U.S.A.)
Jeffery M. Napp (U.S.A.)
Song Sun (China)

Observers

Robin Brown (Canada)
William Sydeman (U.S.A.)
Hiroya Sugisaki (Japan, MONITOR Chairman)

CPR-AP Endnote 2

CPR-AP meeting agenda

1. Funding for the North Pacific CPR program
2. Scientific activities of the program
3. Future CPR workshop at PICES-2009
4. Appointment of a new CPR Chairman