



International Ocean Carbon Coordination Project

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Paris, 29 July 2005

Dear Dr. Bychkov,

The IOCCP would like to congratulate PICES on its decision to create a permanent section on carbon and climate. The IOCCP was established as a pilot project in 2003 out of the recognized necessity for international coordination of ocean carbon observations, and since its inception, has looked to PICES for regional leadership in the Pacific. The establishment of a permanent carbon and climate section will strengthen the interactions between our two activities and provide the IOCCP with a solid and sustained partner in the Pacific for global coordination of ocean carbon observations and research.

Over the last 2 years, the IOCCP has had several successful partnerships with PICES:

- Co-sponsorship of an international workshop on Ocean Surface pCO₂, Data Integration and Database Development, (Tsukuba, 2004), which brought together 44 participants from 12 countries, and resulted in the development of recommended formats for oceanic pCO₂ data and metadata, and recommended practices for data integration;
- Co-sponsorship of the PICES WG 17 project to develop a Guide of Best Practices on Oceanic CO₂ Measurement and Data Reporting; and,
- Agreements between the PICES PICNIC database, the CDIAC Ocean CO₂ Project, and the WDC-MARE data center to work together to provide a globally coordinated data services for ocean carbon.

Beginning in July 2005, the IOCCP will be operating under revised Terms of Reference (attached) that broaden its mandate to include coordination and communication services for ocean carbon research as well as observations, and to deal with the full range of ocean carbon rather than only focusing on inorganic carbon. The IOCCP will also be working closely with the global research programs, SOLAS and IMBER, to provide coordination services as needed for process study implementation, data synthesis activities, and integration with activities of national and regional programs. To meet these challenges, the IOCCP has established a Scientific Steering Group to guide its activities. Several of these SSG members participate directly in PICES carbon and climate activities. In addition, the project office will benefit from an additional staff member (post-doctoral fellow) beginning in September to help implement this expanded range of activities.

As you will see from the Terms of Reference, the IOCCP will continue to emphasize its role in standardization, facilitation of data set development and coordinated data management practices, and observation program coordination. These are areas in which PICES' Working Groups have played a leading role, both regionally and internationally, and we would like to express our desire to continue our partnership with PICES and its new carbon and climate section.

In November of this year the IOCCP will jointly host a repeat hydrography data management workshop with CLIVAR in Shonan Village, Japan. The issues we will be discussing are very relevant to PICES and the new section on carbon and climate. We would like to invite PICES to contribute to this workshop by sponsoring two relevant international scientists from the PICES member nations to participate in the workshop. Since we anticipate that many of the section members will be attending the repeat hydrography workshop it might also be a good opportunity for PICES to host the first meeting of the new section on climate change. The section meeting could be run as a one day add-on to the repeat hydrography workshop. Please let us know if you are interested in pursuing this.

We look forward to the development and implementation of this new section, and to our continued partnership with PICES.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Christopher L. Sabine, Chair
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