

Noticeboard

Diary

☞ Further dates for your diary

1989

- 7–14 September **CCAMLR/IWC Sponsored Workshop on the Feeding Ecology of Southern Baleen Whales.** La Jolla, USA.
Conveners: Mr D. Miller, Department of Environmental Affairs, Sea Fisheries Research Institute, Private Bag X2, Rogge Bay 8012, Cape Town, South Africa; Dr J. Bengtson, Northern Fur Seal Research, National Marine Mammals Laboratory, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Building 32, Seattle, Washington 98115, USA and Dr J.L. Harwood, Sea Mammal Research Unit, c/o British Antarctic Survey, High Cross, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0ET, UK.
- 10–16 September **Third International Conference on Palaeo-oceanography.** Cambridge, UK.
Details from: ICP III, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EQ, UK. [The meeting will include a session on 'Palaeo-oceanography of the Antarctic Ocean', convened by Dr P.F. Barker, British Antarctic Survey.]
- 11–14 September **Symposium on Antarctic Research.** Neubrandenburg, German Democratic Republic.
Convener: Prof. Dr R. Meier, Akademie der Wissenschaften der DDR, Zentralinstitut für Physik der Erde, Telegrafenberg, Potsdam-1561, German Democratic Republic.
- 27–29 September **BIOTAS Workshop.** British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge, UK.
Convener: Dr R.I. Lewis Smith, British Antarctic Survey, High Cross, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0ET, UK.
- 9–19 October **15th Antarctic Treaty Meeting.** Paris, France.
- 16–20 October **Solar Terrestrial Predictions Workshop.** Leura, Australia.
Convener: Dr R. Thompson, IUWDS Regional Warning Centre, IPS Radio and Space Services, PO Box 702, Darlinghurst, New South Wales 2010, Australia.
- 23–27 October **IAPSO Workshop on Regional and Mesoscale Modelling of Ice-Covered Oceans.** Bergen, Norway.
Details from: Drs Johnny Johannessen and Peter M. Haugan, Nansen Remote Sensing Center, Edv. Griegsvei 3A, 5037 Solheimsvik, Bergen, Norway.
- 25 October–
2 November **CCAMLR Fish Stock Assessment Working Group.** Hobart, Australia.
Convener: Dr K.-H. Kock, Bundesforschungsanstalt für Fischerei, Institut für Seefischerei, Palmaille 9, D-2000 Hamburg 50, Federal Republic of Germany.
- 5–17 November **Eighth Annual Meeting of the CCAMLR Commission and Scientific Committee.** Hobart, Australia.
- 20–24 November ☞ **First Congress of the Brazilian Geophysical Society.** Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. [The meeting will include a symposium on geophysics in Antarctica.]
Co-ordinators: Luiz Antonio Pierantoni Gamboa and Benedito Souza Gomes, Caixa Postal 15541, 20.132 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 6–8 December **Twelfth Symposium on Polar Biology.** Tokyo, Japan.
Details from: National Institute of Polar Research, 9-10 Kaga 1-Chome, Itabashi-Ku, Tokyo 173, Japan.

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- 6–12 May ☞ **Pacific Rim 90 Congress.** Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia. [The meeting will now include an Antarctic session.]
Details from: Ted Brennan, Consultant Convener, The Aus/MM-PACRIM 90, PO Box 731, Toowong, Queensland 4066, Australia.

- 9–11 May **Symposium on The Antarctic Treaty System in World Politics.** Oslo, Norway.
 Details from: The Fridtjof Nansen Institute, PO Box 326, N-1324 Lysaker, Norway.
- 15–17 May **International Symposium on Andean Geodynamics.** Grenoble, France.
 Details from: R.A. Oliver, Institut Laüe-Langevin, 156X Centre de Tri, 38042-Grenoble, France.
- 10–14 June **13th Polar Libraries Colloquy. Man's Future in Arctic Areas.** Rovaniemi, Finland.
 Details from: Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, PO Box 122, 96101 Rovaniemi, Finland.
- 11–15 June **Polar Regions in Global Change.** Fairbanks, Alaska.
 Details from: Gunter Weller, Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-0800, USA.
- 16–27 June **International Whaling Commission Science Meeting.** Noorwijk, Netherlands.
 Details from: International Whaling Commission, The Red House, Histon, Cambridge CB4 4NP, UK.
- 25 June–6 July **XXVIII COSPAR Plenary Meeting.** The Hague, The Netherlands.
 Secretary: COSPAR Secretariat, 51 Boulevard de Montmorency, 75016 Paris, France.
- 1–6 July **Geocongress '90, 23rd Earth Science Congress of the Geological Society of South Africa.** Cape Town, South Africa. [Main theme: Geology and mineral resources of continental margins: ancient and modern.]
 Details from: The Congress Secretary, Geocongress '90, PO Box 1739, Bellville 7535, South Africa.
- 2–6 July **International Whaling Commission Plenary Session.** Noorwijk, Netherlands.
 Details from: International Whaling Commission, The Red House, Histon, Cambridge CB4 4NP, UK.
- 3–6 July **New Perspectives on the Biogeochemistry and the Circulation of Tracers in the Southern Ocean.** Brest, France.
 Organizer: Guy Jacques, CNRS, Laboratoire Arago, 66650 Banyuls-sur-Mer, France.
- 15–27 July **XXI SCAR Meeting.** São Paulo, Brazil.
 Chairman of local organizing committee: Dr A.C. Rocha Campos.
- August **IAPSO and IGS Symposium on Ice–Ocean Dynamics and Mechanics.** Hanover, USA.
 Details from: Robin Muench, SAIC, 13400B Northup Way, Suite 36, Bellevue, WA98005, USA.
- August **Third International Symposium on South Atlantic Evolution.** Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
 Symposium Co-ordinator: Dimas Dias-Brito, PETROBRAS/CENPES/DIVEX/SEBIPE, Cidade Universitária, Q. 7–1 Fundão, 21910 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil.
- 28 August–5 September **XXIII URSI General Assembly.** Prague, Czechoslovakia.
 Convener: Dr P. Bauer, Service d'Aeronomie du CNRS, B.P. 3, 91371 Verrières le Buisson Cédex, France.
- 3–8 September **International Volcanological Congress.** Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität, Mainz, Federal Republic of Germany.
 Secretary: Dr Gerhard Brey, Saarstrasse 23, D-6500 Mainz, Federal Republic of Germany.
- September **BIOMASS Evaluation Meeting.** Bremerhaven, Federal Republic of Germany.
- To be announced (postponed from summer 1989) **Ecology of the Antarctic Sea Ice Zone.** Norway.
 Co-conveners: E. Sakshaug, Trondjem Biological Station, The Museum, University of Trondheim, Bynesveien 46, N-7000 Trondheim, Norway and C. Sullivan, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Southern California, University Park, Los Angeles, California 90089–037, USA.
- To be announced **Third Polar Diatom Colloquium.** Ottawa, Canada.
 Organizer: Dr M. Poulin, National Museum of Canada, Botany Division, Ottawa, K1A 0M8, Canada.
- 1991**
- September **Sixth International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Sciences.** Japan.
 Convener: Prof. Y. Yoshida, National Institute of Polar Research, Kaga 1-9-10, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo 173, Japan.
- September/October **Antarctic Science Conference.** Venue to be decided.
 Planning Group Chairman: Prof. Dr Gothilf Hempel, Alfred-Wegener-Institut für Polar- und Meeresforschung, Postfach 120161, Columbusstraße, D-2850 Bremerhaven, Federal Republic of Germany.

News

Oil spills in Antarctic waters

The spill caused earlier this year by the sinking of the *Bahia Paraiso* has now been subjected to detailed assessments by US and Argentine scientists. Permanent subtidal and intertidal sampling sites have been established to compare oil-affected sites with control areas away from Palmer. Microbial degradation rates for oil incorporated into the sediments appear to be very low. The long-term effects of this for the benthic plants and invertebrates is unclear. In response to contact with oil, seabirds can often develop severe physiological disorders. Blood samples have been taken from seabirds in affected and control areas to monitor this.

International collaboration in assessing damage focussed on hydrocarbon analysis of the water column by University of Magellanes, Chile, and studies on benthic diatoms and microzooplankton by Instituto Antartico Argentino.

The Royal Navy ship *HMS Endurance* was also holed this last season. After hitting an iceberg on her way to provide support to an international geological party on James Ross Island she put in for repairs to Deception Island. Although no fuel tanks were damaged, pumping of oil-contaminated bilge water to keep the ship operating safely later left hydrocarbon traces in Hope Bay. Although minor, this incident raises the question of how much oil is entering the Southern Ocean through ship activities (both by scientific vessels and fishery vessels) and minor spills associated with station refuelling.

Antarctic Minerals Convention

For the Minerals Convention to come into force it is necessary for 16 Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to accede to it by 25 November 1989. These 16 must include at least five of the developing countries, as well as all of the claimant nations. At present it appears that Australia and possibly France (both claimant nations) will refuse to sign, despite their active participation in drafting the Convention. For scientific comment on the importance of the Convention see *Editorial* in this issue.

Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes (MNAP)

In October 1989 the first meeting of the newly constituted MNAP Council will take place at British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge under the chairmanship of Dr David Drewry. Issues to be considered include air operations, tourism, major collaborative science programmes and environmental protection.

New ship for polar research

British Antarctic Survey has placed a contract with Swan Hunter Shipbuilders Ltd for an ice-strengthened research and logistics vessel to be delivered in May 1991. The vessel, to be known as the *James Clark Ross*, will replace the RRS *John Biscoe*. Displacement will be about 7400 tonnes with 8500 shaft horsepower to propel the vessel which will be 97 m long with an 18.85 m beam and 6.3 m draught. It will provide a platform for biological oceanography and marine geoscience together with the capability of a logistics role in support of the British Antarctic stations.

BIOMASS publications

The BIOMASS Scientific Series now comprises 10 volumes published over a period of 12 years. Covering krill, penguins, fish, oceanography and primary production, the volumes are a primary resource for Southern Ocean marine biologists. Details are available from The Distribution Centre SCAR/BIOMASS, Blackhorse Road, Letchworth, Herts SG6 1HN, UK.

New books

Antarctic ocean and resources variability edited by Dietrich Sahrhage (ISBN 3 540 19294 8), published by Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York.

Antarctica, the last frontier by Richard Laws (ISBN 1 852 83247 9), published by Boxtree, London.

Natural history of the Antarctic Peninsula by Sanford Moss, illustrated by Lucia deLeiris (ISBN 0 231 06268 0), published by Columbia University Press, New York, and Guildford, UK.

Antarctic Science cover

Readers are invited to send colour slides of Antarctic interest to the Editors for the selection of the *Antarctic Science* cover picture for 1990.