



CCAMLR

COMM CIRC 06/92
SC CIRC 06/35

Wednesday, 16 August 2006

CCAMLR-IPY Survey and Participation

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**TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION
AND THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

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16 August 2006

CCAMLR-IPY Survey and Participation

The Chair of the Scientific Committee and the Convener of the CCAMLR International Polar Year (IPY) Steering Committee have requested that the following reminder and request be circulated to all Commission and Scientific Committee Members.

The Fourth International Polar Year (IPY) is scheduled for 2007/08. This global endeavour, which is to take place in both the Arctic and Antarctic, has been recognised as extremely important by the Scientific Committee and Commission. At its 2005 meeting the Commission noted the Scientific Committee's progress in developing CCAMLR's IPY contribution in 2008 (CCAMLR-XXIV, paragraphs 4.76 to 4.80).

The CCAMLR core project – a large-scale synoptic survey in the Atlantic sector of the Southern Ocean – has been recognised by the IPY Joint Committee as the lead project in the IPY category 'Natural Resources Antarctic'. Accordingly, and with the support of WG-EMM, an umbrella project has been developed in a wider circum-Antarctic perspective than the original CCAMLR-IPY proposal (CCAMLR-XXIV, paragraph 4.77).

The Commission not only urged all Members to participate in the CCAMLR core project, it also noted that firm commitments for ship-time should be available at the next round of consultations on the matter (i.e. the WG-EMM meeting in July 2006) (CCAMLR-XXIV, paragraph 4.79).

The CCAMLR-IPY Steering Group met in association with WG-EMM in July 2006. It noted that all the necessary scientific requirements have been met in order to receive full IPY endorsement and to advance planning for the abovementioned CCAMLR-IPY Survey in the 2008 field season. The CCAMLR-IPY Steering Group was also informed that the IWC and SCAR have established subgroups to coordinate planning with CCAMLR of joint whale and marine bird censuses during the CCAMLR-IPY Survey. To finalise the CCAMLR-IPY Survey design, as well as to coordinate research under the broader project developed with WG-EMM (CCAMLR-XXIV, paragraph 4.77), the Steering Group is planning to hold a workshop in the first semester of 2007.

However, despite the Commission's strong request for support, the Steering Group noted that at the end of July 2006 no ship-time had been specifically guaranteed by any CCAMLR Member to the CCAMLR-IPY Survey in 2008, although there is some indication that Peru (a Contracting Party) may take part.

Both WG-EMM and the Steering Group have expressed serious concerns about this lack of firm ship-time commitment to the abovementioned survey because without clear indication of available vessels, the Steering Group and the Scientific Committee will be unable to proceed with its detailed planning and implementation.

The Scientific Committee and the Commission now face the serious situation that the current circumstances could mean cancellation of the survey, thereby causing considerable embarrassment to all CCAMLR Members in the context of the organisation's anticipated contribution to a key IPY project. Therefore, the CCAMLR-IPY Steering Group, WG-EMM members and the Chair of the Scientific Committee urgently request that Commission representatives assist where possible in securing the necessary funds at a national level to provide logistic and ship-time support to the CCAMLR-IPY Survey.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D.G.M. Miller', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr D.G.M. Miller
Executive Secretary