



CCAMLR

COMM CIRC 08/86
SC CIRC 08/37

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Международный семинар - мониторинг влияния климатических изменений

Телефон: +61 3 6210 1111
Факс: +61 3 6224 8744
email: ccamlr@ccamlr.org
Web: ccamlr.org

PO Box 213, North Hobart, Tasmania 7002 Australia
181 Macquarie Street, Hobart, Tasmania 7000 Australia



CCAMLR

PO BOX 213, NORTH HOBART, TASMANIA 7002 AUSTRALIA
181 MACQUARIE STREET, HOBART, TASMANIA 7000 AUSTRALIA
Website: www.ccamlr.org

Phone: (61) 3 6210 1111
Fax: (61) 3 6224 8744
Email: ccamlr@ccamlr.org

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

**COMM CIRC 08/86
SC CIRC 08/37**

27 June 2008

International Workshop – Monitoring Climate Change Impacts

Australia has requested that the attached letter be circulated to Members of the Commission and the Scientific Committee.

Dr D.G.M. Miller
Executive Secretary

Attch.



Australian Government

**Department of the Environment,
Water, Heritage and the Arts**
Australian Antarctic Division

Dr Denzil Miller
CCAMLR
PO Box 213
North Hobart TAS 7002

Dear Dr Miller


I am wish to inform you and Members of the Commission and the Scientific Committee that Australia will host an international workshop "*Monitoring climate change impacts: establishing a Southern Ocean Sentinel program*" at the CCAMLR Headquarters from 20-24 April 2009. The workshop will consider what needs to be done to develop an integrated scientific program to estimate the rates of change in Southern Ocean marine ecosystems as a result of climate change.

As Members are aware, this is a topic of great interest to CCAMLR and the Antarctic Treaty system generally. At last year's meeting the Commission asked the Scientific Committee to consider how it will address the issue of the impacts of climate change on the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources and how it will formulate advice for the Commission (CCAMLR-XXVI, paragraph 15.35 to 15.36). Australia hopes that this workshop will provide one such forum for these discussions and contribute to the deliberations of the Scientific Committee. We invite participation from all interested Members.

I have attached a flyer for this workshop, noting that those interested can obtain further information by email: sos@aad.gov.au.

I ask that this letter be made available to the Commission and the Scientific Committee.

Yours sincerely


AJ Press
Director
25 June 2008

Monitoring climate change impacts establishing a Southern Ocean Sentinel program

20-24 April 2009

CCAMLR Headquarters, Hobart, Tasmania

This 5 day workshop will provide an interdisciplinary forum for addressing important issues in measuring, assessing and providing early-warning detection of climate change impacts on Southern Ocean ecosystems and biodiversity. A key focus will be to promote national and international collaboration.

Antarctica and the Southern Ocean are likely to be the only places on Earth to provide unambiguous early warning signals of the impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems. Measuring the rates of change arising from climate change in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean will be important for identifying the most plausible climate change scenario reported by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and for triggering actions with respect to climate change.

Aim

The aim of the symposium is to establish a benchmark for future research and progressing the flow of marine focused climate change research into policy development and decision making by:

- collating our understanding of the responses of southern marine ecosystems to climate change;
- reviewing field and remote methods that could be used to measure change in these systems;
- identifying a plan of work for developing a program to measure and assess the magnitudes and rates of change in Southern Ocean marine ecosystems.

Outputs

A report will detail what is needed to promote, participate and influence the development of an integrated Southern Ocean Sentinel program, including coordination within research institutions, across Australian agencies and, importantly, links with international institutions and initiatives.

Program

Keynote presentations will provide the basis for discussions. Workshops will consider the scientific issues in developing a Southern Ocean Sentinel program. Open forums will provide an opportunity for presentations and discussion on general scientific, policy, environmental and public issues.

Day	Theme	Keynote	Scientific Workshops	Open Forum
1	Welcome and Introduction	PM		
2	Change in Antarctic and Southern Ocean marine ecosystems – past, present and future	AM	PM	PM
3	Measuring change – populations, species and ecosystems	AM	PM	PM
4	Requirements in designing a long-term field program to detect and estimate rates of change	AM	PM	PM
5	Synthesis			AM

Enquiries and further information: please email sos@aad.gov.au

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