

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

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The Advisory Panel on *Continuous Plankton Recorder Survey in the North Pacific* (hereafter CPR-AP) met from 18:00–20:00 hours on October 28, 2007, under the chairmanship of Dr. Charles B. Miller. The list of participants and the meeting agenda can be found in *CPR-AP Endnotes 1* and *2*.

Funding for the North Pacific CPR project (Agenda Item 1)

The Advisory Panel focused on the increasing financial strain on the North Pacific CPR project, details of which were presented by Drs. Sonia D. Batten (Principal Investigator of the project) and William J. Sydeman (Principle Investigator of bird observations along the CPR lines).

Funding of the east–west CPR transect (Vancouver–Yokohama) by the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) has been reduced to half of the level for 2007, enough for just one full CPR line in 2008. The seabird program funding has not yet been renewed, although some residual funds may support the write-up of the completed transects. The status of these residual funds, if any, is uncertain because of the departure of Dr. Sydeman from the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. It is also not clear where further seabird observing funding may come from since the current NPRB RFP does not include an appropriate category. Funding of the north–south CRP transect (Cook Inlet–Vancouver) will be terminated by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC) after 2007. A proposal to National Science Foundation (NSF) has not yet received a decision from that agency. That proposal with uncertain prospects required participation by a U.S. investigator, and Dr. Russell Hopcroft (University of Alaska, Fairbanks) is a Co-Principal Investigator on the proposal. In summer 2007, Dr. Batten had also approached

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and there is a possibility of some support after April 2008. If the NSF proposal fails, the plan for 2008 is that the CPR parent agency, the Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science (SAHFOS), may itself support a few north–south runs in 2008 to avoid losing continuity in the time series, but it cannot support work-up of the collected samples. Other funding must be found for that.

It was agreed that the Advisory Panel continue to endorse the CPR project, for which 2008 will be the eighth year, and proposed that a combination of agencies in the United States and Canada supporting marine science activities in the North Pacific be asked to form a consortium to fund the continuation of the CPR project. Member agencies of this consortium would contribute modest sums totaling to minimal financial support of the CPR project, and would receive recognition for its future scientific accomplishments. A draft letter was prepared after the meeting, presented to the Science Board by Dr. Jeffrey M. Napp (MONITOR Chairman), revised according to the Science Board's recommendations, and sent to suitable agencies by the PICES Executive Secretary.

Scientific activities of the project (Agenda Item 2)

A report on current scientific efforts and results for North Pacific plankton was presented by Dr. Batten at the meeting of MONITOR on October 31, 2007. The content of her talk is summarized in the minutes from that meeting. Strength of the North Pacific CPR project is that its results are not shelved for eventual evaluation but are promptly analyzed and published.

Dr. Sydeman reported on potential papers that he, working with Dr. David Hyrenbach and Mr. Michael Henry, will generate from the bird observations along the east–west transect.

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Advantages of this data set are that all observations were made by one observer (Michael Henry), rigorous routines and modes of quantification were developed in advance of the study, and the wide geographic range and habitat

variation (*e.g.*, shelf waters to oceanic reaches) of the observations demonstrated strong and recurring shifts in the seabird community. The Advisory Panel urged that this reporting be completed with all deliberate speed.

CPR-AP Endnote 1

Participation list

Members

Sonia D. Batten (Canada, SAHFOS)
David L. Mackas (Canada)
Charles B. Miller (U.S.A., Chairman)
Jeffrey M. Napp (U.S.A.)
Vladimir I. Radchenko (Russia)

Observers

William R. Crawford (Canada)
Michael Henry (U.S.A.)
David Hyrenbach (U.S.A.)
Phillip R. Mundy (U.S.A.)
William J. Sydeman (U.S.A.)
Sei-Ichi Saitoh (Japan)

CPR-AP Endnote 2

CPR-AP meeting agenda

1. Funding for the North Pacific CPR project
2. Scientific activities of the project.