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## **Wrap-Up Session**

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### ***Convener Geoffrey Holland***

The Wrap-up session of the Workshop was convened by Mr. Holland who announced that rather than form a panel of a few participants this session would be open to all. The purpose of bringing them to the Workshop was to use their expertise in deciding how to proceed in the future. Since the great majority of attenders were at this session, there was an opportunity for a good discussion of all relevant topics. In some cases it was decided that the topics were too complex to be concluded at this Workshop and that further discussions among specialists is needed. Presented in this section is a summary derived from floor discussions. Although statements and recommendations are not attributed to individuals, the collaborative effort of this work is recognized.

A volume of the Proceedings of the OCDW will be prepared by the host country for distribution by the IOC (and others, if requested). The overall goal of establishing a dialogue between data managers and scientists was achieved. In addition, a number of issues were discussed. Many of these will require action by the IOC and other groups represented at the OCDW. These issues are listed in the order they were discussed (not prioritized or ranked) and are summarized below.

### **Issues**

#### **A. Continuing Liaison Between Data Managers and Scientists**

Listening to the case studies that were presented it became quite evident that the best data management systems were the ones where data managers and research scientists worked as a team developed in the early stages of project planning. Examples that were given included WOCE Data Assembly Centres e.g., Drifters, the Global Temperature Salinity Pilot Project (GTSPP) collaboration with Joint Analyses Centres in the U.S. and Australia, and JGOFS/BOFS development of Topical Centres. While each of these has some elements unique to the project, each had brought together "teams" of Principal Investigators (PI's) and data management experts at an early stage of project development. Conversely, projects which had considered data management as a totally separate activity with lower priority often failed to provide the service required to meet scientific objectives. Therefore, the following actions should be brought to the attention of relevant groups within the IOC and other international organizations:

1. Publicize, at the national and international level, underway data/scientist collaborations that may be used as models in planning for the future.

2. Reduce adversarial situations where data managers and scientists appear to be in competition.
3. Colocation and other forms of collaboration often results in very high quality data sets and more timely data submission. Improved timeliness of data submissions was a common theme throughout the workshop and must be considered an important element in all future plans. Improvements in timely submission of data were noted. In order to continue this trend the advantages of timely submission of data must be stressed to those planning new ocean science projects.

### **B. Importance of Historical Data**

While the ocean climate related work that has been done to date has yielded significant results, it was apparent that there is a growing need to fill spacial and temporal gaps in the present data set. There is no other way to study long term ocean climate changes and the present global set is not adequate for all the work that needs to be done. At present there is an ongoing multilateral effort known as Data Archeology. The discussion on historical data highlighted the following issues:

1. There is a need to expand the current ad-hoc multilateral effort to an international data rescue and recovery project.
2. The support of member states is required for this work.
3. It has been demonstrated that cost-benefit is high. The cost of data recovery is quite small when compared to the initial cost of data collection, while the benefits accrued when using these data for global studies are quite dramatic.
4. Some of these data are in danger of being lost because of deterioration in their present state and an immediate rescue effort is needed.
5. Not only do the numerical values need to be recovered, but the auxiliary data (metadata) needs to be recaptured as well.
6. A continuously updated data set will require high quality historical data as well as contemporary observations.

### **C. Role and Importance of World Data Centers (WDC's)**

The consensus of OCDW participants was that the World Data Centers plays an important role internationally in the sharing of scientific data and information. Furthermore, that this role would increase in importance as global change problems such as climate change begin to grow in number and complexity. The following actions were recommended:

1. There needs to be a reexamination of the World Data Centre System's role and responsibilities in light of present plans for climate and global change experiments. For WDC's, Oceanography this is of special importance because of work currently underway in planning for a Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS).
2. WDC's A, B, & D for Oceanography should undertake a project to harmonize data holdings so that any data user, anywhere in the world, will know the total data available from the WDC's. It was understood that such a project has been started and workshop participants endorsed this work. In order to meet

requirements for more timely access to data, the oceanographic WDC's have begun a project to have a unified semi-annual catalogue available and, if possible, have this catalogue available on an electronic bulletin board.

3. The WDC's should continue to promote free access to data and a policy of freely exchanging data. The sharing of data is of growing importance to ocean climate programmes. In addition to traditional data types it was noted that satellite derived data or data products are of growing importance and working arrangements for access to these data should be investigated.
4. Although oceanography was of prime concern to workshop participants, it was recognized that ocean data is only part of the total system and that multi-disciplinary data sets will be need to be considered.

#### **D. Evolution of Data**

A full range of technical matters associated with the collection and dissemination of data and metadata were discussed. It was recognized that many of these items will require assembling, relatively small, expert groups who would make specific recommendations aimed at solving a particular problem. Issues under this subject include:

1. Problems associated with the increasing size of data sets:
  - Techniques for storage and retrieval of these data.
  - Study of compression techniques and of data products associated with these data sets.
  - Training of data managers in handling of large data sets
2. Increasing complexity of data
  - New data types especially in Chemistry and Biology
  - Growing importance of metadata and problems associated with the cost, formatting, storage and retrieval of this information.
3. Need for correlation of data sets across disciplinary lines.
  - Techniques for format interchange
  - Flexibility of data (and metadata) recording
  - Development of a common georeference system
4. Technical problems associated with the storage and retrieval of satellite-derived observations.
5. Development of an overall IOC strategy focussed on the orderly development of data systems required for an operational ocean observing system. This development must be done in cooperation with the WMO as well as other international bodies and might be the subject of another follow-on workshop.

#### **E. Participation of Developing Countries in Ocean Climate Programmes**

In discussing the ways in which developing countries might participate in research and operations associated with ocean climate projects, it was quite clear that some, if not all, developing countries cannot get the access they need to data and data products. Computer tools shown at the OCDW demonstrated that many tools are available today at very low cost. The problems are associated with getting hardware and software to the right place with adequate training to the users. The

Ocean-PC approach was noted with interest. The following summarizes issues that were addressed by participants:

1. Need for an improved dialogue between developing and developed countries. There is a need for ICSU to work with non-governmental organizations in developing countries in order to provide data access for these groups.
2. Supply of modern tools is important only if accompanied by training data.
3. Technology development has reached a point with CD-ROMs, user friendly software and low cost computers that the present situation should be eased considerably with the cooperation of member states.
4. Developing countries and regions should develop their own data management strategies in order to maximize technology and data access.
5. Developing countries should be asked to play a role in data rescue where data are available and need to be put in digital form.

## **F. Model Data**

Discussion at the OCDW made it abundantly clear that air-sea interaction models and forecasting models are of growing importance to ocean climate projects. These models are both a user of data and a generator of data (or pseudo-data). This subject evoked enough discussion that it is an excellent candidate for a follow-on meeting sometime in the future. Issues that were discussed include:

1. Modelers need data input and generate data output. Output is now considered a research product but may be needed by others. Should it be archived, for how long, where?
2. Further discussion is needed on the usefulness and complexity of storing model output. Do you archive all model output or just selected products?
3. Should model output be considered as part of a data set or complementary to it?
4. How important is the metadata that accompanies model output and what should it contain?
5. There is a need to organize model generators & users in order to determine what is available, whether there is a need to exchange these internationally or only exchange information about models that are under development. This problem needs reconciliation by those directly involved.

## **G. Data Quality**

The importance of data quality was a repeated theme in workshop talks and discussions. Many of the ongoing climate related projects e.g. WOCE, have very high quality standards. While some modelers may have ways of filtering data of lesser quality, others require data that has been fully processed and quality assured. Some of the issues discussed were:

1. Quality assurance must be developed in such a way that the best quality data are obtained without duplication of effort from the time data are acquired until they are made available for general dissemination. This will require full coordination throughout the process.

2. The GTSP was noted as an excellent example of how data centres and researchers may collaborate in order to produce a high quality data set available for the international community. This type of government-university collaboration to produce high quality data sets is encouraged.
3. While there is much to learn from the meteorological example, participants felt that oceanography does not have the "forecasting" base used by that community and must develop its own strategy for building data sets needed by climate change projects.

## **H. Funding**

There were a number of items related to how things would get done and how funding could be obtained to perform these tasks. This discussion was a wide ranging one and may be summarized as follows:

1. Oceanography has traditionally received research funds. As we move toward an operational system, how do countries receive funding for these operational systems, while still maintaining the strong research base that will be required? The OCDW could not answer this question, but was quite aware that it is critical to the future development of an observing system.
2. Other funding actions that were suggested:
  - Set up a trust fund within the IOC specifically for data management activities such as those proposed by this workshop.
  - Cosponsors should consider funding follow-on activities suggested in this report.
  - Member States should fund data archeology activities as noted in this report.
  - Bring national attention to the need for ocean monitoring. Also bring to national attention the need to match financial support of World Data Center's to their increasing responsibilities.

## **I. The Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)**

While many of the items above contained elements related to GOOS, there were several points made that were specifically aimed at that programme. Speakers involved in the development of GOOS stated that a strong, effective data management programme is at the heart of a successful ocean observing system. It was also pointed out that GOOS requires coordination and interactions among a number of IOC groups and between IOC and a number of other international organizations such as WMO, SCOR, ICSU, and the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP). Some of the issues discussed were as follows:

1. There is a need to have a well staffed operations office with at least one member of that office responsible for coordination of data management activities.
2. GOOS will require an efficient communications system linking the observational network, data centres, and users.
3. A GOOS data management plan will need to take into account the fact that regional and global products will need to be disseminated in a timely fashion.
4. Standards will need to be adopted for all GOOS systems.

5. Some IOC elements that currently exist may need to be redirected into a coherent organization, serving GOOS.

## **J. Communications**

Concern was expressed over the adequacy of communication networks as required by both present research programs and potential monitoring activities. Workshop attendees suggested a study of the following items:

1. Interactive transfers of data collections.
2. International data networks which could link data centres.
3. Rapid data dissemination to users worldwide.
4. Investigate regulatory policies that may hinder the use of the wider bandwidths needed to carry out current and planned programmes.
5. All participants agreed that the electronic mail used widely by the oceanographic community has been, and will continue to be, an essential part of the international communication system.

## **V. Conclusion**

There seemed to be enthusiastic support for the concept of the OCDW. Comments received both publicly and privately were supportive of the form and substance of the meeting. The issues and actions cited above should provide very important guidelines to the IOC and other sponsors. Just as important as these recommendations is the bonding that occurred between data managers and scientists during the course of the OCDW. It should be noted that some of the data managers are also highly qualified research scientists and that this may set some sort of a trend. This workshop differed markedly from those where a data manager was invited to a science meeting, or where a token scientist was invited to a data meeting. This seemed to truly be an interaction where there was mutual benefit derived by most, if not all, participants. Although the workshop recommended a meeting like this one in 2-3 years, it is believed that too much was crammed into this first meeting and that the next should be more narrowly focussed with more specific recommendations. An example would be a workshop centered on the preparation of data sets that are required for experimental GOOS models. A number of other subjects are mentioned in the body of this report.

## **Appendix I**

The following is a reproduction of notes used by Roy Jenne of the U.S. National Center for Atmospheric Research.

### Some Types of Data

- An XBT in some reasonable format
- A grid in GRIB format
- A compressed plx of Mars at JPL
- A non-regular cloud grid

- A picture format on PC's
- A field of data in F 6.1 characters

What is common for all the above?

- Each is a string of bits
- The lengths usually vary
- each has a known structure

### **Formats**

- Organize the data for computers
- ell users variables and precision

### **What is the data sSituation?**

- We have common formats—lots of them
- We have bright ideas on other formats - some of them
- There are simple formats - Need almost no learning time
- There are junk formats
- PIs make calculations
  - with models
  - with data
  - with both
- There are many data cultures
  - Groups with regular formats
  - Codes for Data Types e.g. COADS, NODC XBTs
  - GF 3
  - Bufr, GRIB
  - CDF, not CDF,HDF
  - DBMS (Oracle, Empress etc.)
  - SASS
- There are many display systems
  - Each has an internal structure
  - And display operators

### **Data systems of the future**

- Must handle some format diversity
- Don't make it hard for the PIs
- Users will choose their software
  - Some from various science groups
  - Some from commercial packages
- Users will use data for calculations

**New developments**

- Format descriptions
- Translate on demand
- PC Formats - may make the de facto standard



# **Appendix I**

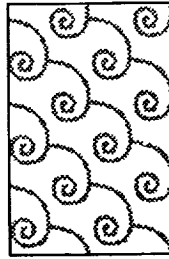
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## ***Program***



**OCEAN CLIMATE DATA WORKSHOP**

Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland, USA  
February 18 - 21, 1992



*A dialogue between data managers and scientists*

**Host** U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

**Purpose** This workshop is intended to begin discussions which may lead to the improved data delivery systems that are needed by scientists studying the oceans role in climate change.

- Objectives**
- *Identify opportunities* for improving data management for ocean climate research;
  - Find ways to *improve access* to marine data;
  - Outline the characteristics of data management systems needed to *support ocean monitoring and prediction*;
  - Provide guidelines for *improved data services*.

**Audience** The workshop is primarily intended for those who are working on and planning ocean related climate projects. However, the workshop will welcome anyone with an interest in the subject matter.

**Publication** Proceedings of the workshop will be published and distributed to those attending. The proceedings will also be made available to sponsoring organizations for their distribution.

**Fees** Speakers and other invited guests will not be assessed any fees. Others who attend will be asked to pay a registration fee of \$75 which includes the proceedings and the evening seminar.

**Language** English only

**For Further Information Contact**

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission  
Attn: Yuri Oliounine  
7 Place de Fontenoy  
75700 Paris, France  
Telephone: (33 1) 45 68 39 63  
Telemail: IOC.SECRETARIAT

or

National Oceanographic Data Center  
NOAA/NESDIS E/OC22  
Attn: James Churgin  
1825 Connecticut Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20235, USA  
Telephone: (202) 606-4571  
Telemail: J.CHURGIN or NODC.WDCA

**Hotel Accommodations**

A block of rooms has been set aside for the Workshop at the:  
Courtyard by Marriott  
6301 Golden Triangle Drive  
Greenbelt, MD  
Telephone: (800) 321-2211 or (301) 441-3311  
Bus transportation from the hotel to the meetings will be available

**PROGRAM****OCEAN CLIMATE DATA WORKSHOP**

Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland, USA

February 18 - 21, 1992

**February 18**

8:45-9:30am

**Registration**

9:30am - 12:30pm

GSFC Building #3

Auditorium

**Introduction to the Workshop**

In addition to logistics of the workshop, speakers will talk about future programs related to understanding how the oceans affect climate and how climate changes affect the oceans.

*Subject*

Introductory remarks

The Constancy of the Ocean

Role of the Earth Observing System

Global Observations & Operational Oceanography:  
a Decade of Transition

The Role of Ocean Climate Data in Naval Oceanography

International Organization of Ocean Programs - Making  
a Virtue of NecessityWorld Ocean Climate Change Investigations under  
the "Sections" Programme

The Role of the WDC's in Handling Ocean Climate Data

*Speaker*

Sponsors and hosts

J. Knauss

S. Wilson

J. Baker

G. Chesbrough

A. McEwan

S. Gulev

F. Webster

12:30-2:00pm

**LUNCH**

2:00-3:20pm

GSFC Building #3

Auditorium

**Computer Systems**

This session will include talks and hands-on demonstrations of new computer systems which are (or soon will be) available to oceanographers and others studying climate change and the oceans. The objective will be to familiarize attendees with these systems and to invite them to return individually or in small groups during the course of the workshop for a hands-on experience on these systems.

3:30-5:30pm

GSFC Building #26

Room 205

*Convener: L. Olsen**Subject*

NASA's Climate Data System and its Evolution as

Goddard's Distributed Active Archive Center (DAAC)

SEAPAK An Oceanographic Analysis Software Package

Oceanographic Data Analysis in the Goddard Laboratory  
for Hydrospheric Processes

Project POSEIDON, the NODC On-line Database

ATlast for PC &amp; OceanAtlas for Macintosh

*Speaker*

L. Olsen

C. McClain

T. Busalacchi

P. Topoly

E. Smith

**February 19**

9:00am - 4:30pm  
GSFC Building #3  
Auditorium

**Monitoring Changes in the Ocean and Atmosphere**

The object of this day will be to look at what has been done, and what needs to be done to create data sets that can be useful to scientists who require data on a more timely basis.

*Convener: R. Wilson*

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
Operational Seasonal and Interannual Predictions of Ocean Conditions	A. Leetmaa
The World Circulation Experiment (WOCE)	A. Clark
The Global Ocean Observing System	D. Kester
Global Temperature Salinity Pilot Project	B. Searle
Indian Ocean Analyses	G. Meyers
Monitoring Global Ocean Surface Variations	D. Halpern
The Use of Remotely Sensed Data for Operational Fisheries Oceanography	A. de Fiuza
Ocean PC and a Distributed Network for Ocean Data	D. McClain

6:30pm/7:30pm  
GSFC Recreational  
Center

**COCKTAILS/DINNER**

*Guest Speaker: G. Holland*

**February 20**

9:00am - 1:00pm  
GSFC Building #3  
Auditorium

**Data Archaeology**

The objective of this session will be to demonstrate the usefulness of historical data. There will also be a panel discussion on other uses of historical data and on data sets that are not currently available to the international community.

*Convener: S. Levitus*

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
Ocean Climate Diagnostic Studies	S. Levitus
Satellite Altimetry	R. Cheney
High Resolution GCM Modeling of the Thermohaline Structure of the World Ocean	A. Semtner
Data Archaeology at ICES	H. Dooley
Data Availability and Data Archaeology from the Soviet Union	Y. Sychev
Ocean Climate Data for the User Community in West and Central Africa; Needs and Opportunities	S.O. Ojo

2:00 - 6:00pm  
GSFC Building #3  
Auditorium

**Effect of Change in the Ocean and on the Life Cycle**

This session will include a case study of the 1989 N. Atlantic Bloom Study (NABE), as well as time-series operations and other programs related to biogeo-

chemical global change, from the perspective of the field scientist, analyst, modeler, and data manager. Different approaches to Data Management and Archiving of resulting studies will be included which we hope will stimulate a panel discussion on techniques to be considered. Discussion will also cover QC techniques and what can be done to improve input to analysts and modelers. The session will focus on chemical and biological data.

### Introduction to JGOFS

*Convener: H. Ducklow*

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
Scientist's View of the NABE, a JGOFS Process Study	H. Ducklow
Data Management for JGOFS: Theory and Design	G. Flierl
Data Management in the UK BOFS Program, a JGOFS Case Study	R. Lowery
Management and Assimilation of Satellite Data for JGOFS	R. Evans
The Continuous Plankton Recorder Survey: Long-term, Basin-scale Oceanic Time Series	J. Gamble
BATS and Station S: Time Series Operations in JGOFS	T. Michael
Automated Observations of Upper Ocean Biogeochemistry and Optics for JGOFS	T. Dickey

### February 21

9:00am - 12:00pm  
GSFC Building #3  
Auditorium

### Wrap-up Panel

Representatives from each of the sessions plus some other speakers will form a panel to conduct discussions on recommendations to the IOC, WMO and other scientific groups conducting international data exchange and dissemination of data required for climate studies.

*Convener: G. Holland*

12:00 - 1:00pm

### Closing Remarks

This will be a summing up of the Workshop.

*Convener: Chairman*



#### HOSTS:

U.S. National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

#### SPONSORS:

Commission of European Communities (CEC)  
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)  
International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU)  
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)  
Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR)  
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)



recycled paper

**Appendix II**

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***Participants List***





## Participants List

Dr. N.R. Andersen  
National Science Foundation Marine Chemistry  
Program  
1800 G. ST., NW Washington, DC 20550  
E-MAIL: N.ANDERSEN/OMNET

Kevin R. Arrigo  
NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center  
Code 971  
Greenbelt, MD 20771  
PHONE: (301) 286-2128

D. James Baker, President  
Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc.  
1755 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
PHONE: (202) 232-3900  
E-MAIL: J.BAKER.JOI

Dorothy Bergamaschi  
Office of Marine Science & Technology  
OES/OA/MST, Room 5801  
Department of State  
Washington, DC 20520  
PHONE: (202) 647-0239  
E-MAIL: STATE.DEPT/OMNET

Murray Brown  
Minerals Management Service  
Mail Code 5430  
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard  
New Orleans, LA 70123-2340  
PHONE: (504) 736-2901  
FAX: (504) 736-2610  
E-MAIL: M.BROWN.MMS (Omnet)

Anthony J. Busalacchi  
NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center  
Code 971  
Greenbelt, MD 20771

John Calder  
NOAA - OAR  
1335 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
PHONE: (301) 713-2465  
FAX: (301) 713-0666  
E-MAIL: J.CALDER (Omnet)

Russell Callender  
2909 Summerfield Road  
Falls Church, VA 22042  
PHONE: (202) 653-1604

Heidi Calvert  
NOAA/NESDIS/International Affairs  
Washington, DC 20233  
PHONE: (301) 763-4586  
FAX: (301) 736-5828  
E-MAIL: NESDIS.INTL (Omnet)

James Carton  
Department of Meteorology  
University of Maryland  
Space Sciences Building 2112  
College Park, MD 20742

Robert E. Cheney  
NOAA, National Geodetic Survey N/CG11  
11400 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852  
PHONE: (301) 443-8556  
E-MAIL: NOAA.GEOSAT

RADM G. Chesbrough  
Oceanographer of the Navy  
US Naval Observatory  
34th and Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20392-1800

James Churgin  
5225 Pooks Hill Road, #113 South  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
PHONE: (301) 530-1931  
E-MAIL: (OMNET) J.CHURGIN

R. Allyn Clarke  
Bedford Institute of Oceanography  
Atlantic Oceanographic Laboratory  
P.O. Box 1006  
Dartmouth Nova Scotia B2Y 4A2 CANADA  
PHONE: (902) 426-2502  
E-MAIL: BEDFORD.INST

Peter Cornillon  
Graduate School of Oceanography  
University of Rhode Island  
Kingston, RI 02882

James Crease  
University of Delaware  
College of Marine Studies  
700 Pilottown Road  
Lewes, DE 19958  
PHONE: (302) 645-4240  
E-MAIL: (OMNET) J.CREASE

Michael Crowe  
WMO  
Geneva, Switzerland  
PHONE: 4122 730-8377  
FAX: 4122 734-2326

Tommy D. Dickey  
Ocean Physics Group  
University of Southern California  
Dept. of Geological Sciences, SCI 283  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0740  
PHONE: (213) 740-6734  
FAX: (213) 740-8801  
E-MAIL: T.DICKEY

Harry Dooley  
International Council for Exploration of the  
Seas  
Palaegade 2-4  
Copenhagen K DK-1261 DENMARK  
PHONE: 45 93 11 71  
E-MAIL: ICES.D.K. (OMNET)  
OCEAN@SERVER.ICES.DK

Bruce C. Douglas  
NOAA/NOS  
Rockville, MD 20852  
PHONE: (301) 443-8858  
FAX: (301) 468-5714  
E-MAIL: NOAA.GEOSAT

Hugh Ducklow  
Horn Point Marine Laboratories  
University of Maryland  
Cambridge, MD 21613  
PHONE: (301) 228-8200  
E-MAIL: (OMNET) H.DUCKLOW

William Erb  
Office of Marine Science & Technology  
OES/OA/MST  
Room 5801  
Department of State  
Washington, DC 20520

David L. Eslinger  
NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center  
Code 971  
Greenbelt, MD 20771  
PHONE: (301) 286-2141  
FAX: (301) 286-2171  
E-MAIL: dave@petrel.gsfc.nasa.gov

Robert Evans  
Rosentiel School of Marine & Atmospheric  
Sciences  
University of Miami  
4600 Rickenbacker Causeway  
Miami, FL 33149-1098  
PHONE: (305) 361-4799  
E-MAIL: R.EVANS/OMNET

M. Fiadairo  
Office of Naval Research  
Physical Oceanography Program  
Code 1122PO  
Arlington, VA 22217  
PHONE: (703) 696-4441  
E-MAIL: M.FIADAIRO (Omnet)

Dr. Armando F.G. Fiuza  
Departamento de Fisica/Centro de Geofisica  
Faculdade de Ciencias da Univeridade de  
Lisboa  
Rua da Escola  
Politecnica, 58 1200 Lisboa, Portugal  
PHONE:(351-1) 397-0891  
EMAIL: FCOCPNBO@PTEARN.BITNET

Nic Flemming  
Inst. of Oceanographic Sciences  
Deacon Laboratory  
Wormley Godalming Surrey GU8 5UB,  
UNITED KINGDOM  
E:MAIL: (OMNET) N.FLEMMING

G.R. Flierl  
Ctr for Meteorology & Physical Oceanography  
Massachusetts Inst of Technology  
Bldg. 54, Room 1426  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
PHONE: (617) 253-4692  
E-MAIL: glenn@pimms.mit.edu

Mike Fraser  
NMFS/NOAA  
1335 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
PHONE: (301) 713-2372  
FAX: (301) 588-4853  
E-MAIL: M.FRASER (Omnet)

Dr. John Gamble  
The Hardy Foundation  
Plymouth Marine Laboratory  
Plymouth, UNITED KINGDOM

Linda K. Glover  
Office of the Oceanographer of the Navy  
US Naval Observatory  
34th and Massachusetts Ave.,NW  
Washington, DC 20392-1800

Peter Grimm  
1825 Connecticut Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20235  
PHONE: (202) 606-4509  
FAX: (202) 606-4586  
E-MAIL: (Decnet) NODC::GRIMM

Eltzabeth Gross  
Johns Hopkins University  
Dept of Earth & Planetary Science  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
PHONE: (410) 516-4070  
FAX: (410) 516-7933  
E-MAIL: (Omnet) E.GROSS.SCOR

Sergey K. Gulev  
State Oceanography Institute  
Hydrometeorology Committee of Russia  
Kropotkinsky per., 6  
Moscow, 119838, USSR  
PHONE: (095) 2467089, 2467288  
FAX: (095) 2467288 2012383  
TELEMAIL: 411117 RUMS SU 411968 OKEAN  
SU  
OMNET: GULEV.BOBA

D. Halpern  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
MS 300-323  
4880 Oak Grove Drive  
Pasadena, CA 91109

Douglas Hamilton  
1825 Connecticut Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20235  
PHONE: (202) 606-4636  
E-MAIL: NODC.WDCA

Richard Hayes  
Office of the Oceanographer of the Navy  
US Naval Observatory  
34th and Massachusetts Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20392-5101  
PHONE: (202) 653-1604  
E-MAIL: OCEANAV

George Helmerdinger  
NOAA Liaison Office  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Mclean 114  
Woods Hole, MA 02543

Geoffrey Holland  
Director-General Physical & Chemical Sci  
Directorate  
Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans  
200 Kent Street, 12th Floor  
Ottawa Ontario K1A 0E6 CANADA  
PHONE: (613) 990-0298  
FAX: (613) 990-5510  
E-MAIL: OCEANSCIENCE.OTTAWA

David Irvine  
HUGHES STX/NSSDC Project  
7601 Ora Glen Drive, Suite 300  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
PHONE: (301) 513-1677  
E-MAIL: NCF::IRVINE (Decnet)

Gregory Isayev  
305 West Side Drive, Suite 204  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
PHONE: (202) 606-4411

Melanie Jenard  
NOAA/NOS  
1825 Connecticut Ave, NW  
Suite 615  
Washington, DC 20235  
PHONE: (202) 606-4178  
FAX: (202) 606-4059  
E-MAIL: NOS.IA

Roy Jenne  
National Center for Atmospheric Research  
(NCAR)  
P.O. Box 3000  
Boulder, CO 80307-3000  
PHONE: (303) 497-1215  
E-MAIL: R.JENNE (Omnet)

Cdr. John A. Jensen  
Commander, Naval Oceanography  
Command (N31)  
Stennis Space Center, MS 39529  
PHONE: (601) 688-5748  
FAX: (601) 688-5332

Lt. Cdr. David Jones  
Navy/NOAA Joint Ice Center  
4301 Suitland Road, FOB #4  
Washington, DC 20395-5180

Michael Jugan  
Naval Oceanographer Office  
Code OP  
Stennis Space Ctr, MS 39522-5081  
PHONE: (601) 688-4424

Tom Kaneshinge  
NOAA/GP  
1335 East West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dana Kester  
Office of the Chief Scientist  
Universal Bldg., Room 625  
1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20235  
PHONE: (202) 606-4243  
E-MAIL: D.KESTER (Omnet)

John Knauss  
Under Secty for Oceans and Atmosphere  
Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin.  
Washington, DC 20230

Chet Koblinsky  
NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center  
Code 971  
Greenbelt, MD 20771  
PHONE: (301) 286-2880  
FAX: (301) 286-2717  
E-MAIL: C.KOBLINSKY (Omnet)

Dieter Kohnke  
Bundesamt fur Seeschiffahrt und  
Hydrographie  
Bernhard-Nocht-Strasse 78  
Postfach 30 12 20  
D-W2000 Hamburg 36 GERMANY  
PHONE: 49-40-3190 3400  
FAX: 49-40-3190 5000  
E-MAIL: D.KOHNKE (Omnet)

Michail Krasnoperov  
WMO  
Geneva, Switzerland  
PHONE: (4122) 730 8111  
FAX: (4122) 734 2326

Gunnar Kullenberg  
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission  
UNESCO  
7 Place de Fontenoy  
75700 Paris, FRANCE  
PHONE: 33-1-456 83983  
E-MAIL: G.KULLENBERG

Pablo Lagos  
NOAA, OGP  
1335 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
PHONE: (301) 427-2089  
E-MAIL: OMNET: P.LAGOS

Ants Leetmaa  
NOAA/National Meteorological Center  
Climate Analysis Center  
5200 Auth Road, W/NMC52  
Washington, DC 20233

Sydney Levitus  
NOAA/NODC E/OC2  
1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20235  
PHONE: (202) 606-4411  
E-MAIL: (OMNET) S.LEVITUS

Marlon Lewis  
Department of Oceanography  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4J1 CANADA  
PHONE:(902) 494-3557  
E-MAIL: (OMNET) M.LEWIS

Roy Lowery  
Proudman Oceanography Laboratory  
Bidston Observatory  
Bidston Birkenhead Merseyside L43 7RA  
UNITED KINGDOM

Ibrahim A. Matyza  
Head, ENODC  
National Institute of Oceanography & Fisheries  
Kayet Bay, Alexandria EGYPT  
PHONE: (203) 801 174  
E-MAIL: OMNET.BADAWI

Capt. C. Martinek  
Office of the Oceanographer of the Navy  
US Naval Observatory  
34th and Massachusetts Ave.,NW  
Washington, DC 20392-1800

George M. Mason  
5111 Lawson Avenue  
Gulfport, MS 39507  
PHONE: (601) 688-4275

Rob Massom  
NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center  
Code 971  
Greenbelt, MD 20771  
PHONE: (301) 286-3548  
E-MAIL: MASSOM.OCEAN1.GSFC.NASA.GOV

Charles McClain  
NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center  
Lab for Hydrospheric Processes Code 971,  
Bldg. 22, Room 266  
Greenbelt, MD 20771  
PHONE: (301) 286-5377  
E-MAIL: OMNET/C.MCCLAIN

Angus McEwan  
CSIRO Division of Oceanography  
Marine Laboratories  
Castray Esplanade, G.P.O. Box 1538  
Hobart Tasmania 7001 Australia  
PHONE: 61 02 206212  
E-MAIL: A.MCEWAN/OMNET

Douglas McLain  
NOAA NOS/OAB  
2560 Garden Road  
Monterey, CA 93940  
PHONE: (408) 647-4212  
EMAIL: OAG.MONTEREY.OMNET

Nikolai N. Mikhailov  
Oceanographic Data Centre  
Russia Research Institute of Hydrometeorologi-  
cal Information  
6, Korolev Str.  
Obninsk, Kaluga, 249020 USSR  
PHONE: 2 56 78  
FAX: (095) 2552225

Gary Meyers  
CSIRO Division of Oceanography  
Marine Laboratories  
Castray Esplanade, G.P.O. Box 1538  
Hobart Tasmania 7001 Australia  
PHONE: 61 02 206208 E-  
MAIL:OMNET.G.MEYERS

A. Michaels  
Bermuda Biological Station  
Ferry Reach  
St. Georges Bermuda  
PHONE: (809) 297-1880  
E-MAIL: A.MICHAELS/OMNET

Yutaka Michida  
Japan Oceanographic Data Center (JODC)  
Hydrographic Department  
5-3-1 Tsukiji  
Chuo-Ku Tokyo 104 JAPAN  
PHONE: 81 3 3741 3811  
E-MAIL: T.MORI/OMNET

Gary T. Mitchum  
TOGA Sea Level Center  
University of Hawaii  
1000 Pope Road, MSB-317  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dr. Christina Myles-Tochko  
Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab.  
Johns Hopkins Road  
Laurel, MD 20723  
PHONE: (301) 953-6603

T. Nelson  
Office of Naval Research  
Physical Oceanography Program  
Code 1122PO  
Arlington, VA 22217

Professor S. O. Ojo  
University of Lagos  
Fac. of Enviro. Sciences/Geography Dept.  
Lagos, NIGERIA  
PHONE: 01 820696/01 820281

Youri Ollounine  
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission  
UNESCO  
7 Place de Fontenoy  
75700 Paris, FRANCE

Lola Olsen  
NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center  
Code 934.0, Room W158, Bldg. 28  
Greenbelt, MD 20771  
PHONE: (301) 286- 9760

Richard B. Olsen  
SATLANTIC  
3295 Barrington Street  
Richmond Terminal Pier 9  
Halifax, N.S. CANADA B3K 5X8  
PHONE: (902) 492-4780  
FAX: (902) 492-4781  
E-MAIL: OMNET:M.LEWIS

Bruce Parker  
National Ocean Service, NOAA  
6011 Executive Boulevard  
Rockville, MD 22071  
PHONE: (301) 443-8691  
FAX: (301) 443-1920  
E-MAIL: B.PARKER/OMNET

Irving Perloth  
1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20235  
PHONE: (202) 606-4598  
E-MAIL: I.PERLROTH

Capt. John Pfeiffer  
Office of the Naval Deputy, NOAA  
Dept. of Commerce  
Hoover Building, Rm. 6003  
14th & Constitution Avenue  
Washington, DC 20230-0001  
PHONE: (202) 377-8355

Joel Poitevin  
METEO FRANCE  
Chef of the Sea Weather Forecast  
42 Av. Gustave Coriolis  
31057 Toulouse Cedex FRANCE  
PHONE: 33 61-07-82-90  
FAX: 33-61-07-82-32

Jean-Paul Rebert  
TOGA Subsurface Data Center  
Centre ORSTOM BP 70  
29780N Plouzane FRANCE  
PHONE: 33 98 22 45 13  
FAX: 33 9822 45 14  
E-MAIL: ORSTOM.BREST

Mike Reeve  
Oceans Sciences Division  
Room 609  
National Science Foundation  
Washington, DC 20550  
PHONE: (202) 357-9600  
E-MAIL:M.REEVE/OMNET

H. Thomas Rossby  
Graduate School of Oceanography  
University of Rhode Island  
South Ferry Road  
Narragansett, RI 02882  
PHONE: (401) 792-6521  
FAX: (401) 792-6728  
E-MAIL: T.ROSSBY/OMNET

Stanley Ruttenberg  
Univ. Corp. for Atmospheric Research  
P.O. Box 3000  
Boulder, CO 80307-3000  
PHONE: (303) 497-8689  
E-MAIL: S.RUTTENBERG/OMNET

Cdr. S. Sandgathe  
Office of Naval Research  
Physical Oceanography Program  
Code 1122PO  
Arlington, VA 22217

Jean Schiro-Zavela  
NOAA/NESDIS/International Affairs  
Washington, DC 20233  
PHONE: (301) 763-4586  
FAX: (301) 736-5828  
E-MAIL: J.SCHIRO.ZAVELA/OMNET

Ben Searle  
Australian Oceanographic Data Center  
P.O. Box 1332  
North Sydney N.S.W. 2059 Australia  
PHONE: 61 2 925 4230  
E-MAIL: B.SEARLE

Albert J. Semtner  
Department of Oceanography  
Naval Postgraduate School (NPGS)  
Monterey, CA 93943-5000  
PHONE: (408) 646-3267  
E-MAIL: SBERT@NCAR.UCAR.EDU

Mitchell Shank  
Naval Oceanographic Office  
Stennis Space Center, MS 39522  
PHONE: (601) 688-4561

Lin Shaohua  
c/o NOAA/NODC E/OC2  
1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20235

V. Smirnov  
Oceanographic Data Centre  
Russia Research Institute of Hydrometeorologi-  
cal Information  
6, Korolev Str.  
Obninsk, Kaluga, 249020 USSR  
PHONE: 546 39 10

Cdr. Brad Smith  
Navy/NOAA Joint Ice Center  
4301 Suitland Road, FOB #4  
Washington, DC 20395-5180

Elizabeth Smith  
 Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
 MS 300-323  
 4880 Oak Grove Drive  
 Pasadena, CA 91109

Thomas Spence  
 National Science Foundation  
 Ocean Sciences Division  
 1800 G. ST., NW  
 Washington, DC 20550

Yuri Sychev  
 Oceanographic Data Centre  
 Russia Research Institute of Hydrometeorological Information  
 6, Korolev Str.  
 Obninsk, Kaluga, 249020 USSR  
 PHONE: (08439) 25907  
 FAX: (095) 2552225

Mr. Jan Szaron  
 Swedish Meteorological & Hydrological Inst.  
 P.O. Box 2212  
 S-40314 Gothenburg SWEDEN  
 PHONE: 96 31 630393

Wendy Tang  
 Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
 4800 Oak Grove Drive  
 Pasadena, CA 91109  
 PHONE: (818) 354-8199  
 FAX: (818) 393-6720  
 E-MAIL: WFT@PACIFIC.JPL.NASA.GOV.

Shin Tani  
 Japan Oceanographic Data Center  
 Hydrographic Department  
 5-3-1 Tsukiji  
 Chou-ku Tokyo 104 JAPAN  
 PHONE: 011 81 3 5565 7080  
 E-MAIL: T.MORI/OMNET

Peter Topoly  
 NOAA/NODC E/OC3  
 1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
 Washington, DC 20235

Capt. Adolfo Villanueva  
 Servicio de Hidrografia Naval  
 Av. Montes de Oca 2124  
 1271 Buenos Aires ARGENTINA  
 PHONE: 54 01 21 0061 67 ext. 59  
 FAX: 54 01 21 7797

Michelle M. Walrod  
 Naval Oceanographic Office  
 Stennis Space Center, MS 39522  
 PHONE: (601) 688-5176  
 FAX: (601) 688-5154

D.N. Wambura  
 Marine Meteorological Service  
 Directorate of Meteorology  
 P.O. Box 3056  
 Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania  
 PHONE: 32601

Ji Wang  
 National Ocean Service, NOAA  
 Rockville, MD 22071  
 PHONE: (301) 443-8691  
 FAX: (301) 443-1920

Ferris Webster  
 University of Delaware  
 College of Marine Studies  
 700 Pilottown Road  
 Lewes, DE 19958  
 PHONE: (302) 645-4266  
 E-MAIL: F.WEBSTER/OMNET

Hou Wenfeng  
 Mao Bin National Oceanographic Data Center  
 73 Liuwei Road, He Dong District  
 Tianjin, 300171 PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF  
 CHINA  
 PHONE: (022) 315213

Ron Wilson  
 MEDS, Dept. Fisheries & Oceans  
 200 Kent Street  
 Ottawa, Ontario CANADA K1A 0E6  
 PHONE: (613) 990-0264  
 FAX: (613) 990-5510  
 E-MAIL: R.WILSON.MEDS

Stanley Wilson  
 NOAA/NOS  
 1825 Connecticut Ave. NW  
 Room 611  
 Washington, DC 20235

Gregory Withee  
 NOAA/NESDIS  
 1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
 Washington, DC 20235  
 PHONE: (202) 606-4089  
 E-MAIL: G.WITHEE

Charles Wooldridge  
 NOAA/NESDIS/International Affairs  
 Washington, DC 20233  
 PHONE: (301) 763-4586  
 FAX: (301) 736-5828  
 E-MAIL: C.WOOLDRIDGE/OMNET

Rear Admiral Austin J. Yeager  
 Director, Coast and Geodetic Survey  
 N/CG, WSE1  
 Washington Science Center, WSC1  
 Room 1006  
 6001 Executive Boulevard  
 Rockville, MD 20852  
 PHONE: (301) 443-8204

## **Appendix III**

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