Editorial

WESTPAC III enters its second year in a state of good health with strong evidence of widespread support from its various member states. This is certainly apparent from responses for participation in Task Team activities and in other initiatives relevant to program interests. The Chairman is especially encouraged by the enthusiasm and energy shown by the WESTPAC Technical Coordinators and by the Task Team Chairmen. Recent advice indicates that active moves by correspondence are presently in effect to develop specific research objectives wherever necessary. Some, indeed, are already in progress and, in certain instances support has been found or other opportunities taken to hold round table discussions to accelerate progress towards stated objectives. This Newsletter outlines some of those developments. Once again, participants in WESTPAC are invited to offer any information they consider relevant for inclusion in future issues.
THE STATE OF THE TASK TEAMS

For completeness, the list which follows includes all nominations known to have been authorized up to the present. To achieve brevity, full addresses have been provided only for Technical Coordinators. They or the Chairman of WESTPAC would be glad to provide fuller details on request.

An Up-date on Nominations and the Present Composition of Task Teams

WESTPAC TASK TEAM ON MARINE POLLUTION RESEARCH AND MONITORING

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Project Coordinator
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France
Monsieur Jacques Arrignon

Japan
Mr Daishuku Sugita
Mr Masaru Shizazaki

Korea: Democratic People's Republic
Mr Ge Jun Bang

Korea: Republic of
Dr Kwang Woo Lee

Malaysia
Associate Professor Dr Law Ab Theam
Dr Abo Bakar Bin Jafar
Dr Noor Azhar Mohamed Shazili

New Caledonia
Dr N L Lemasson

New Zealand
Dr P Dinamani

Thailand
Dr Manuwadi Hongspreep
Captain T Choaenilaph

USA
Dr Ford A Cross

USSR
Dr E N Shumilin
Dr N K Khristoforova
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Task Team Members
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USSR
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(further nominations proceeding)

Project Coordinating Group (Task Team) on Ocean Dynamics in the North-west Pacific

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Task Team on Coastal and Continental Shelf Oceanography

1. Exchange processes and circulation of coral reefs

Chairman
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Dr V B V Pchobrazhensky
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2. Nearshore currents and tides

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Dr R Le Borgne

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OSLR STUDY GROUP 3: LAND/SEA INTERFACE

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  Dr Joe Song Hong

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  Dr V L Kojatov

OSLR STUDY GROUP 4: TOXIC AND ANOXIC PHENOMENA ASSOCIATED WITH ALGAL BLOOMS

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New Zealand
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WESTPAC TASK TEAM ON OCEAN SCIENCE IN RELATION TO NON-LIVING RESOURCES (OSNLR)

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Korea: Republic of
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  Nominations submitted

USSR
  Dr B I Vasiliyev

Task Team Members

China: People's Republic
  Mr Chen Bingxian

New Caledonia
  Dr Jacques Daniel
REPORTS OF PROGRESS

The statements which follow were kindly provided by several of the Technical Coordinators.

Ocean Dynamics and Climate - Within physical oceanography (variously called The Study of Ocean Dynamics and Climate, and Ocean Sciences) in WESTPAC the year since WESTPAC III has been occupied by the setting up of specific Task Teams. As evident from the Task Team titles the first two encompass mainly open ocean dynamics with ongoing active research involvement from several nations and a natural progression from the WESTPAC Task Team on Ocean Monitoring. The last two groups encompass near shore studies which although specific for each country have a common thread of specific processes - information on national programmes is now being sought which should lead to co-operative research (examples of present under discussion are logically between the neighbouring countries of Australia and New Zealand and the passages in south-east Asia bordered by Indonesia, Korea and Japan). There is of course a considerable observational and process overlap between the nearshore and offshore aspects.

Names of present Task Team members have been listed in this Newsletter. The number of scientists in the ocean dynamics Task Teams should increase rapidly in the next month as nominal of various scientists are confirmed.

The general mode of operation is by correspondence leading to identification of future research needs. Consideration is presently being given to arranging meetings in conjunction with major physical oceanographic conferences in the region. Of course especially in the ocean dynamics area such meetings and identification are already common under the auspices of projects such as the World Climate Research Project.

Ocean Sciences and Living Resources (OSSLR) - The Task Team is now approaching full strength. It is anticipated that some US scientists will join the team. The research theme is 'Biological Production' with an emphasis on processes influencing recruitment to resource populations.

The Task Team is made up of 4 study groups. The first, lead by Professor T Nemoto, is concerned with open ocean ecosystems. In May 1985 (18-23) a workshop will be held at the Ocean Research Institute, University of Tokyo on ocean eddies, particularly those associated with the Kurashio, East Australian Current, and Gulf Stream.

Dr Peter Rothlisberg leads the study group on biological production on continental shelves. He is currently exploring the question of developing a specific WESTPAC program on recruitment in relation to pelagic shrimp resources. In some parts of the Gulf of Carpentaria, annual recruitment is determined by the magnitude of monosonal rains.
The third study group, concerned with production at the
land-sea interface, has yet to develop a coherent
programme. There is some interest in studies on the
impact of monsoonal run-off on the resources of the
continental shelf.

The fourth study group is concerned specifically with
the causes and consequences of "red tide" and the
processes involved. A seminar was held on this subject
in Australia in June 1985. The group is now planning
a workshop on "Taxonomy and Techniques for
Red Tide Research". This will be held in Bangkok
during the course of 1985 at a date yet to be
determined.

The Task Team works mainly by correspondence. Ad
hoc meetings are held on an opportunistic basis,
usually in conjunction with seminars or workshops.
One such meeting was held in Shizuoka, Japan, in July
in conjunction with the International Plankton
Symposium.

The Task Team is linked through the technical
coordinator to activities underway elsewhere in the
world, coordinated by the IOC. There is particular
interest in linking up activities in the WESTPAC region
with similar activities in the Caribbean.

Ocean Services (IGOSS) - Since the WESTPAC III
meeting in Townsville last year the Task Team has
been formed and a number of activities commenced
or actioned which will be discussed in succeeding
paragraphs.

Sea Level Pilot Project
The IGOSS Sea Level Pilot Project for the Pacific has
started and for the August analysis of sea level
anomalies the following WESTPAC member countries
contributed: Australia, Fiji, France (Polynesia),
Japan, New Zealand and the USA. A number of other
nations have contributed and the product from the
Specialized Oceanographic Centre at the University of
Hawaii is forwarded to all participants each month.

Ships of Opportunity
Laurie Meyers CSIRO, Matt Tomczak University of
Sydney, (Australia) have joined forces with Jean-Flame
Dangy, ORSTOM in Noumea, to monitor changes in
the heat content of the Pacific Ocean, by collecting
bathythermograph data on the shipping route from Sydney
to Panama via New Zealand. Three XBT systems have
been installed on container ships. This route is across
ocean from which observations of this type are rare.

IGOSS Specialized Oceanographic Centre
Japan have advised that they have established an
IGOSS Specialized Oceanographic Centre for the
Pacific Ocean. This Centre, which will focus on the
WESTPAC Region will:

- collect and edit the sea surface temperature,
  subsurface temperature and sea surface current
  data on a real time and operational basis,
- analyse the above data and disseminate the
  products by FAX broadcasts and publications,
- operate non-operational data available to IGOSS
  Responsible National Oceanographic Data
  Centres, and
- input delayed mode BATHY messages into the
  GTS.

Commander H L Dow, Chairman of the IGOSS
WESTPAC Task Team has been relieved by
Commander Ian Higgins. Commander Higgins will
take over as Chairman and will be located at the same
address.

WESTPAC Cruises
On October 26, 1984, M L Lemasson of the Office
de Recherche Scientifique et Technique Outre-Mer
(ORSTOM) notified the wish of France to declare its
cruise PHOLOGO for July, 1985 by H. J. Jean Charcot
to be within WESTPAC. The general aims of the
program are:

Study of productivity mechanisms in
allo-lithographic tropical pelagic marine
environments and assessment of their actual
primary and secondary productions is the
general idea of PHOLOGO. It is part of
PROCAL program (Production in the
ecosystem New Caledonian area) for the
study of production around islands and/or
with respect to the bottom topography and
for the description of functioning
characteristics of these pelagic ecosystems.

Several cruises of Japanese research vessels have
already been notified as contributions to WESTPAC.

Other Activities
1. Marine Pollution Research & Monitoring - A
   meeting of this group has been convened for April
   17-19, 1985 in Townsville, Australia. The Australian
   Government has offered some subsidy towards the
   meeting. An agenda proposed for the meeting
   follows:
   1. Assessment of pollution research and
      monitoring capabilities within the region.
      - laboratories, equipment etc.
      - personnel
   2. Recent and ongoing research (especially into
      heavy metal pollution)
   3. Training and/or training opportunities available
      within member states
   4. Review of relevant decisions of WESTPAC III
   5. Review of recent research conducted by
      GIPME, GESAMP and UNEP
   6. Scope for interaction between WESTPAC and
      other bodies
      - definition of responsibilities
   7. Immediate research priorities
   8. Long term objectives
   9. Requirements for support.
2. Second Workshop on Warm Core Rings - Details of the first circular are:

The first 'Warm Core Rings' workshop held in Wellington in 1982 under the auspices of the US/Australia and US/New Zealand co-operative science programmes and sponsored by OSR (New Zealand) and CSIRO (Australia) dealt with disciplinary and interdisciplinary problems associated with rings and their dynamics, and indicated future directions of research. A recommendation of the first workshop was that the next meeting on warm core ocean eddies be held in Japan to exchange information on Gulf Stream, East Australian Current, and Kurashio systems.

The second workshop on warm core rings will be held at the Ocean Research Institute, University of Tokyo in May 1985. The aim of this workshop will be to review recent studies on warm core rings and make an interdisciplinary analyses of their dynamics.

Scientists working on Kurashio rings in the western North Pacific will be invited. About 30 participants half of which are Japanese, are expected to attend.

Organization:
The 2nd workshop is being planned under the chairmanship (convener) of Prof. Takahisa Nihira of the Ocean Research Institute, University of Tokyo. Dr. P. Wiebe of U.S.A and Dr D. Trayner of Australia are advisors. The local secretarial work will be done by Dr. Takaishi Sugimoto, Associate Professor of the Ocean Research Institute, University of Tokyo. These four persons constitute the planning group.

Date:
Monday 20 to 24 May 1985 (Tentative)

Locality:
The 2nd workshop on warm core rings will be held at the Ocean Research Institute, University of Tokyo. The hotel accommodation will be arranged in the Shinjuku area, not far from the Ocean Research Institute.

Weather:
Middle May in Tokyo is mild and pleasant.

Information:
All correspondence relating to the workshop should be addressed to:

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164 JAPAN

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J (Tokyo from overseas)

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3. Meeting of Technical Coordinators - The Australian Government has invited all WESTPAC Technical Coordinators to meet with the Chairman in Townsville at the Australian Institute of Marine Science for several days toward the end of January 1985. The purpose of the meeting is to assure coordination of activity within WESTPAC wherever possible, to review progress, consider outstanding needs and assist in the development of the Chairman's report for the meeting of the IJC Executive Council, scheduled for March 1985.

JECSS (Japan & East China Sea) Newsletter

Dr T Ichiyoe wishes to draw attention to the above Newsletter. New Series No. 1 was issued in October 1984. Copies may be obtained by writing to Dr Ichiyoe at the address below:

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

IOC ASSEMBLY

As Member States will be aware the IOC Assembly will be holding its thirteenth session in Paris from 12-28 March 1985. The Assembly will be immediately preceded by the 18th Executive Council Meeting.

Documentation for the Assembly has not yet been distributed but I have no doubt that major items for discussion will include:

* IOC Budget 1986/87
* Regional implementation of IOC global programs
* Structure and functions of regional subsidiary bodies
* Major elements of the IOC program eg OSLR, Marine Pollution, OSNLAR, TEMA etc
* Cooperation with other bodies

In short, the discussion at and decisions of the Assembly will have both immediate and long term implications for the structure and development of the WESTPAC group.

I will be attending the Assembly meeting and endeavouring as far as possible to generate further support for WESTPAC initiatives. In this regard, and with the assistance of Task Team Co-ordinators, I have passed to the IOC Secretariat my views on the draft IOC budget for 1986/87 as it relates to WESTPAC, for incorporation into the submission for consideration by the Assembly.

Given the importance of this session to the direction of WESTPAC, I encourage all WESTPAC National Coordinators to ensure that their delegates to the Assembly are fully briefed on WESTPAC activities and aspirations. Delegates should also be encouraged to support the proposals which will assist in program development of relevance to the region or which will direct additional resources towards WESTPAC.

In a similar vein, elections to the Executive Council will be held during the course of the assembly meeting. I am aware of two nominations to date from within WESTPAC. Professor Inocencio Ranzullo of the Philippines is seeking re-election as IOC Chairman and Mr Doug Keeley of Australia is seeking re-election to the Executive Council. I believe it is important that the views of WESTPAC members be heard in the Executive Council and, as such, encourage Member States to give serious consideration to these and other regional candidates who present themselves for election.
CONTRIBUTIONS

Those who can offer information about WESTPAC are invited and encouraged to make contributions at any time through the Chairman to the address given below:

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