



Announcement: Implementation of US GEOTRACES Sections

The US GEOTRACES Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) is beginning to develop implementation plans for the initial sections in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and invites community involvement in the process.

Workshops will be held this fall to draft implementation plans for these sections:

Atlantic 22 - 24 September, 2008; WHOI

Pacific 1 - 3 October, 2008; University of Southern California

In preparation for these workshops, the SSC solicits recommendations as well as expressions of interest from individuals who wish to participate in the development of the implementation plans.

The implementation plans will be reviewed by the SSC and by NSF program officers. Once approved, the plans will serve as the basis for proposals to NSF to support research on each section.

BACKGROUND

International workshops held in 2007 developed long-range plans for a global study of the marine biogeochemical cycles of trace elements and their isotopes. Reports from each workshop describe the scientific rationale for individual sections, and identify nations interested in taking the lead on specific sections. These reports are in the final phase of editing, and will be posted soon on the GEOTRACES web site <www.geotraces.org> under "Planning Workshops".

Taking into account both scientific objectives and readiness for implementation, the US GEOTRACES SSC selected sections in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans for the initial phase of the US field program. Approximate cruise tracks include a zonal section crossing the North Atlantic at about 35 degrees N, and an L-shaped set of sections in the Pacific (Alaska - Tahiti - Peru). Maps with approximate section locations, together with a copy of this announcement, can be found on the GEOTRACES web site under "National Activities >>> US".

PROCESS

Implementation plans for these sections will be developed over the remainder of 2008, with the drafting of the plans being the primary objective of the workshops identified above. In advance of the workshops, members of the community are encouraged to review the relevant sections of the basin planning workshop reports and contribute ideas to aid in the development of the implementation plans. In addition, individuals are asked to identify their level of interest in participating in the development of the implementation plans.

For example, would you be interested in:

a) Working on the Implementation Plan? Identify the capacity and area of expertise (see examples below) in which you can contribute. Indicate availability to attend the relevant working group meeting (see above) in late September/early October;



- b) Contributing ideas to be used by others for writing the implementation plan;
- c) Participating in the cruises; overseeing sampling for a group of trace elements and isotopes (TEIs); organizing individual PIs to participate in the analyses (identify the TEIs for which you are willing and able to take responsibility); or
- d) Participating in the shore-based analyses of samples distributed by the seagoing group (indicate analyses for which you can contribute).

Areas of expertise sought for developing the implementation plans include:

- 1) Ship track
- 2) Stations (approximate locations and spacing)
- 3) Shared infrastructure (CTD, rosette, vans, pumps, etc.)
- 4) Common measurements (nutrients, hydrography)
- 5) Data policy and management
- 6) Remote sensing
- 7) Related modeling
- 8) Coordinating analyses at sea and on shore
- 9) Major scientific objectives of each section

Responses can be sent to geotraces@ldeo.columbia.edu.

WORKING GROUPS and WORKSHOPS

Each implementation plan will be developed by a working group led by Co-Chairs and consisting of members of the SSC as well as members of the community. Working group members will be selected from among those who respond to this announcement. Co-Chairs of the Atlantic group are Ed Boyle eaboyle@mit.edu and Bill Jenkins wjenkins@whoi.edu. Co-Chairs of the Pacific working group are Jim Moffett jmoffett@usc.edu and Chris German cgerman@whoi.edu.

Implementation workshops will be open to participation by interested members of the US Chemical Oceanography community. Available funding will support full travel reimbursements for between 20 and 25 participants. If the number of interested persons exceeds this limit, then the SSC may elect to make partial travel reimbursements to permit a larger number of people to be involved.

Questions about the process can be directed to the US GEOTRACES Project Office geotraces@ldeo.columbia.edu or to one of the co-chairs.

TIMELINE

Timing of the first section cruise will depend on the outcome of the ongoing intercalibration effort, ship schedules, budget constraints, and other factors. Taking an optimistic view, the SSC anticipates that a cluster of proposals will be submitted to NSF for the OCE deadline on 15 February, 2009. These proposals will request support for a cruise sometime late in calendar year 2010. Depending on the success of the initial cruise, funding, and other factors, the SSC hopes to launch the second US GEOTRACES cruise in 2012, although there is substantial uncertainty



scheduling this far in advance. The long range goal for the US GEOTRACES field program is to mount 2 or 3 cruises every four years, and cruise plans will be developed in the context of a four-year rolling window.

- 1) The deadline to request travel support to attend either workshop is **8 August, 2008**, and
- 2) Please inform meeting organizers if you wish to attend, whether or not you wish to receive travel support.

Organizers for the Atlantic workshop (22-24 September, Woods Hole)

Ed Boyle [<eaboyle@mit.edu>](mailto:eaboyle@mit.edu)

Bill Jenkins [<wjenkins@whoi.edu>](mailto:wjenkins@whoi.edu)

Organizers for the Pacific workshop (1-3 October, Univ. Southern California)

Jim Moffett [<jmoffett@usc.edu>](mailto:jmoffett@usc.edu)

Chris German [<cgerman@whoi.edu>](mailto:cgerman@whoi.edu)

In all correspondence concerning these workshops, please copy the US GEOTRACES project office [<geotraces@ldeo.columbia.edu>](mailto:geotraces@ldeo.columbia.edu).