POGO-3 Summary Report

White Point in Nova Scotia, Canada, 27-29 November, 2001

Participants representing oceanographic institutions from some thirteen countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, South Africa, United Kingdom, and the United States of America) attended the meeting. Several international organizations, such as the Argo Programme, CLIVAR (CLImate VARiability and predictability), CoML (Census of Marine Life), COOP (the Coastal Ocean Observation Panel), IOC (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission), IOCCG (International Ocean Colour Co-ordinating Group), JCOMM (Joint Commission on Oceanography and Marine Meteorology), PICES (North Pacific Marine Science Organisation), and SCOR (Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research) were also represented. In all, there were over forty participants. The meeting was hosted by Dr. Mike Sinclair, Regional Director of Science at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography. Mr. Neil Bellefontaine, Regional Director General, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), welcomed the participants. Dr. Elisabeth Marsollier, Director General, Aquaculture and Oceans, and Dr. John Davis, former Assistant Deputy Minister for Science, DFO, both conveyed messages of welcome and support.

The meeting began with presentations related to some of the main themes of POGO: the Argo project (a fleet of bouys distributed on the world's oceans to collect oceanographic data), time-series observations, and biological observations. Dr. Dean Roemmich, Chairman of the Argo Science Team, provided updates on the programme. He suggested that POGO member institutions encourage the applications of the Argo data stream, which is freely available, as this was essential to ensure the long-term viability of the programme. Dr. Bob Weller reported on the findings of the first meeting of the Time Series Working Group. Prof. John Field summarized the recommendations from the POGO Biology Workshop, and Dr. Jesse Ausubel spoke of recent advances in the Census of Marine Life (CoML) and its links with POGO.

The group reviewed issues related to capacity building on the second day of the meeting. The POGO-IOC-SCOR Fellowship Programme, which was initiated at POGO-2, is now well established. The programme receives generous financial support from IOC and SCOR. So far, 13 Fellowships have been offered under this programme, which allows trainees from developing countries and economies in transition to travel to oceanographic laboratories in other countries for training on selected aspects of ocean observation. POGO also participated in, and co-sponsored, training programmes in South America (through the Austral Summer Institute organized by the University of Concepción and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution) and in India (in collaboration with the IOCCG). The members resolved to continue such efforts in the future. IOC and SCOR have also decided to continue their support of the Fellowship Programme. There were also discussions on the possibility of organizing a training cruise on board a Russian research vessel, in collaboration with the IOCCG. POGO also decided to continue its support of SEREAD (Scientific Educational Resources and Experience Associated with the Deployment of Argo drifting floats in the South Pacific Ocean).

As an impressive follow-up to the São Paulo Declaration of POGO, which called for increased observations in the Southern Hemisphere, the JAMSTSEC team proposed a circumpolar cruise on their research vessel Mirai, in the Southern Hemisphere, in partnership with other members of POGO. This was seen as an important step towards rectifying the imbalance in

observations between the northern and southern hemispheres. The proposal was received warmly by the POGO members, and there were many offers of help and collaboration. Prof. Ulloa from Chile spoke of their plans to enhance the observational capacity of Chile, and in particular, of their efforts to obtain a replacement for their ageing research vessel. Members were invited to explore possibilities for addressing the matter.

There were presentations at the meeting regarding CoML, COOP, CLIVAR, the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), IOC, IGOS, IOCCG, JCOMM, the Ocean Observing Panel for Climate (OOPC), and PICES, and their links to POGO. There were presentations from several institutions, including: AOML (Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory), BIO, Dalhousie University, the New Zealand National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), the Shirshov Institute of Oceanology (Russia), University of Cape Town (South Africa), and University of Concepción (Chile) regarding their on-going activities of relevance to POGO.

A principal focus of this meeting was biological observations. Following the recommendations of the biology workshop, the Partnership resolved to initiate a biological observation system to monitor phytoplankton dynamics, and to organize a workshop in South America to promote regional observations of marine biodiversity. The establishment of a network of open-ocean, fixed-point, time-series observations also received special attention. The activities of the Time Series Working Group are to continue, and the next meeting is to take place in Hawaii, in February 2002.