

STATUS OF SOLAS ACTIVITIES IN SPAIN

(Submitted by Emilio Fernández)

Current status of SOLAS planning

SOLAS planning within Spain is still in the early stages of development. A SOLAS working group integrated into the general structure of IGBP-Spain has been recently established.

Specific funding for SOLAS activities is not available at the National level. Instead, several ongoing individual research projects approach some of the general objectives defined in the SOLAS Science Plan.

Future plans for national activities

The recently nominated SOLAS-Spain working group will produce and deliver for discussion among the Spanish scientific community a draft document defining the specific SOLAS objectives addressed by our country as well as the main activities whereby Spain will contribute to SOLAS. A one day SOLAS workshop is planned to be held as part of an IGBP-Spain meeting, the date of which is still to be decided.

Opportunities for national participation in international SOLAS activities

Eight ongoing individual research programs including current SOLAS-related activities have been identified. Half of them lie within Focus 1, the rest within Focus 3.

Several individual research proposals containing SOLAS-type activities mainly focussed on the quantification air-sea CO₂ exchange and the contribution of the marine biota to this flux have been presented to the Spanish Ministry of Science and Technology for future funding throughout the period 2003-2005.

A series of research groups amalgamated into two major components: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) and Consortium of Universities (Univ. Las Palmas, Univ. Cádiz, Univ. Vigo) joined the SOLAS-Europe expression of interest to indentify research actions. Their main contributions were centred on a) the investigation of the linkage between DMS and climate, b) deposition of inorganic and organic compounds and marine productivity and respiration in oligotrophic environments, c) contribution of the marine biota to CO₂ and O₂ air-sea exchange and d) geographic and interannual variability of air-sea CO₂ fluxes.

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