

STATUS OF SOLAS ACTIVITIES IN THE USA

(Submitted by Rik Wanninkhof)

Current status of SOLAS planning

US SOLAS has a standing planning committee developing a US SOLAS program. Committee members and contact information can be found at www.aoml.noaa.gov/ocd/solas. A community meeting was held in May 2001, which was attended by over 80 scientists with research interests covering the spectrum of SOLAS research. A report of the deliberations was produced and can be found at the web site listed above. The focus areas of US SOLAS will be:

- Boundary-layer Physics
- Dynamics of long-lived climate relevant compounds:
- Dynamics of short-lived compounds:
- Atmospheric effects on marine biogeochemical processes

Future plans for national activities

US SOLAS will proceed along three avenues:

- Augmentation of Current Projects: This was successfully done during the US Southern Ocean iron fertilization study by facilitating dual-tracer gas exchange studies and investigations of surface water halocarbon changes in response to iron fertilization. Other areas of augmentation are the Sargasso Sea Ocean and Atmosphere Observatory, (S2O2), and the IOC trace metal cruise in the Pacific in 2002.
- Advocating Generic Science Projects: There is a strong need to improve infrastructure, instrument development, lab-based studies on basic geophysical parameters, and modeling expertise. US SOLAS will advocate work in this arena to US funding agencies
- Larger scale SOLAS projects: Team of investigators will be encouraged to submit medium sized proposals under the US SOLAS banner. Proposals that are in the planning stages include long-term air-sea exchange studies, regional high latitude studies and dust deposition studies.

Opportunities for national participation in international SOLAS activities

US SOLAS planning team members have endorsed proposals to collaborate in international SOLAS studies to share unique expertise that resides in the US science community. To date the proposals include direct flux measurements in the Canadian SOLAS Labrador Sea study and deliberate dual tracer work in the New Zealand iron fertilization study.

National contact person and address of the national website if available

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