

U.S. GEOTRACES Arctic Ocean planning workshop announcement

We are pleased to announce a U.S. GEOTRACES Arctic Ocean planning workshop to be held 29 September - 2 October, 2010. GEOTRACES is an international study of the marine biogeochemical cycles of trace elements and their isotopes, including the suite of micronutrients that are essential for marine ecosystems. The Arctic workshop is a timely complement to the growing OCB interest in the Arctic Ocean, as reflected by the Arctic Ocean theme to be highlighted at this year's OCB summer workshop.

Since the inception of the international GEOTRACES Program, a strong interest has developed in carrying out GEOTRACES-related activities in the Arctic Ocean. The Arctic Ocean is at the epi-center of climate change, and changes there will ultimately be felt globally. It constitutes less than 3 % of the World Ocean area and about 1% of the volume, but it is unique in several ways. About 10% of the global river run-off is delivered to the Arctic Ocean and about 30% of the world's soil carbon is estimated to be stored in northern ecosystems within the Arctic catchment area. Effects due to a warming climate may have profound impact on the Arctic resulting in increased export of organic carbon and sediments to the Arctic Ocean. Arctic shelves constitute about 25% of the World Ocean shelf area and are among the shallowest in the world acting as an important regulator of the river export of organic carbon and TEIs to the central Arctic Ocean.

This interest has already led to several discussions and deliberations, including an international GEOTRACES Arctic Ocean planning meeting held in Delmenhorst Germany in June 2009 (see http://www.geotraces.org/documents/ArcticWorkshopReportNov09B_000.pdf for more information) which recognized the need for international collaboration to make future GEOTRACES efforts viable in this region.

In order to focus these discussions and to generate an action plan for future GEOTRACES activities between US investigators and international collaborators, a US Arctic GEOTRACES Planning Workshop will take place from Sept 29 to Oct 1, 2010 in Washington DC.

We invite:

- Initial expressions of interest in participating in this workshop,
- Comments on the program structure,
- Suggestions for potential topics for talks and break-out sessions, as well as for speakers, and
- Suggestions about additional sources of funding.

Please send initial expressions of interest as well as comments to:

dkadko@rsmas.miami.edu

Workshop Program

29 Sept

AM The Arctic Ocean and GEOTRACES: key processes and sites, existing relevant US and international programs and activities (plenary session)

PM Tracers in the Arctic: key parameters, advocacy talks (plenary session)

30 Sept

AM Break-out sessions: Discussion on topics, organization

PM Break-out sessions: meetings and plenary discussion

1 Oct

AM Break-out sessions: meetings and report drafting

PM Synthesis and planning for future action (plenary discussion)

The Organizing Committee:

David Kadko, Chair, RSMAS

Peter Schlosser, LDEO

William Smethie, LDEO

Gregory Cutter, ODU

William Landing, FSU

Chris Measures. UH

Funding and Travel Support

It is anticipated that limited travel support will be available and that this support will be distributed as a fixed subsidy, the amount of which will depend on pending requests