

Monitoring climate change impacts establishing a Southern Ocean Sentinel program

20-24 April 2009

CCAMLR Headquarters, Hobart, Tasmania

This 5 day workshop will provide an interdisciplinary forum for addressing important issues in measuring, assessing and providing early-warning detection of climate change impacts on Southern Ocean ecosystems and biodiversity. A key focus will be to promote national and international collaboration.

Antarctica and the Southern Ocean are likely to be the only places on Earth to provide unambiguous early warning signals of the impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems. Measuring the rates of change arising from climate change in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean will be important for identifying the most plausible climate change scenario reported by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and for triggering actions with respect to climate change.

Aim

The aim of the symposium is to establish a benchmark for future research and progressing the flow of marine focused climate change research into policy development and decision making by:

- collating our understanding of the responses of southern marine ecosystems to climate change;
- reviewing field and remote methods that could be used to measure change in these systems;
- identifying a plan of work for developing a program to measure and assess the magnitudes and rates of change in Southern Ocean marine ecosystems.

Outputs

A report will detail what is needed to promote, participate and influence the development of an integrated Southern Ocean Sentinel program, including coordination within research institutions, across Australian agencies and, importantly, links with international institutions and initiatives.

Program

Keynote presentations will provide the basis for discussions. Workshops will consider the scientific issues in developing a Southern Ocean Sentinel program. Open forums will provide an opportunity for presentations and discussion on general scientific, policy, environmental and public issues.

Day	Theme	Keynote	Scientific Workshops	Open Forum
1	Welcome and Introduction	PM		
2	Change in Antarctic and Southern Ocean marine ecosystems – past, present and future	AM	PM	PM
3	Measuring change – populations, species and ecosystems	AM	PM	PM
4	Requirements in designing a long-term field program to detect and estimate rates of change	AM	PM	PM
5	Synthesis			AM

Enquiries and further information: please email sos@aad.gov.au

Supported by:

