

International Association for Biological Oceanography (IABO)

8th General Assembly, Cairns, Australia 24 August 2005

Present

A. Pierrot (President), M. J. Costello (General Secretary), J. F. Grassle (Past President), Charles Griffiths (Executive Committee Member), R. O'Dor, D. Krause, D. Costa, A.K. Armah, A. Rowden, M. Angel.

Apologies: J. Matthews (Past General Secretary).

Role

1. The role of IABO was discussed in relation to IAPSO, Census of Marine Life (CoML), and other global activities in biological oceanography. The long history, and well-founded position of IABO within the international science organizations (IUBS, ICSU) were strengths.
2. Agreed that the concept of IABO was right, but that more effort was required of members if they wished to have more benefits. There was a need for coordination of biological oceanography. As agreed at the last General Assembly, the association with CoML, the most active global programme in this area, should be increased. CoML provides the visibility, activity, coordination, and networking that helps fulfill the mandate of IABO.
3. CoML would officially end in the year 2010. However, many aspects of it must continue, including both the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (www.iobis.org) and field explorations of marine biodiversity. It was agreed that IABO should plan to assist the coordination of such activities beyond 2010.
4. IABO should continue its role in obtaining sponsorship for scientists from developing countries to attend international symposia. Through the support of SCOR and NSF, it had part-funded the attendance of scientists from India, Africa and South America to the Dynamic Planet conference.

Membership

5. To increase communication, it was agreed that having individual members of IABO would help communication. The Executive Committee would approve such members. Such members would not have formal voting rights but be part of an email network for the exchange of information and news concerning biological oceanography. The Executive Committee was asked to investigate the implementation of this.
6. It was agreed that it remained valuable to have Country representatives nominated by their appropriate national organizations. The Executive Committee should contact invite these organizations to renew their representation.
7. A covering letter that summarized what IABO is should be prepared by the Executive Committee.
8. There remained a position vacant on the Executive Committee. The committee should explore filling it with somebody based in the western Pacific region.
9. The Executive Committee should consider optional membership fees payable by individual members and countries. While these would be voluntary and

modest, they should at least cover the costs of managing the IABO website and associated costs.

10. IABO members would be circulated with the CoML newsletter.

Meetings

11. IABO should sponsor more scientific events (e.g. meetings, symposia) in biological oceanography. Individual members, persons involved in CoML, could contact the President and/or General Secretary by email with requests. These events would thus have recognition of IABO and would use its logo in any associated electronic or paper publications and materials. IABO would not provide any funding, but such recognition may help convenors obtain sponsorship. Meetings could be national or international. Once IABO has established a membership, it would ask such event organizers to provide a discounted registration fee for IABO members. Persons could join IABO through email correspondence.
12. It was agreed to host an IABO symposium in association with IAPSO and IUGG in Perugia, Italy in 2007. The President would lead organization of this meeting.
13. IABO could hold its next General Assembly at any event co-sponsored by IABO where the Executive Committee considered sufficient members would be present. The ASLO (Hawaii, February 2006) and deep-sea meetings should be considered.

Website and poster

14. IABO thanked the generosity of the Scottish Association for Marine Sciences for now managing the IABO website.
 15. The kind offer of the President to prepare a poster promoting IABO that could be circulated electronically, printed out by members, and enlarged for display at meetings, was accepted.
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