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Paris, 20 November 2006

IOC Circular Letter No 2215
(English, French, Spanish, Russian)

To: IOC Member States
National Co-ordinators for IODE

cc: Directors of WDCs (Oceanography, Marine Geology & Geophysics), NODCs & DNAs
Chairman of the Committee on IODE
Chairmen of the Subsidiary Bodies of the Committee on IODE
Permanent Delegations/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
President and Members IAMSLIC

Subject: NOMINATION OF IODE NATIONAL COORDINATORS FOR MARINE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

During its Seventh Session, the IODE Group of Experts on Marine Information Management (GE-MIM-VII, Paris, 23-25 October 2002) formulated Recommendation MIM-VII.1. In this recommendation the Group stressed the need for integrated data and information services and products to respond to the complex needs of the marine science community. The Group noted with concern the lack of representation of marine information management expertise in the sessions of the IODE Committee. Accordingly, the GE-MIM recommended the nomination of IODE National Coordinators for Marine Information Management and IODE National Coordinators for Data Management, replacing the existing IODE National Coordinators. The Recommendation was subsequently adopted by IODE-XVII (Paris, 3-7 March 2003) and Resolution XXII-7 was adopted by IOC-XXII (Paris, 24 June – 2 July 2003).
The IODE Committee, during its Eighteenth Session (Ostend, Belgium, 26-30 April 2005) welcomed the nomination of 29 IODE National Coordinators for Marine Information Management and called on Member States that had not yet nominated such an expert, to do so as soon as possible. As a further follow-up the IODE Officers requested the Chair GE-MIM to more clearly define the role of the National Coordinators for Marine Information (see attachment).

If your country has not done so (the list of IODE National Coordinators for Marine Information Management is available on the IODE web site www.iode.org under “Information Centres”) then we would appreciate if you could nominate your IODE National Coordinator for Marine Information Management and provide us with his/her name and address.

This person should be a librarian with career experience in working in marine libraries or marine information centres. The libraries may cover a range of subject areas such as oceanography, fisheries, or other marine research fields, and may be university libraries or other government research libraries. It is expected that this person will play an important role in liaising between the IODE and marine librarians in their country.

In order to maintain our records correctly we would also appreciate if you could inform us of the name and contact information of your IODE National Coordinator for Data Management (current information available from the IODE web site (www.iode.org) under “Data Centres”).

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation I remain, yours sincerely,

Patricio BERNAL
Executive Secretary IOC
Assistant Director-General of UNESCO
Annex to CL 2215

Role of National Coordinators for Marine Information Management (MIM)

1. Act as a point of contact for marine librarians and marine information managers in their country, in order to liaise with the IODE community (via the GE-MIM) on matters of importance to MIM;
2. Act as a communicator of IOC activities and initiatives to the national MIM community and beyond;
3. Provide assistance and support to the GE-MIM on project activities at the national or international level;
4. Establish a national network of marine libraries/marine information centres for their country or participate in existing related networks;
5. Highlight and identify issues and participate in discussions of national importance relating to MIM with the GE-MIM and the national MIM community (such as capacity building and professional standards, technological innovations and policy, communications and collaboration, national and international MIM resources);
6. Provide regular national reports (format/style to be further considered) to the GE-MIM on MIM activities and issues;
7. Liaise, where possible, with the IODE National Coordinator for Data Management on matters relevant to both marine data and information management.