

Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research

leading organization

SCOR is the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research, the leading non-governmental organization for the promotion and coordination of international oceanographic activities.

established

SCOR was established by the International Council for Science in 1957 as its first interdisciplinary body.

focus

SCOR science activities focus on promoting international cooperation in planning and conducting oceanographic research, and solving methodological and conceptual problems that hinder research.

sponsors

SCOR sponsors working groups that address topics that range from deep-ocean mixing to the use of ecosystem indicators in fisheries management and from new measurements technologies to transport of substances in marine sediments. SCOR working groups are often joint efforts with other organizations.

SCOR has sponsored 121 working groups since 1960. Working groups often document their work in peer-reviewed publications or books.

co-workers

SCOR is presently working with the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) and other co-sponsors to launch the Surface Ocean - Lower Atmosphere Study (SOLAS) and to define the next generation of research on biological and chemical aspects of the ocean in relation to global change, through the Ocean Biogeochemistry and Ecosystems Analysis project.

ocean's role

SCOR recognizes that large-scale ocean research projects are vital to understanding the ocean's role in Earth systems. Beginning with the International Indian Ocean Expedition in the early 1960s, SCOR has been instrumental in the planning and coordinating such large-scale ocean research projects. SCOR played a major role in fostering the development of the Joint Global Ocean Flux Study (JGOFS) and the Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics (GLOBEC) project. More recently, SCOR and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO have developed a new international program—Global Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms (GEOHAB)—with a focus on understanding the ecological and oceanographic conditions that initiate harmful algal blooms and promote their development.

promotes

SCOR promotes the enhancement of scientific capacity in developing countries and those with economies in transition by ensuring that every SCOR working group and other activity includes scientists from such countries. SCOR has administered a grant from the U.S. National Science Foundation since 1984 to provide travel support to scientists from such countries to attend scientific meetings and participates with the Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans and IOC in supporting a program of visiting fellowships for oceanographic observations.

affiliated

SCOR is affiliated with five related marine science projects/programs: Census of Marine Life (CoML), International Antarctic Zone (iAnZone) Program, International Marine Global Change Study (IMAGES), International Ocean Colour Coordinating Group (IOCCG), and International RIDGE Studies (InterRidge). The affiliation process, started in 1995, may increase a program's international visibility and access to scientists in nations having national SCOR committees, as well as providing the benefit of SCOR advice on program committees and activities.

activities

SCOR and IOC have co-sponsored activities related to the ocean's role in the global carbon cycle since 1979, when the first Committee on Climate Change and the Ocean was formed with Roger Revelle as its chairman. Presently, SCOR and IOC sponsor the Advisory Panel on Ocean Carbon Dioxide. SCOR is also working with IOC and other organizations to plan activities related to ocean carbon observations and the science of ocean carbon sequestration.

