



16 June 2009

Professor Rainer Zahn
Institució Catalana de Recerca i Estudis Avançats, ICREA
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Departament de Geologia
Edifici Cn – Campus UAB
E-08193 Bellaterra (Cerdanyola), Spain

Dear Rainer:

Thank you for the copy of the proposal you submitted to SCOR seeking designation of a Working Group tasked with focusing on the “Climatic Importance of the Greater Agulhas System”. There is little doubt that the Agulhas and related currents play a key role in modulating interocean exchange between the Atlantic and Indo-Pacific Oceans, and very likely as a prime driver of climate change over a wide spectrum of timescales. Yet the Greater Agulhas System is notably understudied and concerted large-scale efforts to systematically investigate this region, as you note, are just now getting underway. Your proposal to designate a Working Group to link the relevant investigators working in the Agulhas system is both timely and important.

I am pleased to inform you that the IMAGES Program (International Marine Global Change Study) is highly enthusiastic about your proposal to SCOR and agrees to act as a co-sponsor of your initiative. This co-sponsorship would ideally include support from IMAGES for the participation of a designated representative or liaison that serves to link the Agulhas Working Group and the IMAGES community.

I trust that SCOR will act in a positive way with regards to your proposal to create a Working Group and look forward to the scientific opportunities that will arise as a result of our future interactions.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Larry C. Peterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Larry C. Peterson
Professor, Marine Geology & Geophysics
Chair, IMAGES Executive Committee