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To: National Committees for SCOR, Nominated Members of SCOR, SCOR Executive Committee, Chairs of SCOR Subsidiary Bodies, Affiliated Organizations, Corresponding Organizations, Interested International Organizations

From: Ed Urban, Executive Director

**2011 SCOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF WORKING GROUP PROPOSALS**

Seven working group proposals that have been submitted to the SCOR Secretariat for consideration at the 2011 SCOR Executive Committee Meeting are available on the SCOR Web site at <http://www.scor-int.org/2011EC/2011EC.htm>. The Executive Committee will be very grateful for comments from SCOR National Committees, individuals, and interested organizations to assist in the review of these proposals. This is, in fact, one of the most important ways in which SCOR's National Committees and cooperating organizations can provide input to SCOR on scientific priorities.

Comments would be particularly useful in relation to the following questions:

- Is the proposal timely?
- Is the topic a priority for ocean science and for SCOR?
- Is a SCOR Working Group a good mechanism to advance this topic?
- Are the terms of reference appropriate?
- Are the membership suggestions appropriate? (Please note that individuals listed as potential members may not have been contacted yet and that membership is not final until approval by the SCOR Executive Committee.)
- How would you rank the priority of SCOR funding for these proposals? Please rank them in order of your preference. SCOR can probably fund two new working groups starting in 2012, but might be able to arrange other funding for other proposed groups. It would be particularly useful to receive your input on (1) which two (if any) of the groups should be funded by SCOR even if no external funds can be arranged, (2) which proposals are acceptable if external funding can be arranged for them, and (3) which proposals are not acceptable at this time for SCOR funding. (In the latter case,

please specify what changes would be required to make the proposals acceptable for funding.)

Additional membership nominations from SCOR National Committees are welcome. This is an opportunity to involve scientists from your country in SCOR working group activities. Due to financial limitations, however, working groups may not have more than 10 Full Members (including the chair(s)), so not everyone who is nominated can be selected as a Full Member. Some individuals may be invited to serve on working groups as Associate Members, but their travel funds must come from sources other than SCOR. The primary consideration for selection as a member of a SCOR working group is the scientific expertise of the individual. Another important criterion is SCOR's aim to ensure an appropriate international representation in all of its groups. A frequent complaint of national SCOR committees in recent years is that there are not enough females proposed or that the membership is concentrated in Europe and North America. A membership that is not properly balanced can, at best, cause an approved proposal to be referred back to the proponent for adjustments in the membership and, at worst, may cause the proposal to be rejected.

Please send your comments on these proposals to me, by e-mail if possible, before **1 August**, so that I can forward them to the appropriate Executive Committee member responsible for leading the discussion of each proposal. Finally, please consider whether financial support might be arranged from your country or organization for any of these groups. SCOR funding for working group activities is limited, so we depend on external funding to increase the number of working groups and the variety of topics covered. Even if external funding is certain, proposals will be evaluated on the basis of scientific merit, relevance to SCOR, and appropriateness of the proposed terms of reference and membership.

Thank you in advance for your assistance!