



The Oceanographic Society of Japan

Mainichi Academic Forum Inc.
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Dr. Ed Urban
Executive Officer
Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research
College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment
Robinson Hall
University of Delaware
Newark, DE 19716 USA

Subject: The Oceanographic Society of Japan support for an SCOR Working Group entitled “Towards harmonization of global oceanic nutrient data”

Dear Ed:

I am writing in support of the proposal submitted for review by SCOR this month entitled “Towards harmonization of global oceanic nutrient data”.

The Oceanographic Society of Japan (JOS) was founded in 1941 to disseminate oceanographic knowledge and its application through research and education, to publish scientific journals, to hold scientific meetings and to promote communication among oceanographers. The Oceanographic Society of Japan is a non-profit organization.

Since 1965 there have been a number of inter-laboratory comparison studies of various magnitudes to investigate the comparability of nutrient analyses between laboratories. These were led first by UNESCO in the 1960s, with subsequent studies by ICES, NOAA/NRC, Quality Assurance of Information for Marine Environmental Monitoring in Europe (QUASIMEME), and the latest by the Meteorological Research Institute, Japan (MRI) in the 2000s. Recently the updated nutrient analytical manual based on best practices has been published (Hydes, D. J. et al. [2010]; Determination of dissolved

nutrients (N, P, SI) in seawater with high precision and inter-comparability using gas-segmented continuous flow analyzers, In: The GO-SHIP Repeat Hydrography Manual: A Collection of Expert Reports and Guidelines, IOCCP Report Number 14, ICPO Publication Series Number 134). These initiatives over several decades have all been aimed at improving nutrient analysis and comparability.

Recent efforts led by members of JOS in collaboration with scientists in many countries to improve nutrient analysis and comparability now call for further international collaboration through SCOR and a Working Group to establish the mechanisms necessary to harmonize the quality of oceanic nutrient data, using globally accepted reference materials and certified reference materials.

I highly recommend the establishment of a SCOR Working Group to determine the mechanisms required to harmonize the quality of oceanic nutrient data, using globally accepted reference materials or certified reference materials as proposed. I have no doubt that the activity of such a Working Group will contribute to resolving environmental problems that we are now confronting worldwide, such as eutrophication and ocean acidification. Thank you for considering my views and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Uematsu", is written over a light green rectangular background.

Mitsuo Uematsu

President

The Oceanographic Society of Japan