

Update on JGOFS Data and Information Management (May 2003)

by Bernard Avril (JGOFS IPO)

Over the last year, the JGOFS Data Management Task Team (DMTT) has undertaken a number of activities with the assistance of the International Project Office (IPO). Some of the most important are highlighted in this update on the task of locating, organizing and preserving the vast array of data collected by JGOFS investigators from many nations over more than a decade.

Final Data Product

The ultimate purpose of the DMTT is to provide scientists with a comprehensive biogeochemical data set in a common file and format for use not only in current modelling and synthesis activities, but also in future global change studies. The task team is currently finalizing the compilation of major JGOFS data contributions.

The *Pangaea* initiative for JGOFS at the World Data Centre for Marine Environmental Sciences (WDC-MARE) is continuing (see, *USJN* 11(4), 18-19). Its goal is full accessibility and long-term archiving of all JGOFS data and metadata through the WDC system. Yet the pace has been slow because of the lack of basic funding. Members of the *Pangaea* team met last January in Bremen, Germany, with JGOFS representatives to assess the *Pangaea* initiative with regard to production of the JGOFS master data set (see http://www.uib.no/jgofs/Publications/other_pub/JGOFS-PANGAEA_Bremen2003.pdf).

The work plan developed in Bremen was discussed further at a DMTT meeting in mid March, held at the British Oceanographic Data Centre (BODC) in Bidston, UK. Attending the meeting were DMTT chairwoman Margarita Conkright; Marie-Paule Torre of the JGOFS-France/Processus Biogéochimiques dans l'Océan et Flux (PROOF) Data Management Office; Joachim Herrmann of the German JGOFS Data Management Office; Jaswant Sarupria of the Indian National Oceanographic Data Centre; Roy Lowry of the BOFS Data Management Office / BODC, UK, ; Cynthia Chandler of the U.S. JGOFS Data Management Office; GSWG chairman Reiner Schlitzer, and Bernard Avril of the JGOFS IPO.

DMTT members agreed on an overall plan for final JGOFS data products with the following components:

- Each JGOFS contributing country with DMTT representation will finalize its own data products before March 31, preferably as CD-ROMs or on an ftp site.
- The DMTT, with help from the JGOFS IPO, will organize the production of an international data DVD, to be titled "International JGOFS Data Collection, 1988-2000. Volume 1: discrete datasets." This DVD will be distributed during the JGOFS Open Science Conference, to be held in Washington, D.C., in May.
- This DVD will include an integral copy of all JGOFS CD-ROMs and data products available by March 31. The whole product will include in particular 10 contributions never previously released in CD-ROMs. For already published products, reproduction agreements have been secured or are being sought. The DMTT will hold the copyright for this DVD product, which will be structured by countries, projects and cruises as much as possible. The U.S. NODC has agreed to organise the production of the master copy of the DVD and 1,000 copies, with the financial help of the JGOFS IPO.
- The DMTT supports the plan of the *Pangaea* team to publish a second volume in 2004 or 2005, to be titled "International JGOFS Data Collection. Volume 2: integrated datasets." All data sets in this volume should be accessible in a common file and data format through the *Pangaea* user and visualization interface and be organised by project, cruise and data set for each parameter. The DMTT and IPO will continue to work with the *Pangaea* team until JGOFS comes to an end in December.