

Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO)

Cruise Information Database & POGO Secretariat Activities

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Project Summary

The project has two parts: Maintenance and development of the International Cruise Information Database and support of the activities of the Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO), of which National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is a member from the USA.

Part 1: Cruise Information Database

The members of the Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO) are operating a fleet of ocean-going research vessels to undertake scientific cruises in the world's oceans. They recognised the need to improve on information sharing on planned, current and past cruises and on details of ocean-going research vessels to enhance awareness of opportunities, and to improve cost-effectiveness of cruises. Therefore POGO together with Census of Marine Life (CoML) undertook the initiative to set-up an International Cruise Information Database and related website from the perspective of international programmes and initiatives. For co-funding of the initiative grants were acquired from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The International Research Vessel Cruise Programmes database provides the facility to search and present an increasing number of planned cruises. The compilation of this database is coordinated by the British Oceanographic Data Centre (BODC). A survey format has been defined, which forms the basis of the database. Users can retrieve information from the database using the versatile User Interface, which supports combined geographical – alpha numerical searching. At regular intervals new entries are added to the Cruise Programme database. These now cover cruise inputs for 17 countries. The database is being progressively populated with new entries from a growing number of operators. BODC as manager of this database is approaching all operators who are managing ocean-going research vessels. At the same time qualifying operators are invited to contact BODC by e-mail themselves, so that their entries will be included. The website of the data base, <http://www.pogo-oceancruises.org/> has been operational since the end of 2007.

Part 2. Support of the activities of the POGO Secretariat

The Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO, <http://ocean-partners.org>) was founded in 1999 as a consortium of the major oceanographic institutions around the world, represented by their Directors. As stated at the founding of POGO, the objective of POGO is to make a major contribution to the attainment of sustained *in situ* observations of the global ocean

that meet the requirements of international research and operational programs. As a means of attaining this objective, POGO:

- Initiates key actions to enable effective coordination, integration, and implementation of international ocean observing strategies;
- Establishes collective agreements among institutions to promote timely developments in ocean science;
- Develops and promotes coordinated views of ocean institutions concerning ocean observation and science to governments, international bodies, and others;
- Facilitates linkages between oceanographic research and operational institutions in relation to their goals, plans, and programs;
- Undertakes capacity building;
- Promotes sharing of facilities and infrastructure;
- Encourages interdisciplinary use of observing infrastructure;
- Conducts public outreach.

POGO provides a forum for Members to meet with their peers, and with senior officials of partner organisations, to discuss issues of mutual concern. It also serves as a credible voice for the marine science community, through its leadership role in the informal grouping Oceans United (<http://www.oceans-united.org>), and as an advocating body for the establishment of an integrated, global ocean observing system. The activities supported by NOAA include:

- Execution of the annual meetings of POGO;
- Selection process for the Visiting Fellowship and Professorship programmes; and
- Communication with the POGO community (newsletter and websites).