



COMNAP UPDATE: 31 July 2018

Celebrating the 30th anniversary of COMNAP

COMNAP Annual General Meeting (AGM) XXX (2018) & Symposium

The 30th COMNAP AGM, hosted by Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Center for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, and the COMNAP Symposium both proved to be resounding successes. So, thanks to Uwe Nixdorf, Eberhard Kohlberg, and the local team for all their work to organize these two events...and thanks to everyone that participated.

The draft of the AGM Final Report was made available for comments and correction to everyone who attended the AGM. Comments received to date have been incorporated. The AGM draft Final Report can now be viewed by anyone with a username and password on the Member's Only area of the COMNAP website. All AGM Meeting Papers and presentations are now archived in the Member's Only area, in the area entitled "Past COMNAP Annual General Meetings (AGMs)".

The Proceedings of the COMNAP Symposium "*Facilitation of Internationally Collaborative Antarctic Science*" held on 14 June 2018 are being prepared. Those who presented oral presentations are asked to send their draft papers to the Executive Secretary by 15 August. Those who presented posters will have their submitted poster abstract included in the publication. Proceedings publication date is October 2018.

COMNAP Executive Committee (EXCOM) Meeting 2018

The COMNAP EXCOM will meet together at the US National Science Foundation Office of Polar Programs, hosted by COMNAP Chair, Kelly Falkner. The meeting will take place in Alexandria, Virginia, USA, from 28–29 August, 2018. The proposed agenda can be viewed on the COMNAP Member's Only webpage. If you wish to discuss any of the proposed agenda items, share your views and ideas, please contact any of the EXCOM Members as soon as possible.

COMNAP Asset Tracking System (CATS)

For all national Antarctic programs contracting or operating a vessel or vessels in the Antarctic Treaty Area: a **reminder** that we are using the CATS vessel reporting system beginning 1 September 2018 (and not the Ship Position Reporting System (SPRS)). So, if you have a vessel going south this season, ensure your vessel is reporting through the CATS: contact Robb Clifton (robb.clifton@aad.gov.au) to confirm or to set-up the reporting, ASAP. The CATS can also include position information on aircraft.

Some deadlines approaching...

For MNAPs: MNAP informal survey, on-line via email link sent, by 10 August 2018

For AFIM points of contact: Update AFIM information, on-line via data dashboard, by 15 August

For Symposium presenters: Submit your articles/extended abstracts, by 15 August

IMPORTANT Safety Reminder

With two fires causing significant destruction to two facilities in the Antarctic in the past month, now is the best time to remind your winter-over teams of the dangers associated with fire at their Antarctic stations. Fortunately, no one was hurt at the two fires mentioned—all personnel are safe and well. This is a good time to remind your teams of the procedures you all have in place as to what to do in the event of a fire on your stations, how to keep safe, and where your emergency shelter/emergency supplies are in case an evacuation of the station is required. KEEP SAFE—review your station fire emergency procedures and plans. Take the time right now to talk with your winter-over teams about keeping vigilant in regards to fire prevention and the particular dangers associated with fires in the Antarctic.

COMMUNITY NEWS

From the Brazilian Antarctic Program (PROANTAR)

The XXIX Reunião de Administradores de Programas Antárticos Latino-Americanos (RAPAL) Meeting will take place in the Brasil 21 Complex, Brasília, from 3–6 September, 2018. Further information on the meeting, please contact rapal@marinha.mil.br or see: <https://www.marinha.mil.br/secirm/rapal>.

From the Spanish Polar Committee (CPE-MINECO)

The IX Spanish Symposium on Polar Studies be held in Madrid, Spain, from Wednesday 5 to Friday 7 September 2018. These Symposia have been held since the beginning of Spanish Antarctic research, three decades ago, and are promoted by the Spanish National Committee of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (CN-SCAR). On this occasion, the Symposium is organized by the CN-SCAR together with the Spanish Research Council, the Geological Survey of Spain and the Spanish Polar Research Program of the R&D National Plan, with the collaboration of the National Museum of Natural Sciences and the support of the COMNAP Member CPE-MINECO. The aim of the Symposium is to assemble the entire Spanish scientific community making research on polar regions in order to present and analyse the progress and existing perspectives, with the participation of foreign scientists too. All the researchers developing studies within any discipline in Antarctica and/or the Arctic are invited to participate in the Symposium, but also scientists from other fields who are interested in approaching polar research. The participation of early career researchers is especially encouraged, with APECS-Spain also contributing to the organization and development of the Symposium. Further information: <http://ixsimposiopolar.igme.es>

The 2018 Tinker-Muse Prize for Science and Policy in Antarctica

The 2018 Tinker-Muse Prize for Science and Policy in Antarctica was awarded to Michael Meredith, leader of the Polar Oceans programme at the British Antarctic Survey, he was a co-founder and inaugural co-Chair of the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS). The prize is awarded in recognition of his outstanding interdisciplinary and international leadership in the quest to understand the role of the Southern Oceans in controlling regional and global climate via changes in ocean circulation. His research focus aims to reduce uncertainty in scientific predictions for a future world, and to provide policy makers with science-based assessments of how these issues will affect the everyday lives of people in decades to come. In accepting the award he said, “...Antarctic research plays a critically important role in understanding our changing world. I am extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to collaborate with fantastic colleagues within British Antarctic Survey and across the international polar sciences community. This award is an endorsement of our collective research effort...”.

Information on new publication

Contaminant Behaviour in Freezing Soils and Permafrost: Fate, Transport, and Transformation is a legacy project out of Canada that encapsulates 40 years of laboratory and site investigation work into the behaviour of contaminants in freezing soils and permafrost. It gives engineers and geoscientists access to the data and analytical tools required to assess the behaviour of contaminants in seasonally frozen soils and permafrost in a variety of settings. For further information see: <http://www.permafrost.ca/>.

Year of Polar Prediction (YOPP) “Polar Prediction Matters” platform

In order to strengthen the dialogue between polar forecast providers and users, YOPP together with partners have launched the Polar Prediction Matters dialogue platform at <https://blogs.helmholtz.de/polarpredictionmatters/>. The platform’s specific aim is to foster the exchange between information users and experts on polar prediction. For more information on YOPP and the Special Observing Periods for the Antarctic and the Arctic, see the YOPP presentation to the COMNAP AGM XXX (2018) here: [YOPP Presentation at COMNAP AGM XXX \(2018\)](#).

International Ice Charting Working Group (IICWG)

The draft final report from the 18th Meeting of the IICWG is now available, together with the presentations, posters and photos from the IICWG website: <http://nsidc.org/noaa/iicwg/>. Also, the IICWG would like to receive information (including reports or papers) on the status of method developments for retrieving new sea ice parameters potentially to be included in sea ice maps. Those parameters include: ice thickness / range of ice thickness, snow depth, ice drift and deformation, percent of ridged ice, net ice volume, ice compression and tensile strength, ice pressure, stage of sea ice melting / rotten ice, ice age, ice albedo, and, for all parameters, estimation of bias, errors, uncertainties. The 19th Meeting of the IICWG will be held 24–28 September, 2018, in Helsinki, Finland. Mika Kalakoski (mika.kalakoski@fmi.fi) will be the COMNAP representative to that meeting.

COMNAP Facilities List & Vessels List

Looking for easy access to the COMNAP Facilities List?

Easy, public access is by way of the COMNAP website at: www.comnap.aq/Members/SitePages/Home.aspx

If you want the information in a format that can be used in a GIS, then you can also go directly to the US Polar Geospatial Center's "GitHub" where a range of Antarctic-related data is made publicly available:

<https://github.com/PolarGeospatialCenter/comnap-antarctic-facilities>

<https://github.com/PolarGeospatialCenter/comnap-antarctic-vessels>

*If you have any national Antarctic program news
or other information
you would like included in the next COMNAP Update
send it to sec@comnap.aq by 1 October 2018.*