



# COMNAP UPDATE: December 2018

Celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of COMNAP

## **COMNAP Antarctic Search and Rescue (SAR) Workshop IV, 14–17 May 2019**

### **Co-hosted by Antarctica New Zealand and RCCNZ/Maritime New Zealand**

Plans are well-advanced for the COMNAP Antarctic SAR Workshop IV that will be held in New Zealand from 14–17 May 2019. The First Announcement, proposed Agenda, Programme and Schedule are all available from the workshop webpage at: [www.comnap.aq/SitePages/SARWorkshop2019.aspx](http://www.comnap.aq/SitePages/SARWorkshop2019.aspx). National Antarctic Programs are invited to send titles of presentations for consideration for inclusion in session 5 “Key Messages from National Antarctic Programs” to Simon Trotter [s.trotter@antarcticanz.govt.nz](mailto:s.trotter@antarcticanz.govt.nz) by 1 February 2019. Registration for the SAR Workshop will open in February 2019. Any questions, or for additional information, contact Simon, or Greg Johnston ([greg.johnston@maritimenz.govt.nz](mailto:greg.johnston@maritimenz.govt.nz)) or [sec@comnap.aq](mailto:sec@comnap.aq).

## **COMNAP AGM XXXI (2019), Plovdiv, Bulgaria, 29–31 July 2019**

### **Local Organising Committee (LOC) Head: Dragomir Mateev, Bulgarian Antarctic Institute**

Plans are underway for the COMNAP Annual General Meeting (AGM) XXXI, hosted by the Bulgarian Antarctic Institute. The AGM will be held in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. The AGM schedule includes a half day workshop on Education & Outreach in the morning session on Wednesday 31 July. The workshop will be convened by Dragomir Mateev, Head of the LOC and also COMNAP Expert Group Leader for Education, Outreach and Training. More information will be available soon. Any National Antarctic Program person involved in Education and Outreach might be interested in participating in the workshop. Further information from Dragomir ([dragomir.mateev@gmail.com](mailto:dragomir.mateev@gmail.com)) or [sec@comnap.aq](mailto:sec@comnap.aq).

## **COMNAP Executive Committee (EXCOM) Teleconference 28 November 2018**

The COMNAP EXCOM held a teleconference on 28 November to further advance action points from their annual EXCOM Meeting that was held in August 2018. The notes from the discussions can be found on the Member’s Only Area of the COMNAP website.

## **COMNAP Antarctic Flight Information Manual (e-AFIM) New Release Available**

The latest release of e-AFIM is 10 December 2018. All e-AFIM points of contact have been emailed to announce the new release is available. The latest release of e-AFIM can always be found on the Member’s Only area of the COMNAP webpage (username and password required).

## **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](http://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 are looking for contact details for all current MNAPs and DMNAPs, that is always available from the very top of the Member’s Only webpage (username and password is required).

## **COMNAP Asset Tracking System (CATS)**

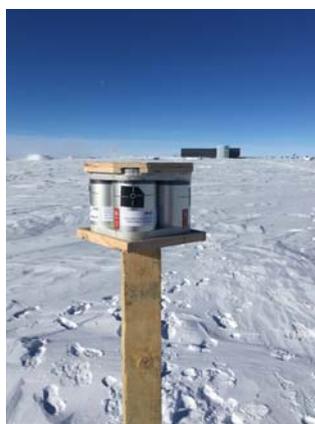
**Project Leader: Robb Clifton, EXCOM Oversight: John Guldahl**

The COMNAP Asset Tracking System (CATS) is up and running with a good number of vessels, but not all vessels, now in the system. We continue to work on getting aircraft onto the platform as well and this is progressing. A reminder to contact [James.Cusick@aad.gov.au](mailto:James.Cusick@aad.gov.au) to ensure your ship and/or aircraft are showing in CATS. The login page at <https://apps.aad.gov.au/comnap> has a link that provides information to vessel operators on how vessel position data needs to be provided to the system.

## **Antarctic Sunlines**

**Project Leader: Adele Jackson, EXCOM Oversight: Michelle Rogan-Finnemore**

Over one hundred pinhole cameras have been distributed to Antarctic research stations this summer. Station personnel have begun installing them and sending us back images of the installation locations. Here are a few from Australia's Davis Station; from the US's South Pole Station; and from Germany's Neumayer III.



## **COMNAP Efficiency Taskforce: Optimizing logistics in the Antarctic Peninsula Region**

**Project Leader: Antonio Quesada, EXCOM Oversight: Agnieszka Kruszewska**

Members of the Taskforce held an on-line discussion and subsequently met in September in Istanbul, Turkey, at a meeting hosted by COMNAP Observer Program Istanbul Technical University (ITU). The key considerations at the meeting were:

- an information exchange system
- need to complete a comprehensive list of assets that can be shared
- consideration of whether an information exchange tool that is already available for the Arctic can be of value to Antarctic programmes
- to take forward a suggestion to review the system to determine whether it would add value
- to create a demo of an information exchange system
- to review the rules, procedures and agreements amongst all five of the currently participating organisations in order to prepare some sort of over-arching agreement on collaboration and sharing of assets
- it was noted that some national Antarctic programs do not have their own assets, and rely on domestic/national partner agencies, like the military for example.

### COMNAP Environment Expert Group

Expert Group Leader Anoop Tiwari (NCPOR) wishes to announce that, after discussion with the COMNAP EXCOM, Hyoung-Chul Shin (KOPRI) has agreed to join him as co-leader of this Expert Group. Given the significant number of issues related to environmental management that all National Antarctic Programs respond to and implement, this group looked to appoint a co-leader, and we are grateful to Hyoung-Chul for taking on the role. Through this Expert Group, a survey of National Antarctic Programs will soon get underway in order to inform the COMNAP Information Paper to the CEP XXII (2019) in regards to non-native flies in Antarctic stations sewage/waste water facilities.

### COMNAP Symposium Proceedings Symposium Convener: Uwe Nixdorf

The Proceedings of the COMNAP Symposium “*Facilitation of Internationally Collaborative Antarctic Science*” have been published. A PDF for download can be found [here](#) in the “Publications” section of the COMNAP website.

Each participant and every National Antarctic Program have also been posted printed copies.



### COMMUNITY NEWS

From Brazilian Antarctic Program (PROANTAR) see the latest edition of the information magazine [INFOCIRM](#).

Visual artist, writer and curator, Zsuzsanna Ardo, invites you to take a look at her work at [Polar self Portraits the article](#). Zsuzsanna was heading south to Rothera this season with BAS, but due to the renovation there her art project cannot be accommodated. If you wish to get in touch with Zsuzanna, please contact her directly through her website or by email at [zsu@ardo.org](mailto:zsu@ardo.org).

### International Ice Charting Working Group

The [Executive Summary Report](#) from the 19<sup>th</sup> IICWG Meeting is now available. The 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IICWG will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, September 23–27, 2019, at the Danish Meteorological Institute.

### From SCAR

The 13th International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Science (ISAES 2019) will be held 22–26 July 2019, Incheon, Republic of Korea. The symposium aims to bring together Antarctic earth scientists from different areas in order to gather and highlight their outstanding expertise and ideas. For further information: Jongkuk Hong ([jkhong@kopri.re.kr](mailto:jkhong@kopri.re.kr)) or: Sunhwi Kim ([sunhwikim@kopri.re.kr](mailto:sunhwikim@kopri.re.kr)).

The Tinker Foundation and SCAR have agreed that, following the tenth award of the Martha Muze Antarctic Prize this year in July, the scheme will be concluded.

### From The Antarctic Treaty Secretariat

The XLII ATCM and the XXII CEP Meeting will take place in Prague, Czech Republic, from 1–11 July 2019. Included in the ATCM schedule is the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) Seminar on Thursday 4 July and the Aviation Safety discussion on Friday 5 July 2019. Both events are part of the ATCM Working Group 2 agenda. Further information can be found on the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat website [www.ats.aq](http://www.ats.aq).

The Antarctic Treaty Secretariat recently circulated information on the Intercessional Contact Groups (ICGs) currently in progress on the ATCM and CEP online discussion forums. They are, from the ATCM:

- ICG on education and outreach
- ICG on organizational aspects of the ATCM
- Informal discussions on human resource policy for the ATS
- Informal exchange of information on collection and use of biological material
- ICG on financial issues (not yet opened)
- Prague declaration for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty (not yet opened)

From the CEP:

- Subsidiary Group on Management Plans (Standing issue)
- Subsidiary Group on Climate Change Response (Standing issue)
- Information intersessional work on harmonization of marine protection initiatives
- ICG to review the Antarctic Clean-up Manual
- ASMA 1 Management Plan Revision Group
- Joint SCAR/CEP Workshop on further developing the Antarctic Protected Area System

The joint SCAR/CEP Workshop on “Furthering Developing the Antarctic Protected Area System” will be held on 27 and 28 June 2019 in Prague, Czech Republic. A Workshop Steering Committee has been formed. Feedback on the proposed workshop agenda is being invited by way of the CEP on-line discussion forum by 11 January 2019 or from SCAR groups.

Representatives from the UK, IAATO and the Netherlands will co-host an informal workshop on “Proactive Management of Antarctic Tourism: Time for a fresh approach” in Rotterdam, Netherlands, 3–5 April 2019. Due to logistical arrangements, only one representative from each country or organization may register to participate. Queries to Shoesma Jehee ([shoesma.jehee@minienm.nl](mailto:shoesma.jehee@minienm.nl)) by 31 December 2018.

***Congratulations & welcome to:***

**Andrea Colombo** who completed his PHD in November. Andrea is now working at the COMNAP Secretariat full-time as Project Development Manager. He will be your point of contact for the COMNAP database and the information it contains on facilities, airfields and National Antarctic Program contact information.

**Steve Foga** who is now the COMNAP point of contact at the US Polar Geospatial Centre in regards to the technical aspects of the COMNAP database. Steve takes on some of the roles of **Brad Herried** who recently left PGC to take up a new job-so a big thank you to Brad for all this work with COMNAP on development of the database and on the reformatting of the AFIM.

**Kim Ellis**, who has been appointed as the Australian Antarctic Division Director and will begin there in February 2019. Read more at <http://www.antarctica.gov.au/news/2018/new-director-for-australian-antarctic-division>.



**The COMNAP Secretariat will be closed from 22 December 2018 through 6 January 2019 for the New Zealand Christmas and summer holidays. Emails and phone messages will be checked regularly, but only urgent queries will be responded to during this period. If you wish to contact the Secretariat with an urgent matter, please phone the Executive Secretary directly.**

-Thank you all for your support throughout this year and season’s greeting to you and your families-

*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](mailto:sec@comnap.aq) by 10 February 2019.*