SOUTHERN OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

Report Series

The West Antarctic Peninsula and Scotia Arc (WAPSA) Working Group Meeting, July 2020

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The West Antarctic Peninsula and Scotia Arc (WAPSA) Working Group Meeting, July 2020

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The second meeting of the West Antarctic Peninsula and Scotia Arc (WAPSA) Working Group (WG) of the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) was held on July 28th 2020. The meeting was originally planned to be held in Hobart, to coincide with the SCAR 2020 Open Science Conference. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held online. We would like to extend our thanks to the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) for their assistance with organising the Zoom meeting facilities.

The aims of the meeting were:

- To discuss research progress and share exciting new results from the WAP and Scotia Arc regions across the international community;
- To discuss ways forward for the implementation of the WAPSA WG goals;
- To build WG membership, activities and momentum, and to highlight Leadership Group opportunities in the WAPSA WG.

The meeting format was as follows:

- Introduction words from Kate Hendry (University of Bristol, UK) and Sian Henley (University of Edinburgh, UK)
- Keynote from Anne Christianson (Pew Charitable Trusts) on Marine Protected Areas in the WAP region
- Lightning talks from participants with brief questions, chaired by Juan Höfer (Pontifical Catholic University of Valparaiso, Chile)
- Open discussion on ongoing and future research initiatives across the WAPSA region, chaired by Oscar Schofield (Rutgers University, US)
- Posters were made available via the SOOS website

There was also an online “pinboard” for sharing ideas about the future priorities for research in the WAP and Scotia Arc regions, as well as future projects and proposal ideas for community discussion.

Lightening Talks:

- Cesar Cardenas (Instituto Antártico Chileno, Chile) – MPA proposal for CCAMLR domain 1
- Marina do Valle Chagas Azaneu (University of East Anglia, UK) – Multi-annual observations of mesoscale standing eddy by gliders
- Ryan Matthew Scott (BAS, UK) – Rates and mechanisms of turbulent mixing in a coastal embayment of the West Antarctic Peninsula
- Carlos Moffat (University of Delaware, US) – Weddell Sea intrusions to the west Antarctic Peninsula shelf
- Josh Kohut (Rutgers University, US) – Physical oceanography in the WAP
- Rodrigo Kerr (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande, Brazil) – Brazilian activities in the northern Antarctic Peninsula: current projects and priorities
- Sebastian Böckmann (Universität Bremen, Germany) – Iron recycling processes associated with salps
- Simon Morley (BAS, UK) – Spatial and temporal dynamics of Antarctic shallow benthic communities
- Tomás Marina (Centro Austral de Investigaciones Científicas, Argentina) – Understanding marine ecosystem structure, function and stability from a network perspective
- Oscar Schofield (Rutgers University, US) – Food web responses to recent sea ice changes along the West Antarctic Peninsula
- Kim Bernard (Oregon State University, US) – The omnivore's dilemma: How diet affects the late winter physiology of juvenile Antarctic krill
- Dan Costa (UC Santa Cruz, US) – Foraging behaviour of the Leopard Seal in the Antarctic Peninsula
- George Watters (NOAA Fisheries, US) – US AMLR program activities

A recording of the lightning talk sessions was made with speakers' permission and is available through the SOOS website. Where speakers were willing, presentation slides are also available alongside the posters via the SOOS website (here).

Discussion Points:

The community all agreed the need to establish more routine group connections to share information and develop the collaborative projects. The meeting has provided a means to both build momentum and engage the community, and refresh the leadership of the working group. We are hoping to a leadership transition plan available for the SOOS office.

This will be approached through some collaborative virtual discussion groups that will focus on producing some vision documents to guide paths forward. Three themes emerged as top candidates:

- *Visioning group*: The idea is that this group would help develop a strategic vision for research in the WAP and Scotia Arc region. The goal would be to envision how best to leverage the existing resources along the WAP and the Scotia Arc and identify sampling gaps to address key science priorities identified our community manuscript (Henley et al. 2019).
- *Autonomy group*: Many in the WAP and Scotia Arc community are being encouraged by their funding agencies to maximize data collection despite decreasing the human footprint in the field. This will require taking advantage of new autonomous systems. There has been a steady increase in the use of AUVs, gliders, HF Radar, and saildrones in the WAP. These projects are generally treated as one-off deployments, and there was a consensus that it is a good time for the community to A) develop a vision of how best to leverage the distributed efforts and B) design what would be the most effective automated network if our community coordinated activities in space and time.
- *Integrating Along and Cross-shore datasets*: While closely related to the visioning group, this would focus on the competing influence of alongshore flows and the offshore-offshore processes.

The plan is to organize virtual calls in the northern hemisphere Fall around each of the themes suggested. We will use the registration list to invite the community. As many in our community teach, we believe this would likely occur in October and November.

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