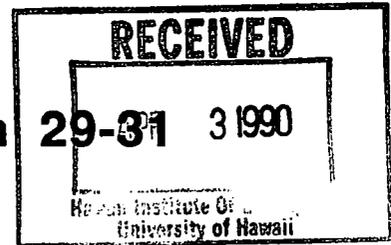


Ocean History Panel, March 29-31 3 1990



Executive Summary

90-190

OHP reaffirmed that the Eastern Equatorial Pacific program scheduled for Leg 138 remains their highest priority undrilled program.

OHP generated the following prioritized list of programs:

- 1 - Northernmost Atlantic Paleooceanography; proposals 320/A, 336/A, 305/A;
- 2 - North Pacific Neogene: the package created by CEPAC at the request of SOHP/OHP from proposals 259/E, 247/E etc.;
- 3 - New Jersey (sea level) proposal 349/A;
- 4 - Guyots; proposal 203/E;
- 5 - Bering Sea; CEPAC prospectus from proposals 182/E, 195/E;
- 6 - Atolls; proposal 335/E;
- 7 - South equatorial Atlantic; proposal 347/A;
- 8 - California Current; proposal 271/E;
- 9 - Southwest Pacific (sea level) from proposals 337/E and/or 338/E and/or 367/E;
- 10 - Shatsky Rise; CEPAC prospectus from proposal 253/E;
- 11 - Mediterranean gateways; proposals 323/A and 372/A;
- 12 - West Florida margin (sea level) proposal 345/A

Notes for PCOM on the prioritized OHP list:

1- The two highest ranked programs represent essential high latitude components of the major program to study high-frequency climatic variability and its evolution through the Neogene; both are very full and well planned programs that will contribute several categories of very important data, and both are well designed in order to test specific hypotheses.

2- The western part of the equatorial Atlantic should be the next component of our low-latitude circuit represented by legs 108, 115, 130 and 138; it is ranked low (7th) because we only have a single preliminary proposal.

3- Ranked 3rd is what OHP judges to be the best of the proposals addressing the Sea Level objective; although the proposal (New Jersey margin) is preliminary pending site survey, this is funded and will be carried out in May 1990. A complimentary study from a different margin will probably be carried out in the Southwest Pacific but the proposals for that area are all very preliminary at present. Proposal 345/E was rated 6th based primarily on its potential contribution to our understanding of the sea level problem using an independent approach.

4- Ranked 4th is proposal 203/E (Guyots) on the basis of its potential contribution to our understanding of a hugely important aspect of Mesozoic ocean history: the Pacific reef province and its demise. OHP has also drawn attention to the importance for Cenozoic paleoceanography of recovering sequences from the pelagic caps of some of these Mesozoic guyots.

5- The ranking of the Bering Sea at 5th is based on both the potential contribution of Souder Ridge sequences to Mesozoic ocean history, and the very high resolution late Neogene records that will be recovered there.

6- Ranked 8th is proposal 271/E and revs (California Current). This represents the next component of the (S)OHP Paleo-upwelling program to investigate the history and structure of high productivity areas (Legs 108, 112, 117). The proposal has been updated in response to earlier comments and will make a major contribution to the study of this theme.

7- The low ranking of Shatsky Rise may of course change as a result of the forthcoming Engineering Leg.

A number of recent proposals were not ranked although OHP believes that many of them will develop into proposals of which all or part will be highly ranked:

Antarctic: 351/C, 353/C , 244/C;
Southeast Atlantic: 339/A, 354/A;
Southwest Atlantic: 381/A, 327/A;
Northeast Atlantic: 326/A;
Northwest Atlantic: 341/A, 365/A, 359/A;
Equatorial Atlantic: 329/A, 313/A;
South Pacific: 340/D;
Mediterranean: 330/A.

This list is not prioritized, but OHP see a particular need for further work in the South Atlantic (East and West) and in the Antarctic, and advise PCOM to be aware of this in making long-range plans. In addition, OHP remain of the opinion that technology should be developed to enable the Deep Stratigraphic Test program to be initiated, probably with a Somali Basin site.

OHP accepts the present publication targets with two reservations:

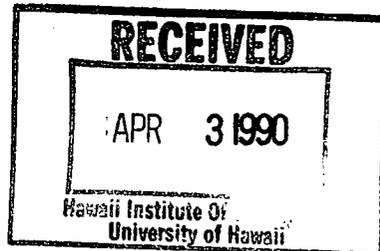
1. Up to the final make up deadline, flexibility must be exercised with involvement of the Editorial Board and NOT left solely in the hands of production staff who may make inappropriate judgements.

2. Every effort must be made to ensure that authors whose manuscripts are accepted for review are not turned down through delays in the review process. This is especially important since a member of the Editorial Board may be, or may be perceived to be, the cause of the delay. ODP should find a means of publishing late papers since they often contain important data that are not readily published elsewhere.

OHP remain interested in the ability to recover organic-rich sediments on the continental margins because of their importance for Paleo-productivity studies. Efforts should be made to refine the methods by which safety is established so as to extend the working range in such areas.

Ocean History Panel

DRAFT MINUTES



90-190

Ocean History Panel met on Thursday March 29th at 08:30 in the Tagore Room at the University of Honolulu, Hawaii hosted by the PCOM Office.

Present were: N. Shackleton (chair); R. Moberly (PCOM Chair); G. Brass (PCOM liaison); A. Palmer-Julson (TAMU liaison); B. Malfait (NSF); D. Rea (CEPAC chair); P. Cooper (JOIDES office); L. d'Ozouville (JOIDES Office); G. Waggoner (JOIDES Office); G. Smith (LITHP liaison); W. Berger; W. Berggren; T. Bralower; P. Davies; M. Delaney; A. Droxler; E. Jansen; D. Kent; T. Loutit; A. Mix; T. Saito; R. Stein; E. Vincent. E. Barron was unable to attend.

OHP welcomed Audrey Meyer's decision that it is now again possible for TAMU to send a liaison to meetings of thematic panels; we regard it as essential that the thematic panels are up-to-date with the progress of the project, and that TAMU are in touch with the scientific drive of the project.

Laurent d'Ozouville provided a set of abstracts of recent proposals. OHP applauds this initiative. It was suggested that in future the standard letter of acceptance of a proposal should request an abstract (of not more than half a page, say), informing the proponent that if this is not received the proposal will be abstracted by the JOIDES office; this should reduce the amount of work that the JOIDES office needs to do since proponents should realize that their own abstract is likely to represent their interests better than an office abstract.

TAMU Report (A. Palmer-Julson)

The results of ODP 128 and 129, both of which had some interest for OHP, were presented (130 was deferred since 4 OHP members had been on board). Co-Chiefs have been selected up to leg 138 as follows: 131 Nankai: A. Taira, I. Hill; 132 Engineering: J. Natland; 133 NW Australia: P. Davies, J. McKenzie; 134 Vanuatu G. Greene, J.-Y. Collot; 135 Lau Basin: L. Parson, Hawkins; 136 Engineering III no scientific co-chief named yet; 137 Juan de Fuca E. Davis, M. Mottl; 138 E Eq Pacific L. Mayer, N. Pias. The current start and finish dates and port calls are in JOIDES JOURNAL Feb. 1990 p 2.

Engineering: The Diamond Coring System is currently being tested on land in Utah; it is possible that it may be available for use on Leg 133 if engineering tests are successful.
Publications.

Initial Reports volumes are available up to Leg 122; Leg 123 will appear shortly and up to leg 128 should be out within FY 1990. Scientific Results are available up to Leg 107, with leg 108 available soon; it is hoped that up to 116 (except 114) will be out in FY 1990.

The impact of the current push to bring publication schedules on target (regarded as essential if ODP is to survive outside scrutiny) was discussed extensively. OHP members are concerned that valuable material is being lost as a result of failure to meet publication deadlines:

1) OHP consider that some kind of flexibility must be found to accommodate manuscripts that have been submitted by an agreed deadline and are then delayed by the review

process; bearing in mind that the Editorial Board are themselves qualified it may be necessary to compromise on the number or suitability of outside reviewers to minimize the chance of a manuscript failing to meet the printing deadline;

2) OHP recommend that ODP find a mechanism for printing late manuscripts (e.g. in a once-a-year supplementary volume);

3) OHP do not at present wish to recommend changing the present target timing for Scientific Results volumes but are extremely concerned about reports that acceptance or rejection of late manuscripts has appeared to be arbitrary; within the inevitable "grey" period (between target deadline and absolute deadline) such decisions must be made in consultation with the Editorial Board.

Annual Panel Chairpersons meeting (Shackleton).

It was agreed that synthesis chapters that failed to meet the Scientific Results deadlines ought to be published in the open literature; though it is regrettable to go without such chapters it is also the case that their appearance in the open literature is to be welcomed.

The question was raised as to whether sampling restrictions are being affected by the accelerating publication schedule. In discussion, Leg 130 scientists reported that restrictions had not impeded the sampling needed to achieve the cruise objectives; OHP should remember to ensure that sampling requirements are included in the cruise prospectus for similar future legs. However, the arbitrary removal of 30 cm long sections of core for possible future organic geochemical studies again proved an aggravating impediment to the scientific objectives.

It was reported that there may be a new policy of shipping core to land after every leg, which will accelerate the availability of material for detailed post-cruise sampling by shipboard scientists. (This is an example of a situation which arose more than once, where the information was not available. Within the panel, only the chairman would know that this had been proposed--it is in the PCOM minutes, with a \$60,000 price tag--but it was not clear whether this had been agreed and if so, how one would know.)

Continuing the report, Shackleton mentioned that the difficulty of dealing with Sea Level as a scientific theme under the responsibility of more than one panel was discussed. It was agreed that so long as thematic panel chairs are aware of the problem, the theme should receive appropriate treatment. The review process was discussed; the consensus was that it was working well and fairly. It was agreed that drilling proposals should be available to interested scientists in the interest of optimizing the quality of proposals without maximizing the number. In discussion of this point OHP agreed that in view of the immense amount of work, involving many people, that intervenes between a proposal and the final targets in a drilling leg, an individual proponent should not feel proprietary about his/her proposal or the resulting drilling leg. D'Ozouville reported that JOIDES Office does make proposals available (aside from proprietary information contained in some).

PCOM: report (Brass).

In his IHP report to PCOM, Moore reported that the CD-ROM containing DSDP data is available. It only contains shipboard data. IHP seeks the advice of thematic panels as to what information should be included in a future CD-ROM. In discussion OHP agreed that all tabulated data should be included in a future CD-ROM. It emerged that only one member had used the current system and OHP were surprised that visiting the JOIDES Office did not automatically provide the

opportunity to see it. OHP also recommend that since scientists are encouraged to submit manuscripts (and data tables) on computer disc, the data contained should automatically be stored electronically and should be available from TAMU until such time as it is published on CD-ROM.

In accordance with the intention reported by Moberly at the last OHP meeting, PCOM scheduled legs up to 139 ending Nov 29, 1991 (see above, TAMU report, and JOIDES JOURNAL). These may be regarded as more or less definite. For planning purposes PCOM tentatively scheduled five legs through 1992: 2 legs at the Chile Triple Junction; East Pacific Rise Bare Rock Drilling 1; Cascadia Accretionary Prism 1; and Hydrothermal Processes at Sedimented Ridges 2. Shackleton pointed out that this was not in accordance with the procedure outlined by Moberly at our last meeting and that if it is adhered to, this will make a nonsense of the prioritization process initiated at the Spring 1989 PCOM meeting. After that meeting thematic panels were asked to prioritize among a list of six programs (several of more than one leg, and only one of OHP interest) for the 1991 program; the present tentative schedule simply fills 1992 with the remaining lower-ranked programs in the list. Brass affirmed that this 1992 schedule is indeed tentative.

Other Items to Report

A JOI-USAAC workshop on the Paleogene will be held later this year; contact persons are Lowell Stott (Santa Barbara) and Jim Zachos (Michigan). An ODP workshop on Progress and Opportunities in Geochemistry was held at Lake Arrowhead, California Jan. 9-12 1990. A report will be issued by JOI-USSAC in due course (information: G.Brass). The following reports were presented to PCOM at the Annual Meeting and are available from TAMU: Summary Statement SS0300 on Unconsolidated formation recovery; A description of the Breakaway Piston Head (which was tested on Leg 130). A description of the Vibra-Perussive Corer. A report on phase II of the Diamond Coring System development (for coring to 4500 meters). An NSF Bimonthly report on Development engineering gives information on the various systems that are being developed in the interval December 1989 - January 1990. A workshop on Antarctic Offshore Cenozoic Stratigraphy will be convened by Dr. Alan K. Cooper (USGS, 345 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park Calif 94025) and Dr. Peter Webb (Ohio State U.) from June 7-10 1990.

Shackleton reported on the NEREIS project workshop held recently. This is a proposal for a European funded light dynamically positioned vessel able to recover sediment, perform limited rock drilling, perform down-hole experiments, perform biological experiments on the sea floor. The workshop discussed scientific opportunities and technical requirements. A report will be available within weeks (contact B. Biju-Duval, IFREMER Paris). It is not yet known whether there will be widespread support for this venture. In discussion Saito reported that Japan plans to build a large drilling vessel that may be available for scientific work for about 25% of the time. Neither of these possible developments have any bearing on planning for the next few years.

Shackleton reported on the Past Global Change component of the IGBP. At present a focus on (a) the past 2000 years and (b) the past 300,000 or so years is anticipated so that there will not be enormous scope for ODP involvement. A. Mix, W. Berger, E. Jansen, M. Delaney, T. Moore and N. Shackleton were suggested as suitable persons to act as liaisons to IGBP; Shackleton is at present a member of the IGBP Past Global Change Working Group. T. Bralower has been appointed Co-chair of the liaison group with Global Sedimentary Geology Program.

Mix reported that he had received a copy of a letter to OHP chairman (not yet received by NJS) from John Barron proposing that sites of opportunity could be chosen in the Santa Barbara Basin to be cored during the transit between legs 137 and 138. It was agreed that he should be told that a proposal would be essential, but he should also appreciate that such a proposal would have to be judged in competition for time with the other objectives of the leg that contains the transit.
ACTION NJS, MIX: contact Barron

Berger reported on the very successful completion of all the drilling objectives of leg 130 (Ontong Java). High resolution shipboard records of magnetic susceptibility and of physical properties imply that post cruise work will generate outstanding contributions to our understanding of the evolution of high-frequency oceanic variability. Delaney reported that a geochemical investigation of the cause of the disappointing magnetostratigraphy on the leg may enable us to predict the likelihood of achieving useful magnetostratigraphy.

Proposal Reviews. In brackets: panel member watchdogs

350/E Gorda Ridge (Mix, Delaney). The objectives of the proposal are chiefly tectonic. The part that is of OHP interest is best judged as a component of the California Current study (proposal 271/E) and Mix reported that the proponents of 350/E and 371/E are in contact.

351/C Bransfield Strait (Mix, Jansen) does have significant OHP interest although the proposal does not either do a good job of showing what the sites will contribute to OHP interests, or discuss possible limitations such as turbidites.

352/E Layer 3. No OHP interest.

353/C Antarctic Peninsula (Jansen, Davies) does have significant OHP interest. OHP found the basic scientific questions not sufficiently clearly expressed. Dating problems are not adequately addressed, and the available piston cores in the area should be presented so that the feasibility of the approach can be demonstrated.

354/A Angola/Namibia (Stein, Berger) does have significant OHP interest, preliminary proposal. Some integration with 339 would be desirable in view of the overlapping and complimentary objectives.

355/E Gas hydrate (Loutit, Mix) no OHP interest but geographical area may be.

356/A Denmark Strait (Jansen, Berggren) the questions of OHP interest are also addressed in proposals 320/A and 336/A, which are better focussed.

357/E Axial drilling EPR: no OHP interest.

358/A volcanic rifted passive margins: Voring Margin (Jansen, Berggren) questions of OHP interest are no longer at the survey stage and require carefully focussed drilling such as is proposed in 320/A and 336/A

359/A replaced by 365/A.

361/A TAG area: no OHP interest.

362/E Chile Triple Junction (Mix, Davies): no OHP interest. Mix will investigate the question of whether the sediment to be recovered will be of sufficient value that OHP should recommend APC ACTION MIX.

363/A Plume volcanism: no OHP interest.

364/A Thrust units, Mediterranean (Vincent, Loutit): some OHP interest since Mediterranean sediments will be recovered, but not enough to justify ranking it.

365/A Conjugate Passive Margins N Atlantic (Bralower, Loutit). This is a multi-leg proposal. Undoubtedly some valuable data relating to early Atlantic ocean history and sea level will emerge but these are not of high priority themes within the proposal. OHP consider that although a large proposal may provide a useful overview, for reviewing purposes it would be easier to handle if it were presented in smaller segments.

It was clear that not only did the multi-objective proposal 203/E offer most to the OHP theme of Mesozoic ocean history but that it was the highest-ranked proposal in that theme. The considerable importance of the sequences to be recovered in the pelagic caps for Cenozoic studies, and the contribution to sea-level studies, are an added bonus.

366/A: letter of intent only.

367 Cool water carbonate margin, S Australia (Loutit, Davies). Although the proposal has OHP interests, it is too weak in its present form to be ranked. Davies will contact proponent to advise him on behalf of OHP.

368/E Old Pacific crust: no OHP interest.

369/A Deep Mantle Section MARK area: no OHP interest.

370/A Magmatic processes: no OHP interest.

371/E Nova Canton Trough: no OHP interest.

372/A Cenozoic evolution of N Atlantic deep water (Mix, Delaney). This addresses an important question of OHP interest: the relative contributions of Mediterranean and N. Atlantic intermediate depth water masses to the North Atlantic Deep Water. The proposal only contains 2 sites but after discussion OHP concluded that it would be useful to have a broader proposal that addresses the question of ocean Intermediate Waters on a global basis. This would enable OHP to be more systematic in inserting drill sites to tackle the question.

373/E Revisiting DSDP 505 (Shackleton, Mix). Not primarily OHP but the possible value of the sediment sequence is mentioned. This information is probably based on a statement made before DSDP 504 was re-cored as Site 677 and the need for double-APC coring at Site 505 is now much reduced. However since 677 was only partially double-cored, leading to gaps in the sequence below 100 mbsf, OHP would probably support APC-coring if this proposal is accepted.

374/A Oceanographer FZ: no OHP interest;

375/E deep crustal drilling, Hess Deep: no OHP interest

376/A Layer 2- Layer 3 boundary, Vema FZ: no OHP interest.

377/F Rev Seismometer test site, Oahu: no OHP interest.

378/A Barbados accretionary wedge: no OHP interest.

379/A Mediterranean continental collision: no OHP interest.

380/A Rev clastic apron Gran Canaria: no OHP interest.

381/A Argentine Slope (Bralower, Stein). Many objectives of OHP interest. The proposal is too immature to be ranked at present. It seems likely that the proponent of 327/A for the same region (Hinz) could provide data that would help the proponent of 381/A to bring the proposal to a more mature state. Stein will put the two proponents in touch ACTION STEIN.

Ranking

OHP then discussed procedures for attaining the overall ranking that PCOM needs for planning purposes. It was decided that each proposal would be categorized according to which of the major scientific themes outlined in the (S)OHP White Paper it addresses. For most proposals this is clear; for some, discussion was necessary to ensure that the proposal would reflect the Panel's overall view:

The Bering Sea contains a component that is very important for the Mesozoic ocean history theme, but it was clear that because of the high risk involved OHP would only rate the Bering Sea highly if the Neogene objective were considered at the same time; for this reason the Bering Sea was categorized separately.

It was clear that not only did the multi-objective proposal 203/E offer most to the theme of Mesozoic ocean history but that it was the highest-ranked proposal in that theme; thus the considerable importance of the sequences to be recovered in the pelagic caps for Cenozoic studies, and the contribution to sea-level studies, are an added bonus.

The categorization of proposal 335/E led to more extensive discussion but it was generally agreed that the proposal offers several different avenues to the understanding of global Sea Level (timing, magnitude, causes) and that it would best be judged in that theme.

Proposal 271/E addresses questions in Neogene ocean history as well the operation and history of high productivity areas. Since it proved to be the only proposal for that area judged sufficiently mature to be ranked it was placed in that category, ensuring that OHP gave it a fair ranking.

After proposals 338/E, 337/E and 367/E had been discussed again it was decided that for ranking purposes they should be grouped together as a single yet-to-be-finalized South-West Pacific Sea Level program. The categorization of other proposals was straightforward.

A number of proposals were judged to be too immature to rank at this stage. PCOM should be kept aware of those areas in which we expect to have proposals suitable for serious ranking by the time of the OHP meeting in spring 1991.

It was agreed that a member would not vote when his/her own proposal was being ranked.

In the final ranking within themes the High-Frequency ocean history (Neogene) proposals were ranked:

- 1 - High North Atlantic (320, 336);
- 2 - North Pacific Neogene;
- 3 - S. Equatorial Atlantic (347/A);
- 4 - Mediterranean gateways (323/A, 372/A).

The Mesozoic ocean history were ranked:

- 1 - Guyots (203/E Rev);
- 2 - Shatsky Rise.

The Sea Level were ranked:

- 1 - New Jersey margin (348/A);
- 2 - Atolls (335/E Rev);
- 3 - SW Pacific (337/E,338/E,367/E);
- 4 - Florida margin (345/A).

348/A was ranked 1 by a substantial margin; the 2nd and 3rd very close and indeed the order was reversed until Moberly objected that P. Davies had voted despite being a co-proponent of one of the three SW Pacific proposals. These two programs were discussed again and a new vote taken in which members were invited to abstain if they wished, in order to reduce the chance of a tie among the 14 qualified voters.

OHP then voted 12 times, each vote culling a program from the top of one of the five lists ("Neogene", "Mesozoic", "Sea level", "Productivity", "other" (Bering Sea)). OHP consider that the final list is a good representation of their ranking taking account the chance of success and state of readiness as well as scientific importance:

- 1 - Northernmost Atlantic Paleoceanography; proposals 320/A, 336/A, 305/A;
- 2 - North Pacific Neogene: the package created by CEPAC at the request of SOHP/OHP from proposals 259/E, 247/E etc;
- 3 - New Jersey (sea level) proposal 349/A;
- 4 - Guyots; proposal 203/E;
- 5 - Bering Sea; CEPAC prospectus from proposals 182/E, 195/E;
- 6 - Atolls; proposal 335/E;
- 7 - South equatorial Atlantic; proposal 347/A;
- 8 - California Current; proposal 271/E;
- 9 - Southwest Pacific (sea level) from proposals 337/E and/or 338/E and/or 367/E;
- 10 - Shatsky Rise; CEPAC prospectus from proposal 253/E;
- 11 - Mediterranean gateways; proposals 323/A and 372/A;
- 12 - West Florida margin (sea level) proposal 345/A.

Of the Pacific programs the first 4 are mature and ready in the CEPAC prospectus. Of the Atlantic programs the first is ready and site survey for the second will be carried out in May 1990.

Panel Membership

Moberly explained that Droxler and Mayer had been recalled for this meeting because for several reasons PCOM had decided it would be inappropriate to replace them at this meeting concerned heavily with prioritization (while writing the minutes Shackleton inserts the suggestion that if this cycle of panel business is to be stabilized it might be better in general to have new members at the autumn meeting rather than at the spring meeting). He requested suggestions (at least two names) for a possible replacement. After discussion the following names were proposed: S. Schlanger (suggested last time, still considered appropriate); R. Halley (new blood; received strong support; A. Hine (new blood). W. Schlager's name also received strong support, but it was realized that he would have to be proposed as member-at-large since he is

based in Amsterdam. Droxler will enquire if Halley and Hine are prepared to serve and if so obtain a short CV for each. ACTION DROXLER.

Shackleton reported that in a letter apologizing for his inability to attend this meeting as well as the last, Eric Barron suggested that it might be appropriate for him to resign. OHP regretfully agreed that this might be sensible. It was noted that this would reduce our Mesozoic expertise; that the impending replacement of Saito by H. Okada (nannofossils, primarily Neogene) would further reduce our strength in that area and that when R. Stein rotates off there will be even further reduction. Judith Parrish (U. Arizona) and L. Pratt (Indiana) were proposed as suitable replacements for Barron with expertise in modelling and in the Mesozoic. Moberly already has necessary information but must establish whether Pratt is prepared to serve.

OHP reiterated the need for an expert in siliceous microfossils and in high latitude paleoceanography. Four names were proposed: J. Barron (USGS) R. Dunbar (Rice) D. Lazarus (recently Woods Hole but now Zurich; not clear whether he would need to be a member-at-large) L. Burckle (Lamont; counter to PCOM policy while Kent (LDGO) is on OHP. The lack of Paleogene expertise highlighted at the last meeting would be alleviated by John Barron in the above list. OHP has also suggested K. Miller (Rutgers/Lamont) for expertise in the Paleogene and in Sea Level, but if Halley is chosen from the first list above then the need for sea level expertise will probably be satisfied. Shackleton's post-meeting summary (best solution): to replace Droxler and Eric Barron (and member-at-large Mayer), add: Halley (shallow carbonates, sea level), Parrish (Mesozoic, modelling), John Barron (High latitude paleoceanography, siliceous microfossils, Paleogene). Allow OHP one additional member for one meeting, revert to proper number at 1991 rotation, perhaps keep the other member due to rotate off for the spring meeting if PCOM agrees that autumn is a better time for new members to start work.

SGPP report: Delaney (OHP liaison)

Delaney reported briefly on the last SGPP meeting and outlined their priorities. The question of radioactive and/or stable isotope tracers was brought up. Delaney reported that the experiments performed on shore during leg 128 (check) had been very exciting in demonstrating bacterial activity at much greater depths in sediment than had previously been anticipated; this could well lead to requests for facilities to carry out analogous experiments aboard ship. OHP consider that established procedures are such that it should be possible to arrange for radioisotopes to be used. However the use of stable isotope tracers should NOT be permitted; the results of a leakage could be disastrous and neither adequate detection nor cleanup procedures are established.

LITHP report:

G. Smith reported briefly on the last meeting, showing how they had prioritized future activities.

Liaisons

Delaney is probably unable to attend as liaison at the next SGPP meeting (Paris 2-3 November). It may prove difficult to provide a liaison, but we do expect J. McKenzie (SGPP) to be able to attend the next OHP meeting. Loutit is OHP liaison to TECP; there was no volunteer as a liaison to LITHP. G. Smith was thanked for his contributions as LITHP liaison to OHP.

Other business

Loutit suggested that in future it would be appropriate for OHP to review the thematic objectives in the White Paper briefly before each reviewing and prioritization exercise. This will both help new members become acquainted with the panel, ensure that the panel members have ample opportunities to judge whether the White Paper needs revising or re-thinking, and sharpen our evaluations. ACTION SHACKLETON.

Loutit also suggested that the relationship between watchdog reports and proposal reviews for proponents needs clarifying. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting; meanwhile 1) Shackleton expressed appreciation to the JOIDES Office for their initiative in providing abstracts of proposals since this takes a burden off watchdogs; 2) OHP affirmed that they would like reviews to be included in the minutes.

Shackleton thanked retiring members Mayer, Droxler and Saito for their services on SOHP and OHP; thanked Peggy Delaney for her help in preparing the minutes; and thanked the JOIDES Office for hosting the meeting. The meeting ended at 12:30 p.m. on March 31st.

Next meeting: proposed Canberra, October 19-21 (i.e. over the weekend) hosted by P. Davies