



25 August 2005

Dear Professor Bratbak

On behalf of the ICSU/WMO Joint Committee for the International Polar Year 2007-2008 we wish to thank you for submitting a proposal entitled 'Polar Aquatic Microbial Ecology' for consideration as an IPY activity. Success of the IPY depends fundamentally on excellent research and support and on a high level of international coordination, derived from the talents and energy of groups such as yours.

The Joint Committee has evaluated all proposals received up to 30 June 2005 for scientific significance, for consistency with the IPY themes, regions and time frames, for evidence of international collaboration, and for development of effective management plans covering communications, operations, data, and education and outreach. In addition, the Joint Committee examined each proposal for evidence of involvement by scientists from non-polar nations, for indications of interdisciplinarity within the proposal and of linkages to other IPY activities, and for evidence that activities proposed would contribute to an IPY legacy. The Joint Committee expects to evaluate additional sets of coordination proposals in October 2005 and in February 2006 and to provide its summary endorsement of the full set of IPY activities approximately 12 months before the start of IPY. The Joint Committee intends that the overall evaluation and coordination processes assists researchers as they seek national funding.

The Joint Committee considers that your proposal as submitted includes very strong scientific components and demonstrates a high level of organisation and of adherence to the IPY themes and goals. Based on the materials provided, the Joint Committee has every reason to believe that the activity as proposed will constitute a prominent and valued part of the IPY program and therefore conditionally endorses your submission. The Joint Committee intends that these endorsements provide assistance and support as IPY researchers seek funding for the work proposed. The Joint Committee expects to provide final endorsements, contingent on continued progress, by 1 March 2006.

Yours sincerely

Co-chairs of Joint Committee

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