

Impact of observations in policy and societal challenges

Topics covered:

- How can data and research influence decision-making mechanisms?
- What are the broader impacts of the Southern Ocean Observing System?

Important Developments in the field:

Observing systems provide the critical data needed to underpin decision making in policy and private sectors.

Southern Ocean research is receiving increasing media uptake.

Science plays an advisory role in directing the Antarctic National Programs, to the Antarctic Treaty via SCAR, through CCAMLR, via the Committee for Environmental Protection, and the IPCC.

FAIR sharing of data helps to improve equity, by making relevant datasets available to developing nations which might not have the resources to collect those datasets themselves.

Key Outstanding Questions:

The impact of SOOS can be hard to quantify and describe because of the broad nature of the international cooperation involved. It can be hard to map from data products through to policy documents, particularly if these are not acknowledged correctly. But SOOS products have been directly referenced in many national and intergovernmental policy documents.

Future Directions:

The interaction between science and policy is a dialogue. Science advice is important for making effective policy decisions relating to Antarctica, and knowledge of policy making processes can help scientists to direct resources into building the knowledge required by policy makers to make good decisions.

