Report of the Regional Co-ordinator for the El Niño Region
Ricardo Luis Rojas, CENDOC-SHOA

1. Regional IODE Coordinator:

Name : Ricardo Luis Rojas
Address : CENDOC-SHOA
               Errázuriz 232, Playa Ancha.
               Valparaiso. CHILE.
Postal : CENDOC-SHOA
Address Casilla 324
         Valparaiso. CHILE
Phone : (56) 32-266674
Fax : (56) 32-266542
e-mail : rrojas@shoa.cl

2. IODE regional coordinator designation Date:


3. Brief History :

In compliance with the general policy of IOC in implementing its programme activities through regional cooperation, the IOC Committee on IODE at its Fifteenth Session adopted Resolution IODE-XV.4. This resolution appointed IODE regional coordinators for each of the IOC regional programmes with the following terms of references

• Keep IOC Regional Bodies and programmes informed on the IODE data policy and rules of procedures
• Be a link between the IOC regional bodies and the IODE Committee
• Publicize IODE activities
• Help the IODE Committee implement regional activities in data and information management by providing advice and establishing necessary contacts.

By Circular Letter IOC N° IO/av dated august 18,1997 Mr. Rojas was appointed as the coordinator for El Niño Región. As the same time the IOC Executive Secretary was requested to arrange, some time later, a seminar of the IODE Regional Coordinators with the objective of providing the necessary briefing on the latest developments in the IODE
activities in ocean data and information management, making them acquainted with other IOC scientific, monitoring and TEMA programmes and activities of other agencies and exchanging views on the most effective ways of co-operation.

4.- Activities during the Intersessional Period:

Two main task were performed by Mr. Rojas regarding IODE activities in the whole region (South America)

- After IODE Training Course held in Brasil in 1999, and due to a specific resolution of that meeting in order to increase the communication between the participants of the region, CENDOC offered its capacities to produce, hold a maintain the WEB page of that IODE activity. The URL for the WEB page is as follow: http://www.shoa.cl/cendoc/taller/taller.html. Unfortunately no much help has been received from attendants to keep the "future activities" subpage updated.

- To assist IOC activities performed by IOC consultant Dr. Paul Geerders on the implementation of GODAR activities in the Caribbean and Central America by transmitting chilean experiences in data recovery and exchange.

5.- Comments

The very LOW activities performed during the period were because of:

- No communications of the Seminar to be arranged by IOC to IODE regional coordinators reached Mr. Rojas during the whole intersesional period. No answers were received from IODE officers regarding Mr Rojas' enquiry of status of that Seminar.

- After being nominated, an initial approach was made by Mr. Rojas to national IODE coordinators of Peru, Ecuador and Colombia. No replies from the corresponding parties were received to this introductory approach.

It is important to recognize that a deal of low motivation of the involving parties (IOC, national IODE Coordinators) had leaded us to this status. It is therefore, necessary to improve communications between the national coordinators of the regions involved, whether this region is South America or El Niño. The actions performed lately by Dr. Gedeers, in order to coordinate activities in the region (workshops, training courses) is promising as a way to overcome this problem.

In regards to the El Niño region, I think that the best way to approach ourselves (National IODE Coordinators) to discuss our regional difficulties & problem regarding data and information exchange (IODE framework) will be through a Workshop or meeting to be held during the next intersesional period (2001 preferred) and guided by an IODE liason or officer.

(end of report)