



8th MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ICE CHARTING WORKING GROUP



October 22-26, 2007

Frascati, Italy

Greetings from the IICWG Co-Chairs,

Please accept this letter as an invitation to participate in the **8th Meeting of the International Ice Charting Working Group (IICWG)**, to be held in Frascati, Italy, October 22-26, 2007. This year's meeting will be hosted by the European Space Agency's Centre for Earth Observation (ESRIN).

Since its formation seven years ago, the IICWG has helped operational ice services better meet the needs of their national and international marine clients through coordination and cooperation in data sharing, standards, product development, and research activities. Our host this year, ESA, recognizes the IICWG as one of the strongest communities of practice it interacts with.

This fall in Frascati, our annual meeting will occur in the midst of the International Polar Year. Many of our member services are busy ensuring IPY research is happening safely and effectively in both the Arctic and the Antarctic. It is thus fitting that the theme of this year's meeting will be **International Ice Services and the International Polar Year**.

Specific sessions planned for this year's meeting include:

- 1- Day Science Workshop
- IPY Activity and Ice Service Updates
- Formal signing of the IICWG Charter
- Satellite mission updates
- Technical Tours

We hope you will give serious consideration to joining us at IICWG-8 to help us understand your clients and service, and to work with other ice centres to meet the challenges facing the operational ice charting community both today and tomorrow. As you can see, planning is already underway for this eighth meeting. In the months ahead, we encourage you all to share your organization's priorities and help shape the agenda for this year's meeting at ESRIN.

We also would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our successful meeting last year in Helsinki and encourage you to ensure that the final action items from that meeting are addressed before Frascati. You can find them listed at IICWG web site <http://nsidc.org/noaa/iicwg/meetings.html>

Further information about IICWG 8, can be found at <http://nsidc.org/noaa/iicwg>. Online registration and hotel booking is now available at <http://www.congrex.nl/07M12/>. If you are interested in attending and/or have questions about the meeting, please contact Dr. Roger De Abreu, Canadian Ice Service, 001-613-995-5125 – roger.deabreu@ec.gc.ca

We look forward to seeing you in Frascati this fall.

Sincerely,

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