

Diagnostic Data Sites: Report of the SIMBIOS Working Group on Merger Activities, 1/31/01 (by J. W. Campbell)

Background

At an international organizational meeting for SIMBIOS held at the University of Miami in February 1995, it was recommended that a diagnostic data set be created for each ocean color sensor to aid in comparing data products. As envisioned, the diagnostic data set would be generated routinely at the time that data are being processed, and it would contain all relevant information needed to process data from level 0 through level 2 for a few selected sites. An area surrounding each site would be defined, and each time that site is contained in a product being created, all relevant information used in the processing (e.g., calibration factors, sun and sensor viewing angles, meteorological input) would be saved to a separate file along with the derived geophysical variables.

This recommendation was repeated at the first SIMBIOS Science Team meeting in August 1997, and again at the third meeting in Annapolis in September 1999. In January 2000, the IOCCG's working group on data merger submitted a proposal to NASA to coordinate data merger activities at the international level. Included in that proposal was a list of diagnostic data sites. This list was a synthesis of the list of sites produced at the 1999 SIMBIOS team meeting in Annapolis and sites recommended by members of the IOCCG.

Recommendations of SIMBIOS Working Group on Data Merger Activities January 30, 2001, at the fourth SIMBIOS Science Team meeting.

It was recommended that two criteria be established for selection of sites:

- A. There must be a reliable supply of in-situ data (either bio-optical data for the water or atmospheric, e.g., sun-photometer, data)
- B. There must be a principal investigator willing to share the in-situ data with the SIMBIOS Project.

Given these criteria, the list submitted to SIMBIOS by the IOCCG in January 2000, was modified and sites prioritized into 3 categories:

1. Site providing essential data for vicarious calibration
2. Time series site
3. Other data (e.g., regular cruises)

Excel spreadsheet (“Sites.xls”) is the list of proposed sites. Each identified P.I. contact is being asked whether he agrees to furnish data to the SIMBIOS project and assist in the evaluation of the satellite diagnostic data. If so, then the P.I. should also recommend the center coordinates and minimum size box surrounding the site.