

# **Chapter 2**

## **Science Support Services**

### **2.1 Science Meetings**

Each science group will have a meeting the day after arriving at McMurdo, Palmer, and the research vessels. Representatives from the NSF (or the NSF designated Station Science Leader at Palmer Station) and from various RPSC support areas will meet with your group to discuss logistical support for the season. During the science meeting, you'll receive information on the status of your cargo and equipment. You'll also discuss your objectives for the season. On the vessels this meeting will be in conjunction with the ship orientation and safety meeting.

During the Science Meeting, each project will be asked to name one team member who will be responsible for returning all project equipment to the various work centers. This team member will be required to complete a check-out form which must be signed by the various work center supervisors before the team member redeploys. The completed form will be turned over to the NSF Representative (or the NSF designated Station Science Leader) on station or the Marine Project Coordinator on the vessels.

## 2.2 **McMurdo Science Support Areas**

**Field Support:** The Berg Field Center (BFC) staff issues equipment and food to field parties and also conducts deep field camp resupply. After your initial science meeting, it's best to meet with the BFC supervisor to locate your cage space.

**Laboratory Support:** The Crary Science and Engineering Center (CSEC) houses the McMurdo science laboratory facilities. Specialized laboratories, computer facilities, the Aquarium, the Dive Locker, and office space are allocated within the CSEC. The CSEC staff coordinates laboratory support for science groups, as well as fish hut movements, construction requests, and aquarium space requirements. Scientific equipment (including all items identified in your SIP for procurement) is issued from the CSEC stockroom. Other facilities in the CSEC include a science library, a seminar room, and a small field staging area.

**Helicopter Support:** The Senior Helicopter Coordinator develops the daily helicopter flight schedule, communicates daily with all helicopter-supported field groups, and is the point-of-contact for all helicopter-supported field camp resupply requests. The Coordinator is located at the helicopter hangar.

**Mechanical Support:** The Mechanical Equipment Center (MEC) staff issues and maintains snowmobiles, generator sets, gas-powered ice augers, rock drills, chain saws, portable dive compressors, and 12-V

batteries and battery chargers. The MEC staff also maintains a fleet of “pool” pickups and tracked vehicles for use by the science community and provides training and a field maintenance course for issued equipment.

Antarctic Driver’s Licenses are required for operation of any vehicles. You must have a valid driver’s license from your home state in order to receive an Antarctic Driver’s License and drive in McMurdo. To be issued an Antarctic Driver’s license for tracked vehicles, you must attend a briefing at the MEC and successfully complete a test drive. If you intend to operate light vehicles, vans, or pickups while in McMurdo, you must attend a briefing by the VMF at Crary Lab. You will then receive an Antarctic Driver’s License for light vehicle operation.

**Fixed-Wing Support:** The Fixed-Wing Coordinator is the point-of-contact for all fixed-wing aircraft concerns. This person helps you plan cargo loads for put-in flights, plans the daily fixed-wing flight schedule, communicates daily with field parties, and coordinates all resupply and schedule changes for remote fixed-wing-supported field groups. The coordinator is located in Building 165.

**Science Construction Support:** All science construction support requests should be listed on your SIP; however, if you have late-identified (i.e., while in Antarctica) construction requests, submit a work order to the CSEC Laboratory Supervisor. On-ice construction support requests will require approval by the resident NSF representative.

**Science Cargo Support:** If you have questions about the arrival, shipment, or retrograde of your cargo, contact the USAP Cargo Supervisor, who is located in Building 193. USAP Cargo is responsible for handling all science project cargo and is the principal contact with the cargo system.

## **2.3 Palmer Science Support Areas**

**Field Support:** Palmer Station does not have a dedicated science field support area or personnel. Instead, the contractor warehouse in Punta Arenas (PA), Chile, houses the field equipment used in the peninsula system. All field equipment identified on your SIP is issued from the warehouse. While at Palmer Station, any resupply or additional items can be requested through the Administrative Coordinator and will be shipped on the next available vessel. There can be a two month delay before the vessel's arrival, so it is best to plan ahead and thoroughly check out all gear before departing PA. In addition, all USAP clothing is issued from the PA warehouse.

**Laboratory Support:** The Biolab building houses the Palmer Station science laboratory facilities. Specialized laboratories, computer facilities, the aquarium, the dive locker and limited office space are allocated by the Palmer Laboratory Supervisor. The laboratory staff coordinates all laboratory support for science groups, as well as construction requests, dive technical services, and field support. Scientific equipment, instruments, and supplies (including all items identified in your SIP

for procurement) are issued by the laboratory staff. Other facilities available at Palmer include a small science library and boathouse.

**Mechanical Support:** Station facilities personnel maintain a limited stock of snowmobiles, generator sets, gas powered ice auger, rock drills, Zodiacs, and deep-cycle marine 12-V batteries and chargers. Use of these items should be requested in the SIP, and on-site support should be coordinated through the laboratory supervisor.

**Science Construction Support:** All science construction support requests should be listed on your SIP; however, if you identify construction requests while you are on the ice, please contact the laboratory supervisor. On-ice construction support requests will require approval by the NSF representative.

**Science Cargo Support:** All science cargo will be received off the ship and turned over to you by Palmer Station logistics personnel and the laboratory staff. If you have any questions or problems with cargo, please contact the laboratory supervisor.

**Station Science Leader:** The Station Science Leader (SSL) is designated by the NSF/OPP whenever there are researchers on station. The SSL is responsible for the performance and behavior of science personnel at the station. In the absence of the NSF representative, the SSL is responsible for the coordination of the USAP research at the station and in the local operational area. It is the joint responsibility of the SSL and the RPSC Area or Station Manager to work cooperatively to

ensure that the research programs are successful. The SSL is guided by the Antarctic Treaty and obliged to ensure that all USAP personnel comply with the Antarctic Conservation Act. During his or her tenure on station, the SSL may have the opportunity to host personnel from other nations maintaining research stations in the Antarctic Peninsula. Once a month, the SSL compiles the science monthly report for distribution to the NSF, RPSC and all grantees involved in peninsula research.