



Report on Activities During 2014

Purpose:

The purpose of SCOR is to further international scientific activity in all branches of oceanic research. The Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) is a non-governmental organization, created in 1957 by the International Council of Science (ICSU). SCOR promotes international cooperation in planning and conducting interdisciplinary oceanographic research programs and solving methodological and conceptual problems that hinder research. SCOR promotes scientific excellence and integrity and has direct access to the international ocean science community. The primary purpose of CNC-SCOR is to provide communication between the Canadian Ocean Science community and the international activities that come under SCOR's umbrella. Under the auspices of CMOS, CNC-SCOR brings together the Canadian Ocean Science community across disciplinary boundaries and the boundaries of universities, government and private sector organizations.

CNC-SCOR Highlights for 2014

CNC-SCOR's Annual Meeting was held 1 June 2014 in conjunction with the 2014 Scientific Congress of the CMOS, in Rimouski, Québec.

Small international Working Groups (WGs) are the core of SCOR's activities. These WGs -- typically with no more than 10 members -- are established in response to proposals submitted to SCOR by the international ocean science community. In general, they are established to address well-defined topics of emerging importance that would benefit from coordinated international attention. WGs are expected to provide a final report, organize a workshop or symposium, or otherwise make significant contributions to advancing the topic at hand within a 3 - 4 year period. Canadian participation on SCOR Working Groups has declined and there are currently 14 Canadians serving on 7 of the 10 active WGs.

In 2014, CNC-SCOR reviewed the proposals for eight new international working groups. CNC-SCOR provided detailed written comments and a prioritized list to SCOR's Executive Director. These proposals, none of which originated in Canada, were discussed during the Annual Meeting of SCOR in Bremen, Germany. The International Committee approved three new initiatives for the first time since 2003. This was possible because SCOR is in a good financial condition. The three approved working groups are:

- WG 145: *Chemical Speciation Modelling in Seawater to Meet 21st Century Needs (MARCHEMSPEC)*,
- WG 146: *Radioactivity in the Ocean, 5 decades later (RiO5)* and
- WG 147: *Towards comparability of global oceanic nutrient data (COMPONUT)*.

The proposals for the first two working groups were strongly supported by CNC-SCOR. Canadians scientists will be members of all three Working Groups.

CNC-SCOR published nine electronic issues of the Canadian Ocean Science Newsletter during 2014. The subscriber database is dynamic and is continually reviewed to eliminate non-functioning addresses. The subscriber base has been declining slowly over the last few years, from approximately 445 in May 2009 to about 390 in December 2014. In addition to articles on ocean science and updates in ocean science programs, the newsletter reports milestones in the careers of Canadian ocean scientists and includes job postings and training opportunities for graduate students, young scientists and teachers. In 2014 the newsletter had the opportunity to report on numerous prestigious awards presented to Canadian scientists. The newsletter also provided status reports on the work of SCOR's international Working Groups.

Since 2006, CNC-SCOR has been sponsoring one NSERC Scholarship Supplement for Ocean Sciences in the amount of \$5,000, usually presented at the CMOS Awards banquet. Unfortunately, because the new DFO funding agreement signed in 2013 no longer permits funding these awards, CNC-SCOR is no longer able to sponsor a Scholarship Supplement.

CNC-SCOR annually supports a national lecture tour to foster cross-Canada communication in ocean science. Two prominent Canadian scientists are selected to travel and speak in oceanographic centres on the opposite side of the country. These tours promote ocean science, support student education through the talks at universities, and help the speakers build professional networks. In 2014, the speakers were Dr. Markus Kienast, Dalhousie (centres from Winnipeg west) and Dr. Debby Ianson, IOS (centres from Ottawa east). Dr. Kienast spoke at centres in Winnipeg, Edmonton, Burnaby, Vancouver, and Victoria during the week of 17 November 2014. He spoke on *Acceleration of oceanic denitrification during global warming*. Dr. Ianson will speak at centres in Ottawa, Montreal, Québec, Dartmouth, Halifax and St. John's. Her presentation will also be broadcasted from Québec to Rimouski's UQAR and from Dartmouth to Moncton by videoconference. Her presentation is: *Ocean Acidification on the Canada's west coast: what do we really know?*

For a fifth year, CNC-SCOR provided travel support to a school teacher to participate in Project Maury, which involves training at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Project Maury promotes understanding of the physical foundations of oceanography through a dedicated training course directed at school teachers. In 2014, CNC-SCOR and CMOS jointly sponsored Mr. Daryl Rideout from Macdonald Drive Elementary School, in St. John's, NL. The workshop included a wide range of

oceanographic topics and activities on-site (classroom and lab) and off-site, including a field trip on a research vessel.

CNC-SCOR was actively involved in the preparation of the 2013 Council of Canadian Academies report on "Ocean Science in Canada: meeting the challenge, seizing the opportunity". This report is an assessment of the current state of ocean science in Canada and identifies gaps that need to be addressed for Canada to meet the growing needs of ocean science with limited resources while using existing capacities. As a first step in addressing these gaps an "Ocean Science Roundtable" was held in Ottawa by the Canadian Consortium of Ocean Research Universities (CCORU) in October 2014. The CNC-SCOR chair and other committee members participated in this roundtable on the future of marine sciences in Canada that brought together about fifty scientists, managers and ocean science users. A report that will include roundtable results and actions is being finalized. Following this meeting, the CNC-SCOR chair prepared a discussion paper for the Canadian marine sciences community on the topic of a Canadian marine sciences scientific society. This paper was distributed to the community through the Canadian Ocean Science Newsletter.

CNC-SCOR continued to advance coordinated observation programs: Paul Myers, Doug Wallace, Alain Vezina, Paul Snelgrove and Jean-Eric Tremblay were invited to represent Canada at an US-EU-Canada workshop on North Atlantic-Arctic observational planning, hosted by the US NSF's Ocean Carbon and Biogeochemistry Program, in April 2014.

SCOR-International partners with other organizations to sponsor several large scale international science programs. Of these, Canadian scientists serve on the committees for GEOHAB, IMBER, GEOTRACES, SOLAS, and IMAGES. CNC-SCOR provides another way for these programs to communicate updates to the Canadian community through the Canadian Ocean Science Newsletter.

The CNC-SCOR chair Paul Myers was elected to the international SCOR finance committee in Bremen in 2014 for a 3 year term. He is thus involved in scrutinizing the organization's finances and auditor's reports, as well as proposing efficient ways to utilize those funds.

CNC-SCOR maintains an internally circulated file showing actions agreed to and milestones reached for each year. A mid-term meeting was held by conference call on 15 December 2014 to discuss progress and take decisions on outstanding items.

Other CNC-SCOR activities included: working with sister organizations in Canada and abroad on ocean research initiatives; assisting IAPSO representatives in obtaining input from the Canadian ocean science community for the compilations of required annual reports; and maintaining its web site (<http://cmos.ca/site/scor>). CNC-SCOR's pages on the CMOS website are maintained by the CMOS webmaster, Bob Jones. Among the various pages are background information on CNC-SCOR, a membership list, information about and links to ocean science activities, and historical photos of Canadian oceanographers and vessels. All material stored on the site is searchable, and past copies of the newsletter can be retrieved.

CNC-SCOR Members Active in 2014

Paul Myers, U Alberta (Chair)

Rob Macdonald (past Chair), DFO/IOS

Bjorn Sundby, McGill

Alfonso Mucci, McGill

Len Zedel, Memorial

Paul Snelgrove, Memorial

Martin Taillefer, Maritime Way Scientific Ltd.

Céline Guégen, Trent

Markus Kienast, Dalhousie

Ian Perry, DFO/PBS

Michel Mitchell (Secretary), DFO retired

Sylvain de Margerie, (ex-officio), DFO HQ

Blair Greenan (ex-officio through August 2014), IAPSO

Jody Klymak (ex-officio from August 2014), IAPSO

Andrew Bell (ex-officio CMOS), CMOS Executive Director

Harinder Ahluwalia (ex-officio CMOS President)

Michael Scarratt (ex-officio), SOLAS

Jean-Éric Tremblay (ex-officio Québec-Océan)