



Report on Activities During 2015

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 31 May 2015 in conjunction with the 2015 Scientific Congress of the CMOS, in Whistler, British Columbia.

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 remained the same compared to 2014. There are currently 14 Canadians serving on 8 of the 11 active WGs.

In 2015, CNC-SCOR reviewed the proposals for ten new international working groups. CNC-SCOR provided detailed written comments and a prioritized list to SCOR's Executive Director. Among the elements reviewed, the CNC-SCOR examination looked for Canadian Content and opportunities for Canadian involvement. These proposals, none of which originated in Canada, were discussed during the Executive Meeting of SCOR in Goa, India. The International Committee approved three new initiatives as

in 2014. This was possible because SCOR is in a good financial condition. The three approved working groups are:

- International Quality Controlled Ocean Database: Subsurface temperature profiles (IQuOD)
- Changing Ocean Biological Systems (COBS): how will biota respond to a changing ocean?
- Translation of Optical Measurements into particle Content, Aggregation & Transfer (TOMCAT)

The proposals for the all three new working groups were strongly supported by CNC-SCOR, in either or must fund or should fund categories. Canadian scientists will be members of one of the new Working Groups.

CNC-SCOR published six bi-monthly electronic issues of the Canadian Ocean Science Newsletter during 2015. The subscriber database is dynamic and is continually reviewed to eliminate non-functioning addresses and currently stands at 385. In addition to articles on ocean science and updates in ocean science programs, the newsletter reports milestones in the careers of Canadian ocean scientists, includes job postings and training opportunities for graduate students, young scientists and teachers and communicates news of numerous prestigious awards presented to Canadian scientists. The newsletter also provided status reports on the work of SCOR's international Working Groups.

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. As in the past year, this year's speakers will be presenting in both 2015 and 2016. Dr. Christopher Harley from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver BC is the speaker from the west making presentations at eastern venues. He is speaking on *Global warming, ocean acidification, and the importance of shifting species interactions in coastal marine ecosystems*. In December he spoke to enthusiastic audiences at Memorial University of Newfoundland, The Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dalhousie University and the University of Quebec at Rimouski. Planning is underway for talks in March at Laval University and in Ottawa. Dr. Paul Snelgrove, the Canada Research Chair in Boreal and Cold Ocean Systems at Memorial University's Ocean Science Centre, is the speaker from the east making presentations at western venues. He will be speaking on *Sustaining Marine Biodiversity in Canada and Globally*. Tentatively, Dr. Snelgrove is scheduled to speak in February at the University of Alberta, the University of Victoria and DFO's Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo. In March he plans to speak at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and in Burnaby at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby.

For a sixth 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 2015, CNC-SCOR and CMOS jointly sponsored Kara Lengyel, teaching in

Naicam, Saskatchewan, for this course. 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.

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. Thus he continues to be 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 14 December 2015 to discuss progress and take decisions on outstanding items.

CNC-SCOR created a new award for Early Career Scientists that will be first awarded at the CMOS Congress in Fredericton at the start of June, 2016.

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. We have initiated the process of updating and modernizing our website.

CNC-SCOR Members Active in 2015

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

Keith Lennon (DFO)

Paul Lyon (DFO)

Michel Mitchell (Outgoing Secretary), DFO retired

David Greenberg (Incoming Secretary), DFO retired

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

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

Bruce Ramsay (ex-officio CMOS), CMOS Executive Director

Harinder Ahluwalia (ex-officio CMOS President to 2015)

Martha Anderson (ex-officio CMOS President to 2016)

Michael Scarratt (ex-officio), SOLAS

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