

Minutes
CNC/SCOR Conference Call
February 19, 2004

1. Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 EST.

The Chair welcomed all attendees, and made special welcome to two new members, Brad de Young and Ian Perry. The Chair explained that due to the pressures of other commitments, Louis Fortier had resigned from CNC/SCOR and had been replaced by Maurice Levasseur. Two members were out of the country at the time of the conference call (Ken Denman and Maurice Levasseur). The terrific storm on the east coast likely precluded other members from joining the conference call at the last minute.

Attendees: Bjorn Sundby (Chair), Susan Allen, Rob Macdonald, Neil Campbell, Brad de Young, Ian Perry, Dick Stoddart (Secretary)

Absent: Ken Lee, Phil Hill, Jinyu Sheng, Suzanne Roy, Maurice Levasseur, Mike Stacey, Ken Denman

2. Approval of draft agenda

A draft agenda was circulated to members by email on February 17, 2004. With the addition of an agenda item on "Proposal: Global Change Programs", the draft agenda was approved as circulated.

3. Approval of draft AGM minutes

The draft minutes of the June 1, 2003 CNC/SCOR Annual General Meeting were circulated to members on June 13, 2003. There were no suggested amendments to the draft minutes; accordingly they were adopted as circulated.

4. Progress on action items

A progress report on the status of all action items emanating from the June 1, 2003 CNC/SCOR meeting was circulated to members on February 17, 2004. Most actions had either been completed, or were the subject of discussion under the appropriate agenda items of this meeting. Since two items were not covered under other items they were flagged and discussed as follows:

- **Ocean Science MSc and PhD Theses.** The Secretary noted that the CNC/SCOR web site had been updated to include ocean science theses from UVic, UBC, Québec-Océan, and UofA. An update from Dalhousie is expected shortly. It was suggested that a few other universities should be contacted to provide similar information, namely Memorial (Brad de Young), York (Peter Taylor) and Manitoba (David Barber). **Action: Brad de Young (Memorial), Dick Stoddart (York, Manitoba).**
- **CNC/SCOR Poster.** The Secretary noted that while all the resource materials were in hand to generate a CNC/SCOR poster, this had not been implemented since: (i) there was some disagreement as to the details of the content, and (ii) the thought that the need for a poster as an outreach tool had been somewhat overtaken by the implementation of the Newsletter. It was decided to leave the creation of a poster in abeyance until such time as there was an identified specific need, such as a workshop or conference, rather than just a generic wish for broader visibility. It was felt that the web site and the Newsletter were fulfilling most outreach requirements for the time being.

5. Proposal: Global Change Programs

The results of a workshop on February 15, 2004, which resulted in a summary report on a Proposal for a Canadian National Committee and Secretariat on Global Change Programs, was emailed to CNC/SCOR members on February 18, 2004. CNC/SCOR comments on the report included:

- general agreement on the need for such a committee and the possibility that it might eventually lead to a more overarching national academy at some point in the future;
- there was some concern that if a similar committee had existed in the past and had died for whatever reason, it should possibly remain buried;
- ICSU has identified a need for national committees for global change programs;
- in general there was agreement that, if formed in Canada, the Executive Director and Secretariat should be housed in Ottawa to ensure maximum visibility and impact;
- identification that UN bodies (IOC, WMO, UNEP, etc.) should be referenced in the report as important bodies with global change responsibilities and interests;
- an indication that programs such as GLOBEC should be deleted from reference as “important international bodies” or that other sister programs such as SOLAS, JOFS, GEOHAB, etc. be included for the sake of completeness;
- recognition was needed in the report that any such body would impose time and resource costs to existing bodies such as CNC/SCOR; and,
- any umbrella body should not impose a bureaucratic burden on the global change scientific community.

It was agreed that Bjorn Sundby would summarize CNC/SCOR comments and provide relevant feedback to the workshop organizers for their use in furthering the initiatives on this important file. **Action: Bjorn Sundby.**

6. Finances

The Secretary reported that CNC/SCOR finances were healthy. The CNC/SCOR balance (administered by CMOS) is approximately \$33K. Expenses during 2003, for secretariat services, travel to the CNC/SCOR AGM and travel to the international SCOR meeting in Moscow, plus expenses in the first three months of 2004 for travel to the Victoria Global Change Program meeting and additional secretariat expenses, will be offset entirely by the DFO contract for support to CNC/SCOR. That is, the resources on hand for CNC/SCOR should be the (approximate) \$33K available at the beginning of the year.

Expected expenses for 2004/2005 are: (i) travel of (some) CNC/SCOR members to the Edmonton AGM meeting on May 30, 2004, (ii) travel to Venice of the Secretary and Canadian proponents for new SCOR Working Groups (note the Chair's expenses will be billed to NRC as part of their support to CNC/SCOR), (iii) travel subsidies of up to \$3K for invited ocean scientists to the CMOS Congress so as to encourage enhanced oceanography sessions in Edmonton, a location not normally well attended by oceanographers, and (iv) normal secretariat services.

Suggested initiatives, which might have financial implications for CNC/SCOR, included:

- (i) possible financial support for Canadians attending SCOR Working Group meetings, such as an upcoming "turbulence" meeting in Victoria. With respect to this possibility, it was noted that SCOR itself should be the first stop for financial support since they have a budget to support the travel of WG members to WG meetings. If a case could be made that additional support is needed for Canadians to attend such meeting, then representations should be made directly to CNC/SCOR. Susan Allen will provide feedback to the "turbulence" meeting organizers to see if they would like to pursue SCOR and/or CNC/SCOR options for financial support to the upcoming Victoria meeting. **Action: Susan Allen.**
- (ii) possible sponsorship of CNC/SCOR lecture tour. Pros and cons for a possible CNC/SCOR sponsored lecture tour were discussed, including: liaison with the CMOS lecture tour, over subscription in some areas of visiting lecturers, possible venues for speakers, possible alternating east coast / west coast tours, financial implications, using recent ocean science "awards" as source of high profile speakers, etc. In general there was favourable reaction to the possibility of sponsoring some sort of lecture tour to support the needs of the oceanographic community and to give enhanced identity to CNC/SCOR. In this regard, the Chair and Secretary will work on a proposal for further

discussion at the next meeting of CNC/SCOR. **Action: Bjorn Sundby, Dick Stoddart.**

- (iii) Possible expenses of yet to be defined CNC/SCOR expenses related to IPY (see agenda item #10).

7. CNC/SCOR Membership

With the resignation of Louis Fortier, the replacement of Bill Miller by Maurice Levasseur, and the addition of Brad de Young and Ian Perry, the membership of CNC/SCOR is presently:

Bjorn Sundby, Chair, UQAR 2003, 2004, 2005
Ken Lee, Past Chair, DFO/BIO, 2003, 2004, 2005
Susan Allen, UBC, 2002, 2003, 2004
Rob Macdonald, DFO/IOS, 2002, 2003, 2004
Phil Hill, NRCan/PGC, 2003, 2004, 2005
Jinyu Sheng, Dalhousie, 2003, 2004, 2005
Maurice Levasseur, Laval, 2004, 2005, 2006
Brad de Young, Memorial, 2004, 2005, 2006
Dick Stoddart, Secretary, 2002, 2003, 2004
Neil Campbell, *ex-officio*, (CMOS)
Suzanne Roy, *ex-officio*, UQAR (GEOHAB)
Ian Perry, *ex-officio*, DFO/PBS (GLOBEC)
Mike Stacey, *ex-officio*, RMC (IAPSO)
Ken Denman, *ex-officio*, EC/CCCma + DFO (CMOS Scientific Committee)

The membership of CNC/SCOR could still benefit from 1-2 additional members. Several suggestions were made, including Christine Michel (Freshwater Institute, Winnipeg), Dominique Weis (UBC), Ali Aksu (Memorial), Marlon Lewis (Satlantic), David Barber (University of Manitoba), R. Nigel Edwards (UofT), and Rick Hiscott (Memorial). It was agreed that it would be left to the Chair to review the geographic and disciplinary balance of CNC/SCOR members and then approach 1-2 individuals to round out the membership of CNC/SCOR. **Action: Bjorn Sundby.**

8. CNC/SCOR Newsletter

CNC/SCOR members expressed satisfaction with the way the CNC/SCOR Newsletter has developed since its inception subsequent to the June 2003 AGM. Five Newsletters have been issued, and a sixth is nearing completion. The Newsletter is distributed to almost 400 subscribers.

The Secretary noted that the Newsletter was starting to have an emphasis on federal government initiatives, and he strongly encouraged university CNC/SCOR members to approach their academic colleagues to consider preparing articles for future Newsletters. There was general agreement that such an initiative would ensure a broader base of contributions. **Action: Bjorn Sundby, Susan Allen, Jinyu Sheng, Maurice Levasseur, Brad de Young, Suzanne Roy, Mike Stacey.** Noting that the present policy of not including graphics in the Newsletter was significantly limiting to authors and readers, and that the use of PDFs as a means of distributing the Newsletter was often preferred in the community, it was agreed that future issues of the Newsletter could include graphics as appropriate. **Action: Dick Stoddart.**

9. Sessions at Edmonton CMOS

Dick Stoddart summarized efforts to ensure a proactive oceanography program at the 2004 CMOS Congress at Edmonton as follows:

- plenary speakers included Eddy Carmack, IOS on linkages between oceans surrounding Canada, Dale Haidvogel, Rutgers University on new ocean and coupled models, and Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbaucher, NOAA Administrator on global earth observations (this invitation has been made but formal acceptance from Conrad Lauenbaucher has yet to be received). Other plenary speakers, while not speaking on oceanography topics per se, have an oceanographic connection to some degree, namely Gordon McBean, Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction and current Chair of the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences, and Virendra Jha, Vice President of the Canadian Space Agency.
- a special welcome to oceanographers has been included on the Congress web site and in the last issue of the CNC/SCOR Newsletter.
- CNC/SCOR is working with the Congress Scientific Program Committee to support travel of up to \$3K, with possible matching funds from elsewhere, of invited speakers for ocean science sessions at Edmonton. Two possibilities are presently being pursued, namely someone from UVic and someone from Miami.
- while the program in Edmonton will be driven by abstracts received, efforts have been taken to encourage potential session convenors to proactively seek submissions for various sessions, including:
 - Operational Oceanography - Doug Bancroft
 - Ocean Data Assimilation - Doug Bancroft and Keith Thompson
 - Air-sea Interaction - Hal Ritchie
 - High Latitude Oceans - Paul Myers
 - Unstructured Grid Modelling - Paul Myers
 - Geophysical Fluid Dynamics - Bruce Sutherland

- CLIC/Cryosphere & Climate - Humfrey Melling (unconfirmed)
- several initiatives had been undertaken for other sessions that initially had seemed promising, but eventually were deferred as being more promising for the 2005 CMOS Congress in Vancouver, namely:
 - Offshore environmental Factors for Oil and Gas Development – Ken Lee
 - Carbon: Measurement and Models – Ken Denman and Nigel Roulet
 - CASES Scientific Session – Louis Fortier

CNC/SCOR members were appreciative of the efforts made to enhance the oceanographic program at the Edmonton Congress. It was suggested that efforts be taken to write up an article summarizing the above for the next Newsletter. **Action: Dick Stoddart.**

10. IPY

Rob Macdonald noted that little had happened in so far as the *ad hoc* CNC/SCOR subcommittee on IPY (Rob Macdonald (lead), Louis Fortier and Allyn Clarke, to discuss and investigate further any prospective oceanographic contributions to IPY) since its inception in June 2003. Nevertheless, he expressed the opinion that for the most part an earlier overview paper, prepared by Dick Stoddart, on options for Canadian ocean science contributions to IPY remained valid. Rob Macdonald will: (i) consider writing an article for the Newsletter, highlighting the status of international thinking on IPY and soliciting possible interest from the Canadian ocean science community, and (ii) approach the organizers of the 2005 CMOS Congress in Vancouver about the potential for a special session(s) on IPY within the scientific program. **Action: Rob Macdonald.**

11. International SCOR

11.1 Elections. The Secretary reported that Bjorn Sundby had been approached by the international SCOR Search Committee to consider letting his name stand for election as SCOR President at the next SCOR General Meeting in September 2004. CNC/SCOR members were very supportive and instructed that, once the call for nominations had been formally received, Bjorn Sundby's nomination be put forward via CNC/SCOR for the position of SCOR President. **Action: Dick Stoddart.**

11.2 New WGs. The status of previous working group proposals from last year's call for new Working Groups was somewhat unclear; e.g. several had been approved, subject to clarification and funding, but their ultimate disposition had not been advertised. It was decided that Ed Urban should be asked to

provide a status report on last year's successful WG proposals, and that if there were sufficient new information it should be included in upcoming editions of the Newsletter. **Action: Dick Stoddart.**

Ian Perry summarized a possible submission for a new SCOR Working Group proposal on identifying global synchronies in marine zooplankton populations. The intent is to have such a proposal, co-sponsored and co-chaired by Canada and (possibly) South Africa, become a new SCOR Working Group. ICES, PICES and GLOBEC are being approached for additional financial and scientific support. CNC/SCOR enthusiastically endorsed the initiative and offered to help with the proposal development over the next two months, in time for the submission deadline of April 30, 2004. Ian Perry agreed to prepare a draft proposal by the end of March for review by CNC/SCOR and the other relevant international bodies. The report should emphasize that it is being co-submitted by the SCOR national committees of Canada and South Africa, and should identify the expected funding sources from partners. **Action: Ian Perry.**

11.3 Issues from SCOR WGs, programs or affiliated programs. The Secretary indicated that this agenda item was intended as a place-holder for discussion of any relevant issues or actions from the myriad of international SCOR WGs, programs, affiliated programs, etc. There were no such issues identified prior to the CNC/SCOR meeting. Ian Perry indicated that he would consider preparing an article for the Newsletter and/or the web site on the present status and plans for international GLOBEC from a Canadian viewpoint. **Action: Ian Perry.** Brad de Young indicated that he would consider preparing an article for a future Newsletter on his Canadian contributions to the international GLOBEC program. **Action: Brad de Young.**

11.4 Delegation to Venice. It was agreed that the delegation to the next international SCOR meeting in Venice in September 2004 would be Bjorn Sundby and Dick Stoddart. It was also reaffirmed that, if at all possible, proposals for new SCOR WGs from Canadians should be represented by the Canadian proponent at the international SCOR meeting, at the financial expense of CNC/SCOR. **Action: Bjorn Sundby, Dick Stoddart.**

12. Next CNC/SCOR meeting, time and place

It was agreed that the next meeting of CNC/SCOR would be its Annual General Meeting, and would take place in Edmonton on Sunday, May 30, 2004 in conjunction with the CMOS Congress, May 31 –June 3, 2004. **Action: Dick Stoddart.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:05EST.