

**Minutes, 2012 AGM for CNC/SCOR**  
**Monday, May 28, 08:30 – 14:00**  
**Hyatt Regency Montreal, Symphonie 2B,**

**Attending:** Rob Macdonald (Chair), Catherine Johnson, Markus Kienast, Len Zedel, Bob Wilson (Secretary), Helen Joseph, Bob Jones (for Item 7(iii) only), Norm McFarlane (part time), Ian Rutherford (part time).

**Conference Call** (part time): Ian Perry, Michael Scarratt

**Regrets:** Alfonso Mucci, Paul Myers, Bjorn Sundby, Blair Greenan

**1. Welcome, introductions and remarks from the Chair**

The meeting came to order at 08:20. The Chair thanked members for coming and thanked Catherine and Markus for their work on the 2012 SCOR meeting. Members introduced themselves to Bob Jones, the Committee's volunteer webmaster.

Agenda item 5 was discussed when Ian Rutherford was able to join the meeting. Item 7(ii) was discussed when Bob Jones was present. Items 4, 7(i, ii) and 7 (vii)-(x) and 9 were discussed during a conference call with members unable to attend in person. The telephone link broke during the later discussion

**2. Approval of 2012 agenda**

The draft agenda was approved.

**3. Approval of 2011 minutes**

The 2011 Annual Meeting was held in Victoria on June 5, 2011. The draft minutes were distributed to members by e-mail.

A mid-term meeting was held by conference call on 3 November 2011 to discuss progress and take decisions on outstanding items. The action list was circulated with the notice of the meeting.

**Action: The website Minutes page to be made public. Draft minutes can be approved earlier than the next annual meeting, for example at the mid-term conference call.**

**4. Selection of Chair for 2012**

Paul Myers has agreed to take on the role of Chair for the period 2012 through 2014.

**5. Inter-Relationships Between SCOR and CMOS**

**(i) Accounting, Secretariat, Web Site, Annual Report**

CMOS provides complete financial management services through the office of the Executive Director and his staff. Website support and updating is provided also provided through the CMOS webmaster.

**(ii) Congresses**

The 2013 CMOS Congress will be held in Saskatoon, 26-30 May. The 2014 Congress will be in Rimouski.

**(iii) Oceanographic content in the Bulletin**

The Committee can help with providing oceanographic content. The Secretary provides appropriate material to the Bulletin editor as it becomes available.

**Action: Chair to discuss an article on tsunami debris with Rick Thompson**

## 6. CNC-SCOR Finances

### (i) CNC-SCOR revenues and expenses

Revenues for 2011 were \$20K (DFO's contribution). Expenses for the year were \$23.1K, the major items being the two scholarships (\$10K); the speakers tour (\$4.9K); partial travel expenses for the SCOR general meeting in Helsinki (\$3.0K); and Project Maury (\$1.3K).

The account balance at May 22<sup>nd</sup> was \$32.3 K, but this includes a prepaid expense of \$10K for the 2012 scholarships, half of which will not be expended and all of which should be reimbursed from the transfer from DFO later in the year. Offsetting this, the upcoming SCOR AGM later this year will be a non-recurring cost.

### (ii) Agreement with DFO

The 2011 agreement was signed in October. The CMOS Secretariat will initiate negotiation of the 2012 agreement.

**Action: Ian Rutherford to forward a draft agreement to Helen Joseph.**

### (iii) Agreement with NRC

A letter from Kelly Thompson stated that the 2011 questionnaire response received a score of 35.67 out of 45 and was ranked 20<sup>th</sup> out of the 28 instruments received. NRC has recommended payment of the 2012 dues to SCOR-International.

NRC is developing a more industrial outlook in response to government policy direction. The government has announced that it's reducing the focus on international programs, so it's important for the Committee to include this area in its composition.

**Action: phone call to be made to Kelly from Paul Myers to find out how we might improve. Paul Lyons could be involved.** (note: a more detailed letter was received from NRC after the meeting).

## 7. CNC-SCOR Issues and Activities

### (i) Committee membership

The terms of five members expire in 2012: Catherine Johnson, Paul Myers, Ian Perry, Gary Stern and Bob Wilson. Catherine Johnson will leave the committee but see through coordination of the SCOR-International AGM through the meeting dates. The Chair noted her effective efforts with appreciation. Rob Macdonald become the Past President but will remain on the Committee in that capacity. Paul Myers and Ian Perry's terms will be renewed till 2015. Paul Snelgrove would agree to come on the committee, if asked.

The Committee should have at least one member with an industrial background. Jim Hanlon, CEO of HMRI and Marty Taillefer were mentioned as possible candidates. The Committee also would benefit from having someone from Winnipeg who could represent the ArcticNet connection.

**Action: Chair and Secretary to talk with the incoming Chair about new members.**

**(ii) 2012 SCOR Annual Meeting, Halifax, Canada**

CNC-SCOR will host the 2012 General Meeting of SCOR-International over four days at BIO between Monday, October 22 and Friday, October 26, 2012 in conjunction with a two-day climate symposium, part of BIO's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Meeting rooms have been booked at BIO and Dalhousie. The Committee noted with thanks the efforts of Tom Sephton as head of the local organizing committee. The host hotel will be the Lord Nelson.

- Sponsorship status: We have \$1,500 so far in industrial sponsorships, \$1,000 from the Dept of Oceanography at Dal, and a sponsorship request to DFO to cover breaks at BIO. Markus is working with Dal administration to cover the room and break costs there.
- Catering: Catering for the dinner has been arranged and arrangements are underway to book the break and lunch refreshments.
- Invitations for VIPs: An invitation to the DM can be made in conjunction with the hospitality request.

**Action: Helen Joseph to work with Catherine Johnson on arranging the invitation to BIO in conjunction with a hospitality request.**

**(iii) Website**

Total page views, at 79,849, are within the expected range for the last four years and pretty much the same as in 2008 (79,000). The thesis page with the links to individual universities (7,729) is our single most-viewed page, with even more views than the English (5,141) and French (4,675) index pages, though less than the two index pages combined. Next comes newsletters and then tour speakers.

The number of subscribers to the newsletter fluctuates from month to month but was in the 420's for most of 2011. The 30 Mar 2010 newsletter, which had the final SCOR/IAPSO WG update on the new definition of practical salinity, had 1,371 views in 2011. Page views were also good for two of last year's newsletters (17 Mar, 959; 31 May, 674). Having looked through the contents of these three popular issues, for which the online readership exceeds the subscriber database, it seems likely that lead articles prepared by scientists on interesting topics are what our readership would like more of, and that subscribers are probably forwarding a link to non-subscribers.

**Action: Members to encourage interested students and others to subscribe. Webmaster to tag the newsletters. Editor to move subscription information to the top of the newsletter, with a link to the website. Members to let the Secretary know about the deaths of former oceanographers so they can be added to the list for the Annual Meeting.**

The CMOS-wide website review has bogged down but action could be taken to improve the look of the CNC-SCOR section of it.

**Action: Secretary and Webmaster to discuss a redesign for the home page with emphasis on our major activities.**

**(iv) Ocean science theses**

As reported above, the ocean science thesis index page is the single most viewed page on our website. Assembling the list of theses in oceanography has been undertaken in February and March. As reported last year, this timing created data submission problems for universities that compile this information annually. The Secretary decided to defer the activity until June this year.

**Action: Secretary at the same time to inform university contacts of the availability of the CNC-SCOR scholarship supplement.**

**(v) Lecture tour – 2011 and 2012**

Paul Meyers reported general satisfaction with the Eastern tour in 2011. He noted that the talk in Ottawa was enjoyed and that people evidently liked having the speaker visit, but better coordination was needed with the Ottawa CMOS centre along with an agreement for them to cover local expenses. He enjoyed visiting Rimouski but said that the drive between Quebec and Rimouski takes too much time for a talk to be given in both venues on the same day. The talk in Montreal was at UQAM, where the turnout was good but it would have been nice to see more McGill or even EC./Dorval people. He didn't know if it was advertised to them. Two talks at BIO and Dalhousie in one day went well.

Charles Gobeil reported that his tour of Western centres was well attended and received, though only three students turned up to hear his talk in Edmonton.

Ken Frank (BIO) will tour western centres after mid-November, 2012 speaking on the dynamics of exploited marine ecosystems. Ed Carmack will tour eastern centres.

**(vi) Oceanographic photos**

An effort to obtain photos from Peter Wadhams book on the 1970 Hudson cruise was unsuccessful.

**(vii) Scholarship supplement for 2012**

The 2012 scholarship is being awarded to Cara Manning, a Canadian PhD student at Woods Hole pursuing studies related to CO<sub>2</sub> and seasonal ice.

Ali Mashayak, the 2011 winner, is ineligible for a second-year renewal because his NSERC fellowship has run out. The Chair and Secretary discussed whether to award a second scholarship in 2012 but decided against.

Despite an announcement in the newsletter, only four oceanographic applications were received. Committee discussion suggests that maybe just 10% of graduate students have an NSERC fellowship, and that it would be worth considering whether the scope of the awards ought to be and can be broadened.

**Action: Members will discuss appropriateness of the NSERC prequalification at the mid-year call. Incoming Chair to discuss with Ian Rutherford beforehand.**

**Action: Committee members to encourage suitable applications.**

**(viii) Project Maury**

Two teachers were sent to Project Maury in 2011: Rod Carmichael, from Oak Bay High School (Victoria, BC) and Michele Banks, from Simonds High

School (Saint John, NB). 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. The intention of CNC-SCOR is to make accessible up-to-date ocean science to K1-12 school curricula through training selected teachers. Both teachers are committed to expanding the reach of their new training by offering a workshop to other teachers in their area.

Only one application was received for the 2012 program. Thea Black, École Puntledge Elementary, will be sponsored to the program this summer.

**(ix) Newsletter**

CNC-SCOR published eight issues of the electronic Canadian Ocean Science Newsletter during 2011. The subscriber database is dynamic and was reviewed to eliminate non-functioning addresses; the newsletter currently has about 420 subscribers. 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. The newsletter gives periodic status reports on the work of SCOR's international Working Groups, written, where possible, by the Canadian representatives.

**(x) Proposal for a Young Oceanographer's Prize**

The Chair outlined a proposal to award a prize to a young scientist, for whom no recognition is currently available in CMOS or elsewhere in Canada. A named prize would be an advantage to a young scientist, in writing proposals, for example, and would provide some additional profile to the Committee. The AGU has an early career science award.

A prize would entail a process for nominations and adjudication that would require Committee input. Possible details were discussed. Should the person have to be at a Canadian institution? The prize could include enough money to attend the Congress to pick up the award and with the obligation to give a talk.

**Action: Incoming Chair to initiate a process to make progress on an early career prize.**

**8. SCOR International**

**(i) 2011 Executive Meeting**

The Chair attended the 2011 SCOR Executive meeting in Helsinki.

**(ii) Call for Officer Nominations**

After this year no Canadian will be associated with the SCOR-International's Executive.

**(iii) Existing SCOR Working Groups**

Working Groups (WGs) are the core of SCOR's activities. These small international WGs - not more than 10 members - are established in response to proposals submitted to SCOR by the ocean science community. In general they are established to address well defined topics of emerging importance, which 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. Members are selected in a personal capacity rather than on the basis of national representation. Nine senior Canadian scientists currently serve on six SCOR WGs. The Newsletter published updates on the activities of eight WGs (126, 128, 130, 132, 133, 134, 136 and 137) during the period.

Two new groups were funded in 2011: organic ligands and BEPSI. The Chair provided feedback on the discussion process at Helsinki. It would be useful to Members to learn the final rankings and process, and these can be found in the SCOR meeting minutes.

The current WGs are:

WG 131 on The Legacy of in situ Iron Enrichment: Data Compilation and Modeling. Canadian members are Ken Denman, Maurice Levasseur and Adrian Marchetti;

WG132 on Land-based Nutrient Pollution and the Relationship to Harmful Algal Blooms in Coastal Marine Systems (with LOICZ); no Canadian member;

WG134 on The Microbial Carbon Pump in the Ocean. Canadian members are Susan Ziegler and Bjorn Sundby;

WG 135 on Hydrothermal Energy Transfer and its Impact on the Ocean Carbon Cycles (with InterRidge); no Canadian member

WG 136 on Climatic Importance of the Greater Agulhas System (with WCRP and IAPSO); no Canadian member;

WG 137 on Patterns of Phytoplankton Dynamics in Coastal Ecosystems: Comparative Analysis of Time Series Observation; no Canadian member;

WG 138 on Modern Planktic Foraminifera and Ocean Changes (with IGBP); no Canadian member;

WG 139 on Organic Ligands – A Key Control on Trace Metal Biogeochemistry in the Ocean; Canadian member is Jay Cullen

WG 140 on Biogeochemical Exchange Processes at the Sea-Ice Interfaces (BEPSII); Canadian member is Nadja Steiner.

(iv) **Large Scale Ocean Research Programs; e.g. GEOHAB, etc**  
No discussion.

(v) **SCOR Affiliated Programs; e.g. IMAGES, IOCCG, etc.**  
No discussion

## 9. New Working Group review

Members discussed the proposals, ranking them and pointing out benefits and weaknesses. The Committee agreed not to support more than one of the two large-scale proposals and that #6 was more important than #3.

In order, our top proposals are #5, #4, #6. Proposals #7 and #8 came out in a group at the bottom of the rankings.

**Action: members to forward written comments to the Secretary for use by the Chair at the October meeting and for inclusion in the comments forwarded to Ed Urban.**

## 10. Timing and location of next meeting/ conference call

The time frame for this call will be October or November. These calls provide helpful feedback for the Chair.

**11. Other business**

The IOC has been asking for National Oceanographic Committees. Canada has not yet taken action on this request.

The IOC is supported largely by contributions from member states, the past major donor being the USA. The USA now finds itself unable to contribute, impacting IOC programs. Canada provides some money to IOC organizations (eg OBIS), and DFAIT has agreed this is appropriate international collaboration.

**12. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 13:30.