



## **Report on Activities During 2010**

### **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 stands for scientific excellence and integrity and has direct access to the international ocean science community. The primary purpose of CNC/SCOR is to provide the communication links between the Canadian Ocean Science community and the international activities sponsored by SCOR. CNC/SCOR also provides an organization that brings together the Canadian Ocean Science community across the disciplinary boundaries as well as across the boundaries of universities, government and private sector organizations.

### **CNC-SCOR Highlights for 2010**

The list of Masters theses and Doctoral dissertations on CNC-SCOR's website was updated and expanded to include an additional university (Memorial).

The CNC-SCOR AGM was held 31 May 2010 in conjunction with the 44th Annual CMOS Congress held jointly with CGU in Ottawa. The Committee agreed to begin preparing a paper on the State of Oceanography in Canada for publication, perhaps in CJFAS. It is to be an overview of what Canadian oceanographers have been doing in Canada in the recent past, what has been accomplished, where programs are headed and where the gaps might be. The proposed review could be targeted for presentation at the SCOR International meeting in 2012, which will be held in Halifax. An outline is being drafted.

CNC-SCOR helped arrange for ocean science themes at the CMOS-CGU Congress especially through its former Secretary, Dick Stoddart, who was co-chair of the overall Scientific Program Committee for the meeting.

The CNC/SCOR sponsored NSERC Scholarship Supplement for Ocean Sciences for 2010 in the amount of \$5,000/year was awarded at the CMOS Awards banquet in early June 2010 to Agathe Lisé-Pronovost, a Ph. D. student in oceanography at UQAR/ISMER. Her research objectives are to reconstitute the paleo-

magnetic vector from lake sediments from Laguna Potrok Aike in Patagonia and to look for climate indicators in the variable magnetic mineral assemblages. The record contained in this core will be compared with records in marine sediment cores from the Southern Ocean and ice cores from Antarctica in order to better understand the relation of local to global climate changes.

An initial award of \$5,000 is renewable for a second year provided that the student continues to hold the NSERC postgraduate scholarship. A second-year award of \$5000 went to last year's winner, Kristina Brown of UBC who continues her work on carbon cycling in sea ice and brines, and how these affect carbon transport in convecting sea water.

A new initiative this year was CNC-SCOR support for Project Maury. The Project promotes understanding of the physical foundations of oceanography through training offered to school teachers. CNC-SCOR and CMOS jointly sponsored a Canadian teacher to attend a two-week summer workshop at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. The successful applicant was Grant Badgero, from the Kalamalka Secondary School, in Coldstream, BC. The workshop included a wide range of oceanographic topics. Material was covered extensively on-site (classroom and lab) and off-site. Off-site activities included tours of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Science Center and research library, the National Centers for Environmental Prediction, the National Ice Center, along with a "hands-on" beach study and a research cruise on a naval vessel (using oceanographic instruments). Mr. Badgero's report on the experience will be published in full in a future issue of the CMOS Bulletin SCMO. A shortened version was published in the October issue of the Canadian Ocean Science Newsletter.

The electronic Canadian Ocean Science Newsletter was published eight times during 2010. The Newsletter, which has 434 subscribers, continues to be widely acclaimed as providing a useful and timely service to the ocean science community. Relevant job notices, including one for a vacancy in DFO, have been published along with training opportunities for graduate students and young scientists. The Newsletter is also circulated to the SCOR International Executive.

The CNC-SCOR sponsors two tour speakers each year. These tours provide an excellent opportunity for mid-career ocean scientists to expand their network by making them a focus of attention at laboratories and universities they would seldom visit. The tour speaker going east this year will be Roger François, from UBC. The title of Roger's talk is *Sediment 231Pa/230Th as a recorder of the rate of the Atlantic meridional overturning circulation: Insights from a 2-D model*; timing will be in the week of November 22, with the itinerary currently being assembled. The CNC-SCOR tour speaker going west will be Katja Fennel, from Dalhousie. She will be talking about coastal geochemistry and modelling between Nov. 29 and Dec. 3. Again, her itinerary is in preparation.

Other CNC/SCOR activities included: working with sister organizations in Canada and abroad on ocean research initiatives; and maintaining its web site at [www.cncscor.ca](http://www.cncscor.ca) with the able support of the CMOS webmaster. An up-to-date listing of jobs advertised, recent theses and CNC/SCOR members can be found on the web site. A search capability has been added to permit searching for individual words or phrases. All material stored on the site can be retrieved, including past copies of the Newsletter

SCOR Working Groups are the mainstay of the SCOR workload. These small international groups - not more than 10 members - are established in response to proposals from national committees for SCOR and other scientific organizations. In general they are designed to address fairly narrowly-defined topics which can benefit from coordinated international attention. Working Groups are expected to provide a final report, organize a workshop or symposium, or otherwise make a significant contribution to advancing the topic at hand within a 3 - 4 year. The Newsletter published updates on the activities of four WGs (122, 125, 131, 134, 136) during the period. Eight senior Canadian scientists currently serve on seven SCOR WGs.

CNC-SCOR provided detailed written comments to SCOR-International on six proposals for new working groups. These proposals were discussed at the Annual General Meeting of SCOR in September, attended by Dr. Robie Macdonald and Dr. Bjorn Sundby. SCOR-International agreed at the meeting to fund one new initiative, WG 137 on patterns of phytoplankton dynamics in coastal ecosystems. It currently does not have a Canadian member.

SCOR-International partners with several large scale international science programs. Of these, Canadian scientists serve on the committees for GEOHAB, IMBER, LOICZ, GEOTRACES and SOLAS. CNC-SCOR provides a way for the scientists involved to communicate program updates to the Canadian community through the medium of the Newsletter. Updates on GEOTRACES and IMBER were published in the July issue, and there was an article on the mid-term strategy for SOLAS in September.

SCOR-International recently released a manual of good practice guidelines for National Committees. It was gratifying to note that CNC-SCOR's practices were used several times as examples, and that the Canadian National Committee needs to make no changes to conform to the guidelines.

The CNC-SCOR Committee held a conference call in November to discuss progress on the action items for 2011. First steps were taken to prepare a report on the state of oceanography in Canada, targeted for presentation to the SCOR General Congress in Halifax, in October 2012. CNC-SCOR is uniquely qualified to undertake this review by virtue of its national membership of leading scientists and administrators from government, academia and the private sector.

#### **CNC-SCOR Members During 2010**

Rob Macdonald (Chair), DFO/IOS

Gordon McBean, University of Western Ontario

Bjorn Sundby, Université du Québec à Rimouski

David Barber, University of Manitoba (until May)

Allyn Clarke, DFO/BIO (until May)

Paul Myers, U Alberta

Alfonso Mucci, McGill

Philippe Tortell, UBC

Len Zedel, Memorial

Catherine Johnson (from May), DFO/BIO  
Markus Kienast, Dalhousie  
Gary Stern (from May) DFO/FWI  
Ian Perry (from September) DFO/PBS  
Helen Joseph, (ex-officio), DFO HQ  
Bill Crawford (ex-officio), DFO/IOS, (IAPSO)  
Dave Fissell (ex-officio), from May) CMOS  
Yves Gratton (ex-officio), INRS (CMOS Scientific Committee)  
Ian Perry (ex-officio until September), DFO/PBS (GLOBEC)  
Jay T. Cullen, (ex-officio until May), UVic, (IMBER)  
Ian Rutherford (ex-officio), CMOS Executive Director  
Dick Stoddart (Secretary until May), Stoddart Consulting  
Bob Wilson (Secretary from May), retired