

## INTRODUCTION TO CNC-SCOR

### **SCOR International**

SCOR is the leading international non-governmental organization for the promotion and coordination of international oceanographic activities. It does not have the resources to fund research directly; therefore, SCOR science activities focus on promoting international cooperation in planning and conducting oceanographic research, and solving methodological and conceptual problems that hinder research. Scientists from thirty-six nations participate in SCOR working groups and scientific steering committees for large-scale ocean research projects. The working groups are the heart of SCOR's program, each proposed by scientists from the community with specific terms of reference and a finite period of operation.

SCOR promotes capacity building for marine scientists in developing countries and countries with economies in transition through special efforts to include such scientists in SCOR activities, through travel grants to as many as 75 individuals each year, SCOR Visiting Scholars, and joint activities with other organizations.

SCOR meets once a year, hosted by one of the member countries. Meetings in the even-numbered years are designated General Meetings; those in the odd-numbered years are designated Executive Committee Meetings open to the general membership. The biennial General Meetings elect an Executive Committee and review the progress of SCOR activities. Travel expenses of the Canadian representative to these meetings are reimbursed by NRC. The 2012 General Meeting was hosted by CNC-SCOR in Halifax/Dartmouth, the first SCOR meeting in Canada since 1994.

Because SCOR is a non-governmental organization, its members represent their national SCOR committees, not their national governments.

### **CNC-SCOR**

The Canadian National Committee for SCOR is composed of 10 members, including the Chair, the immediate Past Chair, the Secretary and 7 others. The number of members is at the discretion of the chair. Members represent, as far as is feasible, the full range of ocean science disciplines associated with SCOR initiatives. Make-up of the membership also takes into account the need to represent gender, the bilingual nature of Canada, geographic distribution of scientists, and representation from government, universities and the private sector. The membership is augmented by *ex-officio* members representing a range of government agencies and related programs; presently *ex-officio* members include representatives for SOLAS, IAPSO, CMOS and its Scientific Committee, DFO and the international SCOR Executive. New members are proposed by existing CNC-SCOR members and the community at large. Final selection of new members is through the CNC-SCOR Executive Committee (the Chair, Past-Chair and Secretary), taking into account the criteria noted above. Members are appointed for a 3-year term that is once renewable; i.e. a maximum of 6 years. New members are selected every year to assure a mix of new and experienced representatives. The current committee membership is posted at on the website.

## **Meetings**

CNC-SCOR meets in person once a year, usually in conjunction with the CMOS Annual Congress. Periodically and when needed for urgent decision making, CNC-SCOR meets by conference call between Annual Meetings. Regular business throughout the year is conducted by email.

## **Activities and Function**

The Committee's most important duty is to provide an interface with international SCOR, both to disseminate information within Canada on ocean science programs and to act as a focal point for Canadian input to SCOR programs such as the selection of Working Groups on important ocean science issues of the day. CNC-SCOR also provides leadership on national program initiatives, such as:

- publishing an electronic Canadian Ocean Science Newsletter
- selecting and supporting tour speakers on ocean science issues
- providing a web site with information about the committee and its initiatives, and about SCOR and its working groups
- gathering and publishing information on PhD and MSc ocean science theses at Canadian universities
- completing annual and reports on Canadian ocean science concerns and initiatives

## **Finances and Relationship with CMOS**

CMOS manages CNC-SCOR's financial affairs through its Ottawa office. A separate fund is maintained in CMOS' bank account, to be drawn on as required. CNC-SCOR's only current revenue is an allotment from DFO (currently \$20K a year), which is used principally to support the scholarship supplements and the annual speakers tours.

The Committee runs a near-balanced budget each year. Small shortfalls are dealt with by drawing on legacy funds from ECOR, a former national ocean Committee.

CMOS also looks after maintenance and updates to CNC-SCOR's web pages through the services of their volunteer webmaster.

## **Relationship with Government Agencies**

DFO provides operating funds to CNC-SCOR (currently \$20K a year) under the terms of an annual agreement with CMOS. The Committee is required to report to DFO on its activities once a year, at the end of each calendar year.

DFO and NRC have a Memorandum of Understanding under whose terms NRC pays Canada's national affiliation fee to SCOR, roughly equivalent to DFO's contribution of operating funds. The agreement, for a three-year period ending in 2016, was last renewed in 2013. NRC's payment to SCOR-International is contingent on a competitive review of CNC-SCOR's activities, conducted by independent reviewers on the basis of a questionnaire completed annually.

## **Newsletter**

The electronic Canadian Ocean Science Newsletter was implemented on July 20, 2003, with 7-8 issues published each year since. The newsletter is available through a free subscription distributed by the list

server at McGill and also directly from the website. All back issues are available on the website. The number subscribed to the McGill list server has been declining slowly for several years as subscribers retire or move, and many graduate students and scientists new to oceanography in Canada are probably unaware of it. The Secretary acts as the newsletter's producer and publisher, with the help of Committee members in providing or soliciting lead articles.

**Ocean Science Theses**

A list of Canadian ocean science theses and dissertations sorted by university and year is available on the website. The way information is gathered has been improved from year to year, making the current year's data a better indicator of degrees granted in oceanography but invalidating any apparent trend. The Secretary is responsible for data collection.

**Lecture Tours**

Beginning in 2005, CNC-SCOR has annually sponsored a speaker from eastern Canada to tour western oceanographic centres and another from the west to tour eastern centres. These lecture tours usually take place in the fall, coordinated by the Secretary. The speakers are identified annually by committee members. Previous speakers have been:

	<b>Speaker going West</b>	<b>Speaker going East</b>
<b>2005</b>	Marlon Lewis	Philippe Tortell
<b>2006</b>	Kevin Lamb	Andy Bush
<b>2007</b>	Erica Head	Rob MacDonald
<b>2008</b>	Alain Vezina	Eric Kunze
<b>2009</b>	Bernie Boudreau	Kim Juniper
<b>2010</b>	Jean-Eric Tremblay	Gary Borstad
<b>2011</b>	Charles Gobeil	Paul Myers
<b>2012</b>	Ken Frank	Ed Carmack
<b>2013</b>	Phillipe Archambault	Susan Allen
<b>2014</b>	Markus Kienast	Debby Ianson

**NSERC Scholarship Supplement**

Beginning in 2006 and ending in 2013, CNC-SCOR awarded a supplement of \$5K per year, tenable for two years, to graduate students in ocean science who already held an NSERC scholarship. The award was adjudicated by the CMOS Awards Committee with input from CNC-SCOR and handed out during the banquet at the annual CMOS congress. Past winners are listed on the website. The award was discontinued in 2013 because of restriction on the CNC-SCOR funds.

**Project Maury**

CNC-SCOR provides financial support to a teacher to participate in Project Maury, which involves oceanographic 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. The workshop includes 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 selected teacher

training. In return, teachers commit to expanding the reach of their new training by offering a workshop to other teachers in their area. This activity started in 2010. Teachers selected have been:

- **2010:** Grant Badgero, (Kalamalka Secondary, BC)
- **2011:** Rod Carmichael (Oak Bay High, BC) and Michele Banks (Simonds High, NB)
- **2012:** Thea Black (Puntledge Elementary, BC)
- **2013:** Leslie Haussmann, (École Sunrise Ridge Elementary School, Surrey, BC)
- **2014:** Mr. Daryl Rideout (Macdonald Drive Elementary School, St. John's, NL)