



**CANADIAN OCEAN SCIENCE NEWSLETTER
LE BULLETIN CANADIEN DES SCIENCES DE L'OCÉAN**

**Newsletter Number 48, January 28, 2010
Bulletin numéro 48, 28 janvier 2010**

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JOBS

DFO-IOS Biogeochemical Laboratory and Field Support Supervisor

DFO is staffing a permanent professional-level position to lead laboratory and field projects within the Ocean Sciences Division at the Institute of Ocean Sciences, in Sidney, BC. The published duties are to:

- Supervise an internationally recognized laboratory facility, including a team of 3 full-time permanent technicians plus contractors and occasional students, in support of basic marine biogeochemical research.
- Coordinate technical staff and shared instrumentation in support of scientists with diverse research agendas and conflicting requests. The group currently includes 9 research scientists, 6 of whom have active field and laboratory programs.
- Plan, coordinate, and execute field and laboratory research projects.
- Supervise analytical quality, develop new analytical methods, monitor scientific literature, and upgrade existing methods accordingly. Prepare data sets for archiving, including metadata and quality control.
- Manage a research budget for laboratory maintenance and supplies.
- Assure that occupational health and safety standards are met and maintained in both the laboratory and the field; foster a culture of safety awareness, as well as satisfying specific regulations.

Further details and the on-line application procedure are posted here ([click](#)). Applications must be received by **February 15**.

UVic Research Technologist, Biogeochemistry Facility

The Biogeochemistry Facility in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences at the University of Victoria, BC, Canada is seeking a person to fill a full-time position as Laboratory Manager. The technologist will be responsible for the organization and operation of the Biogeochemistry Facility, including:

- Laboratory organization, planning, safety and management
- Training and supervision of students and staff on analytical and laboratory procedures
- Design, development and construction of analytical routines and procedures
- Routine maintenance, calibration, troubleshooting and repairs of analytical systems
- Perform stable isotope and geochemical analyses of organic and inorganic materials.

The technologist must be willing and capable to occasionally participate in land-based fieldwork and sea-going research cruises.

Further details on the position and the application procedure are posted here ([click](#)). No application deadline is given.

Graduate and Post-doctoral Fellowships at Dalhousie University

Graduate and post-doctoral fellowships in ocean observation, modeling and data assimilation are available at Dalhousie University through a newly funded NSERC Strategic Network Grant (SNG). The SNG builds on the Ocean Tracking Network, a global, \$168-million conservation project, which is conducting the world's most

comprehensive and revolutionary examination of the movement of marine life and its relationship to changing ocean conditions ([click](#)).

Dalhousie is currently seeking six graduate and three post-doctoral fellows with strong quantitative abilities who will participate in the implementation of an integrated observation and modeling system. The system will include cutting-edge ocean measurements (through sensors on ocean gliders, moorings and animals), physical and biological models, and advanced data assimilation, and is funded through the SNG. The initial geographic focus is the Northwest Atlantic Ocean and adjacent shelf seas.

- One graduate fellowship is available for analysis of mooring data; contact: Blair Greenan ([email](#)) or Peter Smith ([email](#)).
- One graduate fellowship is available for analysis of physical and bio-optical data from gliders; contact John Cullen ([email](#)).
- One graduate fellowship is available for analysis of sensor data (lab and field) from fish; contact Christopher Taggart ([email](#)).
- One graduate and one post-doctoral fellowship are available for the development of nested physical models; contact Jinyu Sheng ([email](#)).
- One graduate and one post-doctoral fellowship are available for coupled physical-biological modeling; contact Katja Fennel ([email](#)).
- One graduate and one post-doctoral fellowship are available for implementation of advanced data assimilation techniques; contact Keith Thompson ([email](#)).

An expression of interest should be accompanied by a curriculum vitae, transcripts (unofficial are acceptable for now) and a brief statement of research interests and goals. Consideration of applications will begin immediately and continue until positions are filled. Post-doctoral fellowships are for one year initially with possible extension to up to 3 years based on satisfactory performance. Fellowships are located at Dalhousie University's Oceanography Department ([click](#)) in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

OCEAN SCIENCE PROGRAMS

Two new working groups were formed at SCOR's 2009 Annual Meeting.

WG 136 Climatic Importance of the Greater Agulhas System

The overarching goal of this new working group is to improve understanding and awareness of the global climate impacts of the greater Agulhas Current system. Although this system is, by nature, regional, the WG's thrust is about understanding changes in the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) and climate that are forced from the southern hemisphere - i.e. by Agulhas leakage - hence the implications are of global significance. The WG plans to hold regular planning meetings leading to a review publication and a steering report that raise the profile of this important region, both in terms of its climatic significance and in terms of the representation it deserves as part of the Global Ocean Observing System. The WG will be co-funded through the World Climate Research Program.

The co-chairs are Lisa Beal (U Miami) and Anne Biastoch (IFM-GEOMAR, Germany). There are no Canadian members. The full WG proposal can be seen here ([click](#)).

SCOR WG 137 Patterns of Phytoplankton Dynamics in Coastal Ecosystems: Comparative Analysis of Time Series Observation

Information on this new group will be reported when it becomes available.

Call for Proposals for New SCOR Working Groups

The XXXth SCOR General Meeting will take place in Toulouse, France on **14-16 September 2010**. Preliminary information is available ([click](#)). The French SCOR Committee will convene a one-day symposium on **13 September** to highlight French ocean science and its contributions to SCOR. The SCOR Secretariat will accept proposals for new working groups from now until **14 April 2010**. Model proposals and other information about working groups can be found on SCOR's website ([click](#)).

SCOR examines the disciplinary balance of its working groups annually. The 2009 evaluation found that the set of SCOR working groups is relatively balanced. For 2010, SCOR particularly welcomes proposals based in marine geology, chemistry and paleoecology and related disciplines. Additionally, SCOR would welcome proposals specifically in:

- Climate-related studies in preparation for the next IPCC assessment
- Identifying limitations to prediction and confidence in the future state of the ocean
- Interactions and mechanisms in abrupt climate change
- Human health and disaster impact
- Sea level changes and ice movement

Each proposal will be evaluated by national SCOR committees in terms of scientific merit and quality, timeliness, and achievability of the proposed terms of reference. SCOR tentatively plans to start two new working groups in 2011, pending availability of adequate funding. SCOR may be able to approve more than two new groups if they are partially funded by other organizations or national bodies.

Canadian proposals for new working groups should be submitted through the CNC-SCOR Chair ([email](#)).

RSC Panel on Climate Change and Marine Biodiversity

The Royal Society of Canada has established a panel to look into the implications of oceanic climate change. The new panel's draft terms of reference state:

"Canada has the longest coastline in the world, giving us the geographical, if not moral, imperative to be leaders on matters pertaining to ocean health and marine biodiversity. Instead, our responses to anthropogenic stressors on the oceans (e.g., climate change, overfishing) have been lamentable. Oceanic climate change, for example, rarely makes ripples in the national press or in the House of Commons (with the exception of loss of sea ice), yet it almost certainly warrants considerably greater attention given the consequences of oceanic climate change to temperatures, salinity, sea level changes, acidification, primary and secondary productivity, shifting oceanic water masses, and the effects that these will have on our weather patterns and on marine biodiversity. Such a panel would address (a) climate change, (b) overfishing, and (c) biodiversity, all of which are related to various international treaties and conventions to which Canada is a signatory."

Specific questions to be addressed by the Panel can be seen on the RSC's website ([click](#)).

GEOTRACES Workshop Report, 7-10 December 2009, Paris

GEOTRACES is a relatively new international programme for the study of global marine biogeochemical cycles of trace elements and their isotopes (TEIs). As its main objectives, GEOTRACES aims at determining the distributions of many TEIs in the global ocean and at evaluating the sources, sinks, and internal cycling of these species as well as the sensitivity to global change. Meeting these scientific objectives requires the combined work of observationalists as well as modellers, and in order to foster the collaboration between these two communities GEOTRACES has established a series of Data/Model Synergy workshops very early in the programme.

The second of these workshops took place in Paris, France from 7 – 10 December 2009 with around 45 modellers and observationalists attending. The main theme was the role of particles in the cycling of micronutrients, stable or radioactive isotopes and contaminants. Presentations were given describing the state-of-the-art knowledge concerning ocean particle distributions, size-spectra and composition using satellite data, in situ profiling optical systems or models. A series of talks highlighted the importance of particles in the cycling of Nd, Pa and Th isotopes, and concluded that major uncertainties still exist with respect to the role of boundary exchange or scavenging and the impact of differences in particle size and chemical composition. These effects complicate the use of these tracers as simple paleo-circulation indicators.

Two sessions of the workshop were dedicated to the marine Fe cycle. Presentations highlighted the roles of sediments, hydrothermal vents and aeolian dust as sources of Fe and other elements and also summarized our latest understanding of the Fe speciation and cycling in seawater. Present-day Fe models are rather simple, and most modellers felt that more data and a better understanding of the processes (e.g., role of ligands, bioavailability of different Fe forms) are needed before introducing more complexity. The final session dealt with stable isotopes of C, N and Si and explored their potential as indicators of present and past nutrient utilization and productivity rates.

Further information can be found on the GEOTRACES website ([click](#)).

More Iron: SCOR WG 131 Launches New Database

WG 131 will launch a new database at a workshop on 21 February 2010 (1400-1700) at the ASLO/AGU Open Sciences Meeting in Portland. This relational database resides at the Biological and Chemical Oceanography Data Management Office (BCO-DMO) and will enable inter-comparisons of data between experiments conducted in the HNLC waters of the Southern Ocean, Equatorial and Subarctic Pacific. The organisers (Phil Boyd, WG co-chair and Cyndy Chandler, BCO-DMO) hope that this will stimulate exciting and novel opportunities for data synthesis and modeling, from 1-dimensional biological models through to complex 3-dimensional ocean biogeochemical models. The aim is to use this launch as a platform for planning a modeling/synthesis workshop in 2011 ([click](#)). The database can be accessed here prior to the workshop in text-based ([click](#)) or GIS interface ([click](#)) -select FeSyn as the programme name then find the project and cruise of interest.

There will be a further launch at the SOLAS-IMBER session at the European Geosciences Union Assembly in May 2010, see abstract ([click](#)).

PERSONNEL

Kenneth Henry Mann, 1923-2010



Ken Mann passed away in Halifax on January 24th at the age of 86. He was born in Aug., 1923 and spent his childhood and early schooling in Dovercourt, Essex. His education as a teacher was interrupted by service in the Royal Air Force during WWII. Married to Isabel after the War, he earned a B.Sc in 1949, a Ph.D in 1953 from the University of Reading and a D.Sc, awarded by University of London in 1965. In 1967, Ken and Isabel, with their three children, emigrated to Canada, where Ken took up a position at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography.

Ken's scientific career at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography and Dalhousie University spanned well over 25 years and he continued to write and publish until quite recently. He was Professor and Chairman of Biology at Dalhousie University from 1972-80 and was Director of the Marine Ecology Laboratory at BIO from 1980-87. Over the years, he was a mentor to post-doctoral students, many of whom remained lifelong

friends. He published over 170 papers in scientific journals and authored or co-authored a number of books, including *Ecology of Coastal Waters: Implications for Management*, *Fundamentals of Aquatic Ecosystems* with R.S.K. Barnes, and *Dynamics of Marine Ecosystems* with John Lazier. Ken's significant achievements in the Aquatic Sciences and his role as a model for students were recognized in 1994 with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography. In 2003, he was presented with the Gulf of Maine Visionary Award by the Council on the Marine Environment for his commitment and leadership as an internationally recognized Marine Ecologist. He was awarded an Honorary Degree by Cape Breton University in 2008.

Ken retired from BIO, but not from writing, in 1993. His work has greatly enriched our knowledge of detrital food webs, decomposition processes, kelp bed ecology, fish production, coastal zone management, and energy flow in marine ecosystems. In accepting the Gulf of Maine Visionary Award, he wrote that his career had provided "...a sense of the wonder and beauty of living organisms and a perception that the universe embodies a great wisdom, of which we may now and then catch a glimpse in the form of some regularity, scientific generalization, or even a law." He will be sadly missed.

Changes to CNC-SCOR Membership

The Canadian National Committee for SCOR is composed of 10 members, including the Chair, the immediate Past Chair, the Secretary and 7 others. Members are appointed for a 3 year term that may be renewed once. New members are selected every year to assure a steady rotation, and this year's new members are Catherine Johnson and Gary Stern.

Catherine Johnson is a research scientist with Fisheries and Oceans Canada in the Ecosystem Research Division at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography in Dartmouth, NS. Her research interests include the ecology and life history of marine zooplankton, long-term changes in zooplankton populations and communities, interactions between the physical environment and zooplankton, and environmental monitoring. She received her PhD from the University

of California, San Diego in 2003. She is currently a member of the ICES GOOS Steering Group and the Scientific Steering Committee for the Fifth International Zooplankton Production Symposium.

Gary Stern is a Senior Research Scientist with Fisheries and Oceans Canada in Arctic Ecosystem Health and also holds a DFO Research Chair position with the Department of Environment and Geography at the University of Manitoba. His research involves the study of environmental pathways of contaminants, including their delivery, transport, and elimination from Arctic marine and freshwater aquatic ecosystems. In particular, it is directed toward linking contaminant levels in Arctic marine food webs to oceanographic provinces, inputs from land and the atmosphere and ultimately, climate variation which has been shown to alter for example, hydrology, organic carbon, sea ice dynamics, primary productivity, foodweb structure and foraging of top trophic level feeders such as beluga and ringed seals. Currently, he is the co-leader of the Circumpolar Flaw Lead (CFL) System Study, the largest IPY project in the world, and the newly funded ArcticNet Phase II proposal entitled "Effects of Climate Change on Carbon and Contaminant Cycling in the Arctic Coastal and Marine Ecosystems: Impacts, Prognosis and Adaptations Strategies". He also leads two major projects funded by the Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC) and the Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust Fund (NWMTF) to study the effects of climate change on mercury in marine mammals. In collaboration with colleagues from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, other government departments and universities, Dr Stern has contributed to, either as lead or co-author, to approximately 100 publications in the open literature.

Thanks to Allyn Clarke and David Barber, who have left the Committee after serving two three-year terms.

MEETINGS

2010 CNC-SCOR Tour Speakers

Speakers for the 2010 cross-country tour are Gary Borstad (ASL Borstad Remote Sensing Inc.) going east, and Jean-Éric Tremblay (Laval) going west.

Gary Borstad

The title of Dr. Borstad's talk is: **Rhinos and green seas - satellite observations of ocean colour predict inter-annual changes in marine life at a Canadian seabird colony.**

Abstract: We have used satellite observations of ocean colour to accurately predict the timing and success of breeding by rhinoceros auklets (*Cerorhinca monocerata*) at the largest seabird colony on the British Columbia coast. When the spring bloom of phytoplankton arrives early in April, the diet of the auklet chicks contains a larger fraction of high caloric juvenile sandlance. The chicks grow larger and more of them successfully fledge.

Associated with changes in the coastal wind regime, the bloom in Southeast Queen Charlotte Sound became progressively later during the period 2000 to 2007 and there was a drastic decline in fledging success leading to an almost complete failure of breeding in 2007. A switch in winds, coastal currents and bloom timing in 2008 resulted in a dramatic return to high fledgling growth and production. Gary will explain his research in detail and emphasize that the growing archive of free, global ocean colour satellite observations is a scientific resource of immeasurable value that must be continued.

Dr. Borstad will be in St. John's (DFO) on Feb. 1; Halifax (BIO and Dalhousie) on Feb. 2; Montreal (Canadian Space Agency and McGill) on Feb. 3; Ottawa (DFO) on Feb. 4; Toronto (MSC) on Feb. 5; and Winnipeg (U Manitoba) on Feb. 8.

Jean-Éric Tremblay

The title of Dr. Tremblay's talk is: **Marine Productivity in the Changing Arctic: Basin-Scale and Regional Dimensions.**

Abstract: Marine ecosystems of the Arctic Ocean are exposed to multiple stressors as atmospheric forcing, sea ice, water temperature, the freshwater balance and the circulation and stratification of the upper ocean are altered. While the declining thickness and seasonal persistence of sea-ice challenges the organisms that use it for reproduction, foraging or refuge, the greater penetration of sunlight into the water column could subsidize primary production and the yield of surviving and invading consumers. However, our ability to detect biological trends and to attribute them to climate oscillations or climate change in this naturally diverse and dynamic environment is limited by a lack of synoptic observations and coordinated time series. Orbiting sensors can track the productivity of the upper euphotic zone but do not detect the significant events that occur in and underneath sea ice or in the lower euphotic zone. In situ records of quantitative and meaningful indicators of seasonal timing (or phenology), biological stocks, habitat use and biological rates are needed. This presentation will focus on the "bottom-up" aspects of marine productivity and revisit the results obtained by multidisciplinary research programs during the past decade and the fourth International Polar Year. Regional differences will be discussed and comparisons with other basins that share intriguing similarities will be used to speculate on what the future Arctic and boreal North Atlantic oceans might be.

Dr. Tremblay will be in Nanaimo (PBS) on Mar. 1; Victoria (IOS) Mar. 2 or 3, Vancouver (UBC) Mar. 4; and a possible date in Edmonton at U Alberta on Mar. 5.

Please come out and hear the speaker closest to your location. If you need more information, please contact:

Western locations: Bob Wilson ([email](#))

Eastern locations: Dick Stoddart ([email](#))

CMOS/CGU Joint Congress, 31 May-4 Jun, Ottawa

The joint CMOS/CGU Congress will be held on May 31 to June 4, 2010 in Ottawa, Ontario at the Crowne Plaza ([click](#)). It will be the third occasion for a joint Congress between the two societies. The Congress theme of "Our Earth, Our Air, Our Water: Our Future" will include:

- Plenary presentations by leading researchers.
- Science sessions that highlight top Canadian and international research contributions spanning the meteorological, oceanographic, geophysical, climatic and hydrologic sciences, as well as the policy implications of research in these fields.
- An evening lecture of general-interest, open to the public.
- A banquet, a hosted lunch, awards of CMOS and CGU prizes, and the Annual General Meetings of both societies.

Please submit abstracts electronically to the link found on the Congress website ([click](#)) **before the deadline of February 17, 2010**. You will be asked to submit your abstract to one of several planned sessions that are listed on the website and to specify your preference for either an oral or a poster presentation. An abstract fee of \$50 will be charged at the time of submission. Your abstract will be evaluated by the Scientific Program Committee and you will be notified of acceptance by **2 March 2010**. Details for your oral or poster presentation will be provided by **17 March 2010**.

CMOS and CGU student members are welcomed and encouraged to apply for a Student Travel Bursary when submitting an abstract; the application form may be found here ([click](#)). The deadline for travel assistance requests is **February 26, 2010**.

If you are an exhibitor, an educator, a member of the media, or anyone else with a special interest in the meeting, you can contact the Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee ([email](#)) for further information.

Co-Chairs of the Scientific Program Committee for the Ottawa 2010 Congress are:

- Dick Stoddart ([email](#))
- Rod Blais ([email](#))

Congrès conjoint SCMO/UGC, 31 mai-4 juin, Ottawa

Le Congrès conjoint SCMO/UGC aura lieu du 31 mai au 4 juin 2010 à Ottawa, en Ontario, au Crowne Plaza ([cliquer](#)). Il s'agira de la troisième participation de ces deux sociétés à un congrès conjoint. Cette année, le thème du congrès sera : « La Terre, l'air et l'eau : Notre avenir ».

Le congrès comprendra:

- Des conférences plénières réalisées par des scientifiques à la fine pointe de la recherche.
- Des sessions scientifiques accentuant les contributions ultimes de la recherche canadienne et internationale dans les domaines du climat, de la météorologie, de l'océanographie, de la géophysique et de l'hydrologie, ainsi que les implications politiques de la recherche avancée dans ces domaines.
- Une présentation d'intérêt général dans la soirée ouverte au public.
- Un banquet, un déjeuner inclus, la remise des prix de la SCMO et de l'UGC, et l'assemblée générale annuelle des deux sociétés.

Veillez soumettre vos résumés électroniquement en utilisant le lien sur le site du congrès ([cliquer](#)) **avant le 17 février 2010**. Vous devrez soumettre votre résumé sous une des nombreuses sessions affichées sur le site et spécifier votre préférence quant à une présentation orale ou une présentation affichée. Des frais de \$50 seront retenus au moment de la soumission. Votre soumission sera évaluée par le comité du programme scientifique du congrès qui vous avisera de son acceptation **le 2 mars 2010**. Les détails pour votre présentation orale ou affichée vous seront communiqués **le 17 mars 2010**.

Les étudiants, membres de la SCMO et de l'UGC, sont les bienvenus et ils sont encouragés à soumettre une demande de bourse étudiante d'aide au voyage lors de la soumission de leur résumé; le formulaire d'application se trouve ici ([cliquer](#)). La date limite pour les soumissions est **le 26 février 2010**.

Si vous êtes un exposant, un éducateur, un membre des médias, ou quelqu'un avec un intérêt particulier pour le congrès, veuillez contactez le président du Comité des arrangements locaux ([courriel](#)) pour obtenir plus d'information.

Les coprésidents du Comité du programme scientifique pour le Congrès de 2010 à Ottawa sont:

- Dick Stoddart ([courriel](#))
- Rod Blais ([courriel](#))

SCOR IMBER IMBIZO, 10-14 Oct., Crete

IMBER is an IGBP-SCOR project focussing on ocean biogeochemical cycles and ecosystems research. The goal of IMBER is “to investigate the sensitivity of marine biogeochemical cycles and ecosystems to global change, on time scales ranging from years to decades”. To achieve this goal we need to identify key interactions between marine biogeochemical cycles and ecosystems, and assess how these interactions respond to complex natural and anthropogenic forcings. IMBER will hold a series of workshops in Crete, 10-14 Oct., to review current knowledge and identify key questions for future research ([click](#)).

PICES/ICES/FAO Symposium on Climate Change Effects on Fish and Fisheries, 25-29 Apr, Sendai.

Climate change will have many impacts on marine ecosystems, and on human uses of them. Improved scientific support for policy and management decision-making in the face of these potential impacts is essential. In response to this need, interdisciplinary research teams have been formed around the world to analyze data and develop models to explore the likelihood and nature of future ecosystem states and strategies for sustainable use in these future states. To facilitate the advancement of this critical research, ICES, PICES and FAO are holding an international symposium - Climate Change Effects on Fish and Fisheries: Forecasting Impacts, Assessing Ecosystem Responses, and Evaluating Management Strategies. This symposium will provide a forum for scientists and policymakers to discuss the potential impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems and our uses of these ecosystems, and to consider the strategies that society can take to be prepared for anticipated impacts. Quantitative studies of the potential impact of climate change on fish and fisheries throughout the world will be featured ([click](#)).

GENERAL

CMOS Awards: Call for Nominations

It's time to think about nominating oceanographers for various CMOS awards; the deadline is **February 15, 2010**. Click [here](#) for details on the various awards and the call for nominations for this year. In some previous years CMOS awards for ocean scientists gone unclaimed because there were no nominations; e.g. the Tully Medal, and the Prize in Applied Oceanography. Past winners are listed on the CMOS website ([click](#)). Oceanographic nominations are encouraged for the Tully Medal, the François J. Saucier Prize in Applied Oceanography, the President's Prize, Graduate Student Prizes, the Roger Daley Postdoctoral Publication Award, Environmental Citations, and the Neil J. Campbell Medal for Exceptional Volunteer Service.

Another category for prestigious recognition by CMOS is that of electing CMOS Fellows and Honorary Fellows. The deadline for nominations is **March 15**, with details on nominations and past elections here ([click](#)).

CMOS undergraduate scholarships applications are also due on **March 15**, ([click](#)).

Last, but not least, CNC/SCOR provides an NSERC Scholarship supplement annually in the amount of \$5,000.00 for each of two years to a deserving graduate or postgraduate student in ocean science. The submission deadline for this year's award is **April 15**. More information is on the CNC/SCOR website ([click](#)).

Parsons Medal: Call for Nominations

The Timothy R. Parsons Medal is:

- Awarded to a Canadian for distinguished accomplishments in multidisciplinary facets of ocean sciences.
- Awarded for excellence during the lifetime of the recipient or for a recent outstanding achievement, both being equally eligible.
- Awarded for accomplishments while working for Canadian Institutions or for the benefit of Canadian Science.
- No posthumous nominations are considered. The award will only be given to one candidate.

The Parsons Medal was established by DFO to recognize achievement in ocean sciences. To make a nomination, please complete the appropriate nomination form from the Parsons Award page ([click](#)) by **February 28**.

La médaille Parsons: Appel de mises en candidature

Le prix Timothy R. Parsons est :

- Décernée à un(e) scientifique canadien(ne) qui s'est distingué(e) par sa contribution remarquable dans un domaine multidisciplinaire lié à l'océanographie;
- Décernée pour souligner l'excellence de la carrière ou une réalisation exceptionnelle récente d'un(e) candidat(e), les deux étant admissibles sur un pied d'égalité;
- Décernée pour souligner les réalisations d'un(e) candidat(e) au sein d'une institution canadienne ou au profit de la science canadienne.
- Aucune mise en candidature posthume ne sera acceptée. Il n'y aura qu'un seul lauréat.

La médaille Parsons a été créée par MPO afin de reconnaître les réalisations hors du commun dans le domaine de la recherche sur les océans. Pour soumettre une mise en candidature, veuillez compléter le formulaire sur le site web pour le prix Timothy R. Parsons ([cliquer](#)).

Social Networking

It's now common to see audience members at a conference entering text into a Blackberry or cell phone during and after the talks. These messages provide instant updates and an opportunity for questions to colleagues who were unable to attend. Where are the messages going?

Several of SCOR's large-scale research programs use Wikipedia to communicate beyond and within the group. For example, CLIVAR, CoML, GEOTRACES and GEOHAB all have pages ([click](#)) on Wikipedia with accessible information about objectives and events, and with links to more detailed information. Though Wikipedia has become an important social resource and a tool for distributing scientific knowledge and information, it's a safe bet that the messages from the back of the presentation hall aren't Wikipedia updates.

Canwest News reports that Canadians lead the world in their adoption of social networking ([click](#)). If they're not destined for the sender's e-mail or intranet, those messages from the back of the hall could be headed for Facebook or Twitter. CMOS, for example, recently opened a Facebook page ([click](#)), one of at least 459 Facebook groups apparently concerned with oceanography. So far, it hasn't attracted much discussion.

By contrast, the Twitterverse seems less populated by oceanographic research organizations, the Scripps Institute ([click](#)) apparently being the lone North American representative at that level. Twitter, however, is more suited to

an individual scientist than an institute and many oceanographers likely have individual accounts. If you have an account you use for scientific communication, please send a tweet to the incoming CNC/SCOR Secretary ([click](#)).

CORRESPONDENCE

Rescuing old oceanographic data

Consciousness has grown in the last decade across the whole of science about the need for permanent data archives with a capability for broad access. Canadian oceanographers are a bit fortunate that DFO had recognised the issue and begun to 'rescue' irregular departmental data repositories by the early 1990s. But how fortunate are we?

Christopher Taggart (Dalhousie University) wrote (Oct. 5, 2009):

I was recently contacted by GLOBEC's International Project Office (Plymouth Marine Lab, UK) about archiving data. My response was as follows:

- 1. I have much GLOBEC related data and even more from non-GLOBEC sources that may be of value (physical and biological).*
- 2. These data have never been properly archived.*
- 3. I have neither time nor funds nor internal/external support to properly archive the data.*
- 4. If you know of a funding source to achieve the archiving, I would happily follow-up. Otherwise, when I "go" the data also "go". It is a sad situation and within the academic sector it is a ubiquitous problem that is only getting worse as the first generation of "digital" scientists fades into history along with their hard-disks and floppies, and in most cases paper records do not exist. Most government agencies are on top of this, but they ignore the academic sector and the academic sector has no means or funds to achieve it.*

It is high time, at least in Canada and perhaps elsewhere in the world, that agencies such as NSERC and other government bodies recognized the impending loss of much data (some already gone with the leading-edge of retirements now coming on strong) and mobilized an archiving programme with funding before it is too late. We stand to lose nigh-on two or more decades of data.

Perhaps the Canadian National Committee for SCOR would champion this?

We asked Robert Keeley (DFO, Ottawa) to comment on this situation. He wrote on November 24, 2009:

In Science we have had special funding support each year for the last five year for data management activities, and some of this is used for data rescue. It is complicated to provide funding to Universities to do this work from our fund. Another complication arises from the fact that DFO also has data in need of rescue. We need good reasons to choose rescuing data held outside of DFO over those data held internally.

One way to proceed is to arrange the transfer of the data from a university to a DFO office so that at least the data will not be lost. It will take some work to be sure everything in the collection is clear and understood, but once that is done, we can be a bit more deliberate about converting the data into archives. Once within DFO, a

data rescue is easier to accomplish with DFO funding. The Integrated Science Data Management group has been the recipient of such data sets from time to time and it is not a very satisfactory way to do things, but if the choice is do this or lose the data, I would rather see us try this. The proviso is that once the data come under DFO custody, our rules for release of data apply.

This could be the tip of a data iceberg and dealing with a single data set in this way is possible. Dealing with many will be very difficult. Some more sensible arrangement for data stewardship is needed.

This correspondence raises a few questions:

- Whose responsibility is it in Canada to ensure that recent and historical oceanographic data are not lost?
- Whose responsibility is it to fund permanent data archives?
- Whose responsibility is it to ensure that the broader community has access to permanent data archives?
- What might a “sensible arrangement for data stewardship” look like?

Send us your thoughts ([email](#)).

**CANADIAN OCEAN SCIENCE NEWSLETTER
LE BULLETIN CANADIEN DES SCIENCES DE L'OcéAN**

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Newsletter #49 will be distributed on March 26, 2010. Please send contributions to Bob Wilson, wilson@telus.net
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