



Canadian National Committee for SCOR  
Comité national canadien pour SCOR

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# Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research

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

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### **Assistant Professor Position: Atmosphere-Ocean General Circulation Modeling**

The Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences at McGill University is seeking outstanding applicants for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in the area of atmosphere-ocean general circulation modeling. The successful applicant will be expected to develop an active research program, supervise graduate students, and teach a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses. Depending on the qualifications of the successful candidate, hiring may be possible at either the Associate or Full Professor level. Preference will be given to candidates whose area of expertise is climate-change dynamics. A Ph. D. in atmospheric or oceanic sciences or a closely-related field is required.

McGill University is an English-speaking university located in Montreal, one of North America's most cosmopolitan cities. For more information about McGill University and the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences please see <http://www.mcgill.ca/meteo>

A hard copy (not via e-mail) of the applicant's curriculum vitae, research proposal, and teaching statement should be sent to:

Dr. John R. Gyakum, Chair  
Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences  
McGill University  
805 Sherbrooke Street West  
Montreal, QC H3A 2K6  
Canada  
(Telephone: 514-398-3760; fax: 514-398-6115).

Candidates should also arrange to have three letters of reference sent directly to the above address. In accordance with Canadian employment and immigration regulations, this advertisement is directed to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada. However, applications from all outstanding candidates will be considered. McGill University is committed to equity in employment.

The preferred starting date for this position is September 1, 2008. Review of the applications will begin in December 2007, and continue until the position is filled.

### **Graduate Student Position; Arctic Oceanography/Biogeochemistry**

Université Laval in Quebec City, Canada, is accepting applications for a PhD or MSc student position in Arctic Oceanography/Biogeochemistry under the supervision of Louis Fortier. The successful candidate will work with long-term moored sediment traps deployed at several locations in the Arctic Ocean to measure carbon export in a context of global warming within the Network of Centres of Excellence of Canada ArcticNet. The selected student will participate in fieldwork in the Arctic Ocean aboard the icebreaker Amundsen. The position is available starting as early as January 2008 and will remain open until filled. Applicants should be autonomous, self-motivated, and should have demonstrated academic excellence and field experience. A BSc

or MSc in biology, ecology, biochemistry, or related fields is required.

Applicants should submit a letter describing their research interests/experiences and a statement of goals, CV, and transcripts to: Louis Fortier, [Louis.Fortier@bio.ulaval.ca](mailto:Louis.Fortier@bio.ulaval.ca)

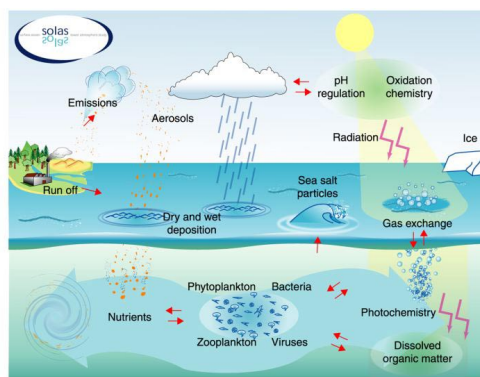
### **Arctic SOLAS: A study of the impact of global warming on sea-air trace gas exchanges and climate in the Canadian Arctic**

Arctic SOLAS is a new research project funded by the Canadian International Polar Year Program. The main objective of the project is to improve our knowledge on the interactions between sea ice, circulation and emission of climate-active trace gases and aerosols in the Arctic.

The Canadian Arctic is rapidly warming with important reductions of the extent, thickness, and age of sea ice, as well as changes in water circulation. The influence of these major alterations of the Arctic on sea-air and ice-air flux of climate-active gases and aerosols (particles in the atmosphere), and on atmospheric chemistry and radiative properties are largely unknown. The Arctic is important in the production and cycling of climate-active gases, including dimethylsulfide (DMS), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). DMS and VOCs are precursors of aerosols and as such have a cooling effect on climate. On the other hand, N<sub>2</sub>O is a powerful greenhouse gas which contributes to climate warming. The production of these gases is likely to be affected by changes in sea ice cover, and their concentration and fate in the atmosphere will be altered by changing emissions from the ocean and by changing atmospheric dynamics in a warming Arctic. The processes involved are at present poorly characterized and it is impossible to specify the magnitude or direction (positive or negative) of their feedbacks on Arctic climate.

Research activities include two expeditions on the Canadian research icebreaker *Amundsen* in the Canadian Arctic in the fall of 2007 and 2008. During these cruises, coordinated ocean and atmospheric measurements will be conducted along an East-West transect extending from the west coast of Greenland to the Beaufort Sea. These cruises are coordinated with those of ArcticNet and of the IPY-CFL project.

Arctic SOLAS involves applicants from 8 Canadian universities, 5 governmental institutes, and 9 international collaborators. This is the Canadian contribution to the IGBP-SCOR program SOLAS (Surface Ocean – Lower Atmosphere Study) with the main objective of increasing our understanding of the complex interconnections between the ocean and the atmosphere and their impacts on climate. For more information, please contact Maurice Levasseur (Canada Research Chair on Plankton-Climate Interactions, Laval University, Québec-Océan, e-mail: [Maurice.levasseur@bio.ulaval.ca](mailto:Maurice.levasseur@bio.ulaval.ca)).



Schematic representation of the research domains of the international SOLAS program (<http://www.uea.ac.uk/env/solas/>)

### Main researchers and affiliations

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GRATTON, Yves	INRS-ETE
NORMAN, Ann-Lise	University of Calgary
PRICE, Neil	McGill University
RIVKIN, Richard	Memorial University of Newfoundland
TORTELL, Philippe	University of British Columbia
TREMBLAY, Jean-Éric	Université Laval (Québec-Océan)
XIE, Huixiang	UQAR/ISMER
	Government
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GALBRAITH, Peter	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (IML)
GONG, Sunling	Environnement Canada -Science
LEITCH, Richard	Environnement Canada -Science
LI, William KW	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (BIO)
MICHEL, Christine	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (FWI)
SCARRATT, Michael	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (IML)
VÉZINA, Alain	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (BIO)

## Ship Time Funding in Support of Discovery Research

The success rate of the 2007 NSERC competition for ship time in support of Discovery Grant research was just over 50% both in number of awards and amounts awarded. On the other hand, all the proposals examined by the Ship Time Allocations Committee (STAC) were deemed worthy of support. The unsuccessful applicants are researchers who have their programs funded by Discovery Grants. The reason for not awarding them ship time to do the research they are funded for is that the budget allocated by NSERC is limited to one million dollars per year, an amount that has remained the same since NSERC assumed responsibility for ship time funding in the middle 1990s. The budget has in effect been shrinking. For example, CCGS VECTOR cost \$5200/day in 1998, \$6600/day in 2003, and \$8100/day in 2008. Queried by STAC members, representatives from NSERC made it clear that the budget will not be increased unless ship time users present strong and persuasive arguments why it should. Mere whining will get us nowhere in the competitive world of NSERC.

The unspoken question from NSERC is this: does the marine science community really need more ship time? Considering the amounts of ship time being allocated to large programs in the Arctic such as CASES, CFL, and IPY, are not the needs met? Perhaps not. With all due respect to large programs, which have benefited my own research, they are not for everybody. There must be room for individuals to do research outside the framework of large programs. If we call large programs “big science”, we must not neglect “small science”, which is often at the origin of new ideas, even of new large programs. This is why ship time in support of Discovery Grants is important.

NSERC does not question the importance of the ship time program; they question the need for more funding. I suspect that many Canadian researchers, seeing the downward trend in the ship time budget, have given up on applying to NSERC for funding and have reoriented their research so they don't need ship time. In my own case I maintain a field program on salt marshes as insurance against decreasing ship time funding. It would be interesting to know if the trend away from ship based research is real, and if it is real how important it is. Judging from the number of signatories to the letter from university based oceanographers to Dr. Suzanne Fortier, President of NSERC, published in this newsletter, there is widespread concern about the future of oceanographic research in Canada. Insufficient funding of ship time is part of this concern. It is a problem that deserves our attention.

So what should we do? We should avoid self-censorship. We should not resign ourselves to the present ceiling on ship time funding and we should not shy away from applying for ship time to do the exciting research we always dreamed of but never thought we could get funds for. If we need ship time for our project in the South Pacific, or the Indian Ocean, or in a fjord in Newfoundland, we should apply for it. Our projects may not get funded in the first round, but if we don't apply for time we certainly won't get it. Worse, if we don't apply for the ship time we need, there will be no reason for NSERC to increase the ship time budget.

Bjorn Sundby  
Chair, Ship Time Allocations Committee (2007)

**Canadian University-Based Oceanographers Concerned about the future of Oceanographic Research**



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December 4, 2007

Dr. Suzanne Fortier  
President, NSERC  
350 Albert Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 1H5

Dear Dr. Fortier,

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian university-based oceanographers whose names appear at the end of this letter. We are concerned about the future of oceanographic research in Canada. We direct our concerns to you because NSERC has the mandate to support university-based research. We realize, however, that the problems we describe below go beyond NSERC, and we also address our concerns to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans; the principal provider of seagoing infrastructure for oceanographic research in Canada.

While we recognize NSERC's and CFI's recent investments in several large oceanographic programs such as CASES, CFL, OTN, VENUS and NEPTUNE, basic funding levels and access to ship-time remain major challenges to our community. Despite dramatic increases in the cost of operating seagoing research vessels, the budget allocated to ship time in support of Discovery Grants has been fixed at about one million dollars per year since NSERC began granting ship-time support in the mid 1990s. This amounts to some \$330K for each of Canada's three oceans per year; equivalent to 11 days per year per ocean assuming an ocean-going vessel cost of \$30K per day. The problem is particularly acute for Arctic oceanography which requires highly specialized research platforms, and costly logistical operations. Despite recent investments by NSERC and CFI in Canada's Arctic research fleet, the availability of ice-breaking research vessels remains a serious constraint on Canadian Arctic oceanography. **Considering the political, economic, and scientific importance of scientific research in Canada's oceans, we urge NSERC to accord greater priority to funding seagoing marine**

**science. A vibrant oceanographic research community is critical to achieving the Federal Government's 2007 Science and Technology Strategy which emphasizes environmental sciences and natural resources as areas of strategic national interest.**

Our concerns also arise from the many historical budget cuts, imposed by the Federal Government, that have obliged the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to severely reduce its activities within the Science Sector, with the consequential loss of oceanographic expertise and infrastructure. The continued deterioration of this research capacity is having strong and negative impacts on Canada's ability to achieve its scientific and policy-related mandate for stewardship of the seas, and to further develop its world-class ocean technology industry.

The long-standing success of Canadian oceanographic research is directly attributable to the collaborative relationship between government and academic scientists. This partnership has produced fundamental advances in our understanding of Canada's marine systems, and has propelled our researchers to the forefront of the international scientific community, where Canadians have consistently provided world-class leadership beyond their numbers. However, for our community to remain internationally competitive, respond to the crises involving Canada's oceans and climate, and embrace new technologies and ocean observing networks, a new partnership must be urgently developed. **We urge you to consider, in close collaboration with DFO, ways to strengthen the complementary roles that university and government researchers play in understanding and managing Canada's oceans, and in training the next generation of scientists, educators and policy advisors. Such research partnerships between the academic and government sectors are a core principle guiding the Government's new Science and Technology Strategy.**

The time is long past when individual government agencies can work in isolation from each other and make narrow interpretations of their respective mandates. There is too much at stake for this. **We urge NSERC, in close cooperation with DFO, and on behalf of the entire oceanographic community, to take the initiative to reverse the declining trend in oceanographic expertise and infrastructure.** For some very specific ideas of how this may be accomplished, we refer to the attached report of an NSERC sponsored Marine Science Workshop that was held in St-John's, Newfoundland, in 1997. Ten years later, the report is more relevant than ever.

The university-based marine science community stands ready to continue working with NSERC and DFO to strengthen the partnership between university and government research infrastructure. We welcome any opportunity to discuss our concerns, and hope to work with NSERC and DFO on this very important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Philippe Tortell  
Assistant Professor  
Dept. of Earth & Ocean Sciences, UBC

/pt

cc: Isabelle Blain, Vice President, NSERC  
 Janet Walden, Vice President, NSERC  
 Eliot Phillipson, President and CEO, Canada Foundation for Innovation  
 Michelle D'Auray, Deputy Minister, Department of Fisheries and Oceans  
 Wendy Watson-Wright, Assistant Deputy Minister Science, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans  
 Gordon McBean, Chair, Canadian Scientific Committee on Ocean Research

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### Lawrence Mysak of McGill University Elected President of IAPSO



At the 24th IUGG (International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics) General Assembly, held 2-13 July, 2007 in Perugia, Italy, Professor Lawrence Mysak of McGill University was elected president of IAPSO (International Association for the Physical Sciences of the Oceans), for the 4-year term, 2007-11. He is the second Canadian to hold this position, the first being the late Dr. Robert W. Stewart who was president of IAPSO for the term 1975-79. IAPSO is one of 8 sister associations of IUGG, a non-governmental organization under ICSU (the International Council for Science) which meets every 4 years. The last general assembly of IUGG was held in Sapporo, Japan in 2003, and the next general assembly will be in Melbourne, Australia in 2011. Other associations in IUGG of related interest to IAPSO are those focusing on atmospheric sciences (IAMAS), hydrology (IAHS) and cryospheric sciences (IACS). In his capacity as president of IAPSO for the next 4 years, Dr. Mysak is also an *ex-officio* member of the international SCOR executive committee, which is chaired by Bjorn Sundby (McGill University).

### Ken Denman Recipient of Wooster Award



Dr. Ken Denman, research scientist at the Institute of Ocean Sciences (IOS) and the Canadian Centre for Climate Modelling and Analysis (CCCMA), is the recipient of the Wooster Award for 2007. The award was presented by Professor Kuh Kim at the 16<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) in Victoria B.C. in late October 2007.

Dr. Denman has built a biological oceanographic program at IOS over many years with a focus on how oceanographic and environmental factors affect plankton, which supports fish populations. He is an internationally respected scientist who

helped establish links between physical and biological processes in the upper ocean. He was recently a lead author in the 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The Wooster Award is named in honour of Professor Warren Wooster, a principal founder and the first Chairman of PICES, and a world-renowned researcher and statesman in the area of climate variability and fisheries production. The award is given annually to an individual who has made significant scientific contributions to North Pacific marine science, such as understanding and predicting the role of human and climate interactions on marine ecosystem production. The main criteria for selection are sustained excellence in research, teaching, administration or a combination of the three in the area of North Pacific marine science. Special consideration is given to individuals who have worked in integrating the disciplines of marine science. Individuals who were or are currently actively involved in PICES activities are preferred but the award may be given to any suitable candidate, including those from outside PICES member countries.

### **Our Warming Planet**

During 19-29 July 2009, IAPSO together with IAMAS and IACS will hold a 10-day joint assembly in Montreal with the theme "Our Warming Planet", which is expected to attract up to 2000 delegates from around the world. Professor Mysak (McGill University) is currently serving on the organizing committee for this meeting; the chair of this committee is Dr. Michel Beland of Environment Canada. Additional information may be found at:

<http://www.iamas-iapso-iacs-2009-montreal.ca/>

### **First Call for Papers, 42nd Annual Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society Congress May 25 to 29, 2008 Kelowna, British Columbia**

The Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (CMOS) Congress 2008 will be held in Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada at the Grand Okanagan Lakefront Resort from 25 to 29 May, 2008. The Congress theme is "Water, Weather, and Climate: Science Informing Decisions". <http://www.cmos2008.ca>

The Congress will feature:

- \* Plenary presentations by leading researchers.
- \* Science sessions that highlight top Canadian and international research contributions to climate, meteorology, oceanography, and hydrology, as well as the policy implications of research in these fields.
- \* An evening lecture of general-interest, open to the public, on the theme of regional climate.
- \* A banquet, a hosted lunch, awards of CMOS prizes, and the CMOS Annual General Meeting.

In addition to the normal CMOS Congress program, the following special sessions have been proposed:

International Polar Year; Polar climate stability; Alpine hydrometeorology; Forest hydrometeorology; Operational oceanography; Coastal and inland waters in a changing climate; Impact of climate change on biogeochemical cycles in the coastal ocean; Atmosphere, ocean and climate dynamics; Atmospheric Modelling for Research; Health issues of weather and climate; Global coupled atmosphere-ocean modelling and assimilation; Scientists involvement in decision-making processes; Use, application and impact of satellite based earth observing systems over the ocean; Aviation Weather Science and Service for Decision Makers; Forecasting the weather and climate beyond one week; Scale relationships in Atmosphere and Ocean forcing of sea ice; Training of decision-makers in meteorology and hydrology; Fire weather and forecasting; Air quality in valleys; Avalanche science and forecasting; Energy and climate; Climate change policy and economic impacts; Water Resources and climate change.

Please submit abstracts electronically to the link found on the Congress website (<http://www.cmos2008.ca>) after January 7, 2008 and before the deadline of February 15, 2008. 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. The poster venue is on a spectacular sheltered outdoor patio overlooking Okanagan Lake and the surrounding valley. An abstract fee of \$50 will be charged at the time of submission that will be credited toward your Congress registration. Your abstract will be evaluated by the Congress's Science Program Committee and you will be notified by the end of March 2008 if your presentation has been accepted for oral or poster presentation.

Student CMOS members are welcomed and encouraged to apply for a Student Travel Bursary when submitting an abstract. If you are an exhibitor, an educator, a member of the media, or anyone else with an interest in the meeting, please visit the Congress website (<http://www.cmos2008.ca>) and contact us at [cmos2008@cmos.ca](mailto:cmos2008@cmos.ca) for further information.

### **Premier appel à communication; 42ième Congrès annuel de la Société canadienne de météorologie et d'océanographie du 25 au 29 mai 2008 à Kelowna, Colombie-Britannique**

Le congrès 2008 de la Société de météorologie et d'océanographie (SCMO) aura lieu du 25 au 28 mai 2008 à Kelowna en Colombie-Britannique, Canada, au *Grand Okanagan Lake Front Resort*. Le thème du congrès est "Eau, météo, et climat: la science comme outil de décision".

Le congrès inclura:

- \* Conférences plénières par des chercheurs de pointe.
- \* Sessions scientifiques mettant en évidence la recherche canadienne et internationale dans les domaines du climat, de la météorologie, de l'océanographie et de l'hydrologie, ainsi que sur les implications politiques de la recherche dans ces domaines.
- \* Une présentation en soirée d'intérêt général, ouvert au public, sur le thème du climat régional.
- \* Un banquet, un déjeuner inclus, remise des prix SCMO, et réunion générale annuelle du SCMO.

En plus du programme habituel de la SCMO, les sessions spéciales suivantes ont été proposées:

Année Polaire Internationale; Stabilité du climat polaire; Hydrométéorologie alpine; Hydrométéorologie forestière; Océanographie opérationnelle; Eaux côtières et intérieures dans un climat changeant; Impact du changement climatique sur les cycles biogéochimiques dans l'océan côtier; Dynamique de l'atmosphère, de l'océan et du climat; Modélisation pour la recherche sur l'atmosphère; Santé publique et la météo et le climat; Modélisation et assimilation dans les modèles couplés atmosphère-océan à l'échelle du globe; Implication des scientifiques dans le processus de prise de décision; Utilisation, application et impact des systèmes satellitaires d'observation planétaire sur l'océan; Science de la météo pour aviation et service pour les décideurs; Prédiction de la météo et du climat au delà d'une semaine; Relations d'échelle dans le forçage atmosphérique et océanique de la glace de mer; Formation des décideurs en météorologie et hydrologie; Météo de feu et prédiction; Qualité de l'air dans les vallées; Science d'avalanche et prédiction; Énergie et climat; Impacts économiques et politiques du changement climatique; Ressources en eau et changement climatique.

Veillez soumettre vos résumés électroniquement en utilisant le lien sur le site du congrès (<http://www.cmos2008.ca>) entre le 7 janvier et le 15 février 2008. Vous devrez soumettre votre résumé sous une des sessions affichées sur le site et spécifier votre préférence quant à une présentation orale ou un poster. Les posters seront affichés à l'extérieur, sur un patio avec vue magnifique sur le lac Okanagan et sur la vallée avoisinante. Un frais de \$50 sera chargé au moment de la soumission qui sera ensuite crédité au moment de l'enregistrement au congrès. Votre soumission sera évaluée par le comité du programme scientifique du congrès qui vous avisera avant la fin du mois de mars 2008 de la décision de présenter votre contribution oralement ou avec un poster.

Les membres étudiants de SCMO sont les bienvenus et sont encouragés à appliquer pour une bourse étudiante d'aide au voyage lors de leur soumission. Si vous êtes un exposant, un éducateur, un membre des médias, ou quelqu'un avec un intérêt pour le congrès, veuillez visiter le site Web du congrès (<http://www.cmos2008.ca>) ou contactez-nous au [cmos2008@cmos.ca](mailto:cmos2008@cmos.ca) pour obtenir plus d'information.

### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: TIMOTHY R. PARSONS MEDAL**

Please note that nominations for the next Timothy R. Parsons Medal, an award of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, are due by February 28, 2008. The award will be presented at the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (CMOS) Congress in May 2008 in Kelowna, B.C.

Eligible scientists are those working for Canadian institutions for the benefit of Canadian science, and the nomination can be for a lifetime's body of work or for a recent outstanding achievement. For more information, please see the website, at:

[www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/Awards/parsons\\_award/Parsons\\_e.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/Awards/parsons_award/Parsons_e.htm)

Send nominations to:

Timothy R. Parsons Medal Committee

Strategic Science Outreach

Room 8W135 – 200 Kent Street

Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0E6  
Tel: (613) 991-1021  
Fax: (613) 990-2471  
Or by email to: [sciencebulletin@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:sciencebulletin@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

## **APPEL DE MISES EN CANDIDATURE : LA MÉDAILLE TIMOTHY R. PARSONS**

Veillez prendre note que les mises en candidature pour la prochaine remise de la médaille Timothy R. Parsons, prix du ministre de Pêches et Océans Canada, doivent être reçues avant le 28 février 2008. Ce prix sera remis à l'occasion du congrès de la Société canadienne de météorologie et d'océanographie (SCMO) à Kelowna, (C.-B.), en mai 2008.

Sont admissibles les scientifiques qui œuvrent au sein d'une institution canadienne à vocation scientifique. Vous pouvez présenter la candidature d'une personne dans le but de faire reconnaître l'ensemble de sa carrière ou une réalisation exceptionnelle récente. Pour en savoir plus, veuillez consulter le site Web à : [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/Awards/parsons\\_award/Parsons\\_f.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/Awards/parsons_award/Parsons_f.htm)

Vous pouvez soumettre une candidature à :  
Comité de la médaille Timothy R. Parsons  
Promotion stratégique des sciences  
200, rue Kent, bureau 8W135  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6  
Téléphone : 613-991-1021  
Télécopieur : 613-990-2471  
Ou par courriel à : [sciencebulletin@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:sciencebulletin@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

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

Previous newsletters may be found on the CNC/SCOR web site.  
Les bulletins antérieurs se retrouvent sur le site web du CNC/SCOR.

Newsletter #34 will be distributed on January 31, 2008. Please send contributions to [dick.stoddart@sympatico.ca](mailto:dick.stoddart@sympatico.ca)  
Bulletin #34 sera distribué le 31 janvier 2008. Veuillez faire parvenir vos contributions à [dick.stoddart@sympatico.ca](mailto:dick.stoddart@sympatico.ca)

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