



*Group photo from 2019 SCOR Annual Meeting*

## SCOR Newsletter

October 2019 • #41

Twitter: @SCOR\_Int

Website: [www.scor-int.org](http://www.scor-int.org)

## New SCOR Executive Director Appointed



The Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) is pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Patricia Miloslavich** as the next SCOR Executive Director. Dr. Miloslavich will replace Dr. Ed Urban and will be the fourth Executive Secretary/Executive Director in SCOR's 62-year history. Her appointment will begin on 1 January 2020 and she will assume duties as

SCOR Executive Director on 1 February 2020. Dr. Miloslavich has been associated with SCOR since 2015, serving as the representative of the International Association for Biological Oceanography (IABO) on the SCOR Executive Committee.

Dr. Miloslavich has significant experience in international science coordination and project management. She currently serves as the Project Officer of the GOOS Biology and Ecosystems Panel based at the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Science of the University of Tasmania, coordinating activities to implement global sustained observations of marine biodiversity and ecosystems to help mitigate or manage changes resulting from anthropogenic pressures. She is a marine biologist with a Ph.D. in Oceanography earned from the University of Quebec at

Rimouski and is affiliated as a researcher to the Department of Environmental Studies of University Simon Bolivar in Caracas, Venezuela, from which she retired as Senior Professor after 25 years. Miloslavich was also a professional consultant at the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, leading the global synthesis of the state of knowledge of marine biodiversity worldwide in collaboration with a network of researchers from all over the world. She has been the PI or Co-PI of more than 20 research projects, focused on Venezuelan, Caribbean and South American, and global topics, also acting as project manager and coordinator.

See announcement at [https://scor-int.org/Announcement\\_of\\_New\\_SCOR\\_ED.pdf](https://scor-int.org/Announcement_of_New_SCOR_ED.pdf) for more information.

## News from 2019 SCOR Annual Meeting

The 2019 SCOR Annual Meeting was hosted by the Japanese SCOR Committee in Toyama, Japan on 23–25 September 2019. The meeting was preceded by a public event on 22 September co-sponsored by the Toyama Prefecture and SCOR, on “Increasing threats and responses to the marine environment—marine litter now and beyond” which attracted an audience of about 150 people from Toyama, as well as the SCOR Executive Committee. Victor Martinez-Vicente—a Full Member of SCOR

WG 153 on Floating Litter and its Oceanic Transport Analysis and Modelling (FLOTSAM)—gave a presentation on remote sensing techniques for floating marine debris, and was joined by a local panel of experts on the issue of plastic debris in the Toyama area. Following the public session, the SCOR Executive Committee heard presentations from groups representing two local high schools about plastic pollution and gave feedback on the presentations.

After the SCOR Annual Meeting, the Japan Oceanography Society and SCOR co-sponsored a session on the afternoon of 25 September on “Ocean Sciences in Japan: Present and Future”. This session highlighted the participation of Japanese scientists in SCOR projects, working groups, and other activities.

Finally, on 26 September, there was a session of the Japan Oceanography Society Meeting on “Biogeochemistry of trace elements and isotopes in the ocean—from GEOSECS to GEOTRACES”.

The 2.5-day SCOR Annual Meeting included presentations from existing SCOR working groups, large-scale international research projects, infrastructural projects, and partner organizations. In addition, meeting participants reviewed six proposals for new SCOR working groups.

**New SCOR Working Groups**—The SCOR meeting approved two new working groups to begin in 2020, conditional on some changes requested from SCOR:

#### 1. [SCOR WG 158 on Coordinated Global Research Assessment of Seagrass System \(C-GRASS\)](#).

The co-chairs of this WG are J. Emmett Duffy (USA) and Lauren V. Weatherdon (UK).

This group will produce a scientific synthesis of the status and trends in global seagrasses and the systems they support, including seagrass occurrence, ecosystem characteristics, and benefits to human well-being. They will produce a handbook of standard protocols and best practices for collecting, curating, and sharing data on seagrass ecosystems, and will contribute this information to the Ocean Data Standards and Best Practices Project of the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) of IOC. The group will promote development

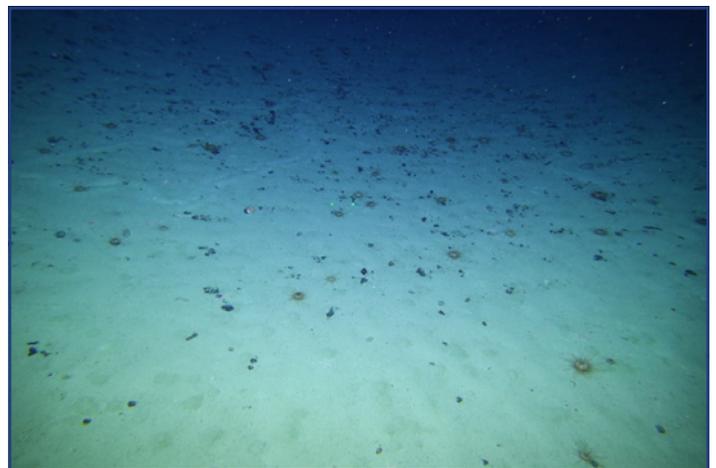


*Seagrass in Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*  
(<https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/plants/seagrass.html>)

of standardized vocabularies for variables and data schemas specific to seagrass ecosystems, and the integration of existing and new data into the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS). Finally, the group will organize an interdisciplinary community of practice to synthesize data on status, trends, and drivers of global change in seagrass ecosystems, building on and integrating existing resources.

#### 2. [SCOR WG 159: Roadmap for a Standardised Global Approach to Deep-Sea Biology for the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development \(DeepSeaDecade\)](#).

The co-chairs of this WG are Kerry Howell (UK) and Ana Hilario (Portugal). This group will contribute to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. It will develop a global plan for sampling deep-sea ecosystems for the UN Decade, based on agreement on methods and standards for the acquisition of biological data, including the role of existing and novel technologies. Habitat-specific approaches for sampling will be developed, for implementation globally. The group will integrate its efforts with those of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) via the Deep Ocean Observing Strategy (DOOS). In all these activities, the group will take actions to build capacity in developing nations for deep-sea science.



*A view of the abyssal seafloor off eastern Australia taken by camera system towed from the RV Investigator.*

(Image: CSIRO Marine National Facility)

(<https://www.nespmarine.edu.au/what%E2%80%99s-abyss>)

**SCOR Finance Committee:** The ad hoc SCOR Finance Committee for the meeting (Riitta Autio, Peter Croot, Ilka Peeken, Sun Song) examined the independent audit of the 2018 SCOR financial statements, potential changes to the 2019 budget, and the proposed 2020 budget, and recommended approval of these items. Meeting participants also approved a 3% increase in SCOR dues for 2021.

**Retirement Party for Ed Urban**—The meeting banquet was held at a Toyama *onsen* (hot spring resort) on the evening of 24 September. At the end of the banquet, participants recognized the retirement of Ed Urban after 19 years as SCOR Executive Director with presentations of gifts and a book containing letters of appreciation for Urban’s service to SCOR.

## SCOR and UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2030

SCOR has been contributing to the UN Decade and Agenda 2030 in a variety of ways:

**September 2018:** Marie-Alexandrine Sicre, SCOR President, co-chaired the special session entitled “*Academic research: which contributions to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science?*” at the High-Level Scientific Conference organized by the Ocean Climate Platform at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 10-11 September 2018. About 500 participants took part in the conference, including government delegates, scientists, and representatives of civil society. The conference collected contributions from multiple stakeholders and invited the global oceanographic community to discuss “The ocean we need for the future we want”. A policy paper was produced from this event: Claudet et al. “*A Roadmap for using the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development in Support of Science, Policy, and Action*” in press in *One Earth*.

**November 2018:** SCOR was invited to contribute to the “1<sup>st</sup> conference on Sustainable Blue Economy”, held on 26–28 November in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference was organized in four parallel events: (1) business and private sector forum, (2) governors and mayors convention, (3) civil society forum, and (4) science and research symposium. Marie-Alexandrine Sicre gave the introductory presentation of the *Science and Research symposium*, chaired by the Prof. Micheni Japhet Ntiba, Principal Secretary, State Department for Fisheries, Aquaculture and the Blue Economy, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Kenya.

**May 2019:** Colin Devey, former member of the SCOR Executive Committee, made a presentation at the “1<sup>st</sup> Global Planning Meeting of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development”, held in Copenhagen on 13–15 May 2019.

**June 2019:** SCOR intervened at the IOC Executive Council to propose that the second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2) be considered as a component of the UN Decade.

**October 2019:** The SCOR President participated to the Workshop on “*The Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) – Science as a leverage point for sustainable development*”, on 9 Oct 2019, in Brussels, Belgium.

## SCOR at Ocean Sciences 2020

As usual, SCOR will have a significant presence at **Ocean Sciences 2020** in San Diego, California, USA. More details will follow in a dedicated issue of the *SCOR Newsletter* in February 2020.

Four SCOR WGs will be meeting in San Diego (so far):

1. WG 145 on Modelling Chemical Speciation in Seawater to Meet 21<sup>st</sup> Century Needs (MARCHEMSPEC) – 16 February 2020
2. WG 151: Iron Model Intercomparison Project (FeMIP) – 16 February 2020
3. WG 156 on Active Chlorophyll fluorescence for autonomous measurements of global marine primary productivity – 15-16 February 2020
4. WG 157: Toward a new global view of marine zooplankton biodiversity based on DNA metabarcoding and reference DNA sequence databases (MetaZooGene) – 16 February 2020

SCOR working groups and projects will also convene several tutorials, town halls, and special sessions related to their topics.

SCOR will host a booth again in 2020 (#341), with a focus on presenting products and software related to SCOR projects and WGs, including the following:

- WG 145 on Chemical Speciation Modelling in Seawater to Meet 21<sup>st</sup> Century Needs (MARCHEMSPEC) will make available its Web-based tool for chemical speciation calculations for testing.
- The Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) will provide demonstrations of the SOOSMap system.
- GEOTRACES will provide demonstrations of its new Data for Oceanic Research (DOoR) Portal for entry of data for the 2021 GEOTRACES Intermediate Data Product and will help GEOTRACES scientists register data through this portal.

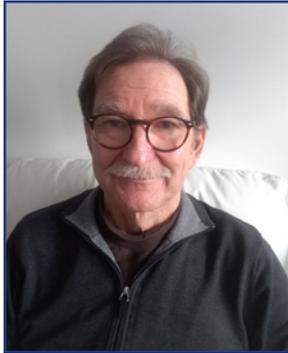


## SCOR Visiting Scholars

SCOR Visiting Scholar **Mridula Srinivasan** is Chief of the Protected Species Science Branch of the Fisheries Office of Science and Technology, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. She applied to work in a variety of different locations, including countries in the Indian Ocean. SCOR

matched Dr. Srinivasan with the University of Mauritius, to contribute to the second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2) and to follow up on a previous visit to Mauritius by

Venu Ittekkot and Ed Urban. Dr. Srinivasan is teaching a short-term course on the fundamentals of marine ecology, with an emphasis on practical and sustainable solutions for studying and managing living marine resources.



**Jorma Kuparinen** retired from his Professor position at the University of Helsinki in 2016. He applied for the 2019 SCOR Visiting Scholars program and after being accepted was matched for a teaching and mentoring position in Ecuador, at the Naval Oceanographic Institute (INOCAR). Kuparinen will be in Ecuador for about 10 weeks, teaching about planktonic ecosystems, the studies of

planktonic carbon sinks and sources in different temporal and spatial scales adapted to local environment and habitats.

**Pere Masqué** from Edith Cowan University (Australia) visited the Universidade Federal da Bahia (Brazil) from 22 June to 4 July 2009. He taught a course on “Applications of Radioisotopes in Marine Sciences” and mentored students at the university during the first week. Thirty undergraduate and graduate students, and professionals of marine science, participated in the course. Among them were professionals from Federal University of Bahia, Federal University of Cariri, University of São Paulo, Federal University of Rio Grande, and Catholic University of Salvador. All participants agreed that the course was worthwhile and would stimulate increased applications of radioisotopes for marine studies. During the second week of his visit, researchers from Federal University of Bahia met Masqué to discuss dating data from sediment cores that were sampled in Todos os Santos Bay, as part of a research project that is being developed with Blue Carbon stocks in mangrove and seagrass areas.



The call for 2020 SCOR Visiting Scholars was issued on 1 October 2019, with a deadline for applications of 1 December 2019. Information about the program and the call for applications can be found at <https://scor-int.org/work/capacity/visiting-scholars/>.

## News from SCOR-sponsored Large-scale International Research Projects

Each SCOR-supported research project produces periodic newsletters and/or e-news. Links to the news publications of each project follows:

- GEOTRACES: <http://geotraces.org/news-50/news>
- Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2): [https://iioe-2.incois.gov.in/IIOE-2/Publications.jsp?mode\\_pub\\_id=NL](https://iioe-2.incois.gov.in/IIOE-2/Publications.jsp?mode_pub_id=NL)
- Integrated Marine Biosphere Research (IMBeR) project: <http://www.imber.info/en/news>
- International Quiet Ocean Experiment (IQOE): [https://scor-int.org/IQOE/IQOE\\_News\\_3.pdf](https://scor-int.org/IQOE/IQOE_News_3.pdf)
- Surface Ocean – Lower Atmosphere Study (SOLAS): <https://www.solas-int.org/archive.html>

## News from SCOR Working Groups

**WG 152 on Measuring Essential Climate Variables in Sea Ice (ECV-Ice)**—WG 152 met for the final time under SCOR sponsorship in Winnipeg, Canada on 16-18 August 2019. The group discussed a paper on sea-ice ecosystem services that is under development, as well as future intercomparison experiments, scheduled to be conducted in Hokkaido (Japan), at Cambridge Bay (Canada), and at an air-sea-ice facility in Norwich (UK).



*Group Photo of WG 152 Meeting Participants*

**WG 157: Toward a new global view of marine zooplankton biodiversity based on DNA metabarcoding and reference DNA sequence databases (MetaZooGene)**—WG 157 held a symposium on the day before its first meeting, on 13 September 2019 in Gothenburg, Denmark. The symposium attracted 50 participants and included presentations and discussions on three topics:

1. Session I: Diversity of the pelagic assemblage
2. Session II: Data and database resources Session III: Exploring the potential of metabarcoding
3. Session III: Exploring the potential of metabarcoding

On 14 September, WG 157 held its first meeting. Fifteen Full and Associate members attended, as well as 13 invited guests.

The primary goals of the meeting were to orient members to WG 157 and SCOR, present the expertise of members and how they can contribute to achieving the group's terms of reference, and detailed discussion of the terms of reference, deliverables, and timeline. The group discussed improvements to DNA barcoding methods, processes for keeping accurate taxonomic and genetic data together, and better compilations of metagenomics data in a global database. The group also discussed several publications, capacity building, and plans for its next meeting, in conjunction with Ocean Sciences 2020.

Annual Meeting in Ecuador. The meeting will be held during the week of 19-23 October 2020.

**2021**—The 2021 SCOR Annual Meeting will be held in Busan, Korea.

**For additional information about SCOR activities, please see the SCOR Web site: <http://www.scor-int.org>.** To reach Secretariat staff, please send an email to Ed Urban ([Ed.Urban@scor-int.org](mailto:Ed.Urban@scor-int.org)).

## SCOR and Social Media

If you received this newsletter directly from SCOR, you are on the email list. Anyone not yet on the list can join by clicking the link below.

Join SCOR Email List



*Full and Associate Members of WG 157 at first meeting*

## Publications

Becker, S., M. Aoyama, E.M.S. Woodward, K. Bakker, S. Coverly, C. Mahaffey, and T. Tanhua. 2019. [\*\*GO-SHIP Repeat Hydrography Nutrient Manual: The precise and accurate determination of dissolved inorganic nutrients in seawater, using Continuous Flow Analysis methods.\*\* – WG 147](#)

## Crowdfunding for SCOR Capacity Building Activities

SCOR provides two opportunities for members of the SCOR community to support SCOR capacity-building activities, especially the SCOR Visiting Scholars program:

1. Donate through Mighty Cause as part of the open campaign in progress (see <https://www.mightycause.com/story/Nn6lef>).
2. Sign up for Amazon Smile and designate SCOR as the charity you will support (see [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)). Just under the search bar is a link for you to select a charity to support. The AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of purchases to the organization identified.

## Future SCOR Annual Meetings

**2020**—The SCOR Executive Committee has accepted an offer from the Ecuadorian SCOR Committee to hold the 2020 SCOR

## ACRONYMS

<b>DNA</b>	deoxyribonucleic acid
<b>DOOS</b>	Deep Ocean Observing Strategy
<b>GOOS</b>	Global Ocean Observing System
<b>iCACGP</b>	International Commission on Atmospheric Chemistry and Global Pollution
<b>IABO</b>	International Association for Biological Oceanography
<b>ICES</b>	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
<b>IMBeR</b>	Integrated Marine Biosphere Research project (co-sponsored by SCOR and Future Earth)
<b>IOC</b>	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
<b>IODE</b>	International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange
<b>SCOR</b>	Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research
<b>SOLAS</b>	Surface Ocean – Lower Atmosphere Study (co-sponsored by SCOR, Future Earth, WCRP, and iCACGP)
<b>SOOS</b>	Southern Ocean Observing System
<b>WCRP</b>	World Climate Research Programme
<b>WG</b>	working group