

New Co-Chair for G&G

Ian Wright (pictured) from the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, Wellington, New Zealand will be joining NSRD in mid July as Co-chair for Geology and Geophysics.

Ian is currently a Principal Scientist with NIWA's Ocean Geology group and leader of NIWA's National Centre for Coasts and Oceans. He also holds an honorary professorship at the University of Victoria, Wellington.

Ian's research activities include studying active seabed tectonic and volcanic processes and using multibeam to map offshore habitats. He has also been a key member of the New Zealand UNCLOS group that has built the case for New Zealand's offshore territorial claim, and he recently presented that case at the United Nations in New York.



Paolo does Physics on a Boat

On 5-6 June Paolo Cipollini will represent NOCS at the final stage of Fisica in Barca (Physics on a Boat), an educational, two-day event that is taking place in La Spezia, Italy.

During the event, students will be given short lectures on physics, navigation, meteorology and climate, and will be taken on board sailing ships where they will see how marine observations are made and measurements are taken.

The event is organized by the Italian INFN (Nuclear Physics National Institute) and by Environmental Ocean Team with contributions among others by NOCS, the University of Siena, and the Italian Navy. On the evening of the 6th there will be a public lecture and debate where Paolo will contribute a short talk on oceans and climate.

For more details see:
www.pi.infn.it/fiscainbarca/edizione08.htm

European Business Award nomination for SERPENT

The SERPENT Project, (Scientific & Environmental ROV Partnership using Existing Industrial Technology) has been nominated as one of only a handful of finalists from 86 countries at this year's prestigious EU European Business Awards for the Environment (EBAE).



A deep-sea octopus, Benthoctopus johnsoniana, photographed at 2,350m water depth in the Orphan Basin off the coast of Newfoundland

This nomination was principally for the knowledge transfer initiatives between the deep-water science community and the hydrocarbon industry implemented by SERPENT through the NERC sponsored knowledge transfer project DIEPS (Deep-water Industry Environment Policy and Science). SERPENT is continuing this work in 2008 with a busy research programme in collaboration with the UK, Irish and Norwegian hydrocarbon industry.

For more details see www.serpentproject.com

Marine Life Talks at NOCS

5 June **Norfolk Grey Seals studies** – AH Rundel and Dr RJT Jarvis

The popular Marine Life Talks are held in the Lecture Theatre and are open to the public.

The talks start at 7.30pm
Free admission



Oceans 2025 Annual Science Meeting

On 28 and 29 May, NOCS hosted the second Oceans 2025 Annual Science Meeting (ASM).

Attended by members of the Programme Advisory Board (PAB), marine directors, centre theme leaders from across the Oceans 2025 community and the SOFI grant holders, the event provided a flavour of the latest developments across the themes via presentations and posters, and supported the first meeting of the PAB.



A detailed report will shortly be on the Oceans 2025 web site: www.oceans2025.org/

Cake Sale Success

The Cake Sale for the Myanmar (Burma) Cyclone Appeal on Thursday 15th May raised £258.63.

Many thanks from the organisers to all of those who baked and those who ate the cakes.

The money has now been forwarded on to the Disasters Emergency Committee.

For more detail see www.dec.org.uk/

Wine-Tasting Competition

Do you know your Pinot Noir from your Cabernet Sauvignon? Your Riesling from your Chenin Blanc? And does anyone know how to pronounce "Soave"?

Why not come along to the NOCS Summer Wine-Tasting Competition and impress your colleagues with your comprehensive knowledge of wine, not to mention your ability to snort, gargle and spit it out without choking?

Date, Time and Venue: Friday 18 July, 5 pm in the grassy quad (between plates 3/4 and 2/5).

Entry fee: Team entry tickets for four people are £20. (The number of people in a team can vary, in which case the price is £5.00 per head to cover the cost of eight wines to be sampled and bread and cheese. The winning team will receive the full set of eight bottles in the tasting.)

Tickets available from **Lisa Marsh** in 254/16 or from **Sandy Grapes** in 256/34.

Health and Safety audit success

The NERC audit team assessed the NOCS Safety Management System last month – and the centre came through with flying colours.

The audit team awarded NOCS more 'outstanding' rankings (nine out of ten) than at any other NERC site, reflecting the positive approach to health and safety that exists here. They were particularly impressed with the NOCS inspection regime and the engagement and discussion that take place to agree a way forward when issues do arise.

Head of Corporate Services, **Ruth Grimmer**, said: "Well done and congratulations to our Safety Officers and everyone else involved in the health and safety audit, which confirmed that we put health and safety at the core of our operations. There are, as we would expect and desire, some points for us to look at for ongoing improvement, and this will help focus our minds going forward."

The formal report will be issued in the near future and circulated and posted on NOCSnet as soon as it is available.

NOCS goes quackers

Word of the egg-cellent nesting facilities at NOCS is obviously getting around the duck community, with two duck families currently living in the NOCS quad.



At present there are two mothers (one with seven ducklings, the other with nine), although there may be more to come as a further female duck (plus male partner) has just arrived.

Measuring the heartbeat of the North Atlantic

Underwater volcano experts from the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton have been studying a volcanic hotspot south of Iceland.

Bramley Murton, Gavin Elliott, Stephanie Ingle and Samantha Unsworth returned two weeks ago from a multi-institute study, led by Stephen Jones from Trinity College Dublin, on board the Irish vessel R/V *Celtic Explorer* to the south of Iceland.

The Reykjanes Ridge is an underwater extension of Iceland and a site of active seafloor spreading which is driving the European and American tectonic plates apart.

Bramley Murton said, 'The North Atlantic Ocean differs dramatically from other ocean basins. Key to this has been the activity of the Iceland Hotspot, a 1000km wide area of volcanic activity that has dominated the formation of the ocean floor from Newfoundland in the west to the Galway in the east. Volcanism and deep-mantle dynamics have left an imprint on this ocean region and shaped the history of the North Atlantic.'

The scientists collected rock samples from the chain of volcanoes that form the Reykjanes

Ridge for geochemical analysis. These rock samples will help to shed light upon the role of the Icelandic Hotspot and its interaction with seafloor spreading.

Over recent years the origin and nature of the Icelandic Plateau and its role within the development of the NE Atlantic have been open to, sometimes heated, debate among geologists. Areas along the Reykjanes Ridge represent the world's best window into the dynamics of convection in the Earth's mantle.

This cruise follows on from the highly successful 'Rift to Ridge 07' international workshop held at NOCS last June, a concerted effort to understand the NE Atlantic. The funding for the cruise came from UK-Integrated Ocean Drilling Program, IODP.

Despite the occasional Force 11 making its presence felt, the cruise was a huge success and a good basis for future planned work in the area.

New High Performance system at NOCS

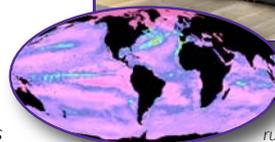
In February this year, after a lengthy procurement exercise, NOCS took delivery of a new High Performance Computing (HPC) system from SGI.

The machine has been named *Nautilus* after Captain Nemo's submarine.

It comprises 96 dual-processor quad-core nodes, each with 8GB of memory, two log-in nodes, an administration node and 80TB of storage and represents a very significant enhancement of NOCS' computing capacity.

The system, which cost almost £500,000, was funded by NERC from the Oceans2025 capital fund, to facilitate model development. In particular, work will focus on simulations of the ocean using the general circulation model NEMO. Having completed acceptance testing, the machine is now in production and work is already underway on the 1/4° model with new parameterisations of sea-ice and biogeochemistry.

Spare capacity is available for NOCS researchers not involved in Oceans2025. Applications can be made through the ITG Helpdesk.



Left: Surface phytoplankton at the end of March simulated by the 1/4° NEMO model currently being run on Nautilus, pictured above.

NOCS takes coastal altimetry to Africa

A delegation of NOCS scientists was in Cape Town for a workshop to promote the adoption of coastal altimetry along the coasts of Africa. **Val Byfield, Peter Challenor, Paolo Cipollini, Andy Shaw, Helen Snaithe and Kate Stansfield** took part in the ALTICORE – Africa workshop, sponsored by the Royal Society, alongside several colleagues from a range of South African research institutions.



The NOCS attendees with (from left) Issufo Halo (Univ. of Cape Town), Ian Hunter (South African Weather Service), Marjolaine Rouault (CSIR) and Stewart Bernard (UCT/CSIR)

Satellite altimetry provides information on sea level and wave height by measuring the time it takes a radar signal from a satellite to reflect back from the sea surface. This technique has worked well in the open ocean for the last 20 years but it is not so straightforward in coastal regions. In recent years computer modelling has been able to overcome the problems caused by coastal landmasses.

The workshop follows on the EU/INTAS ALTICORE Project, which pioneered knowledge transfer in coastal altimetry (see www.alticore.eu) and is synergistic with the ESA-funded COASTALT Project led by NOCS (see www.coastalt.eu).

Southern Africa is surrounded by very different and highly dynamic marine ecosystems; the Agulhas Current is a key component of the global circulation, and the Benguela System is

one of the most productive upwelling regions in the world. These provide unique living laboratories in which to develop world-class research and operational capabilities in coastal altimetry, and demonstrate its benefits to a broad spectrum of user groups.

ALTICORE-Africa, whose development plan was the focus of the workshop, will be a vehicle for capacity development and knowledge exchange. It can also play a valuable role as a science and technology demonstrator, e.g. in a prediction system for rogue waves or storm surges. The programme aims to build a sustainable regional capability in coastal altimetry, and will foster scientific expertise, build infrastructural capacity, and support broad and informed product use as part of the GOOS-Africa development strategy

For more information see: www.alticore.eu/africa

Ocean stewardship conference promotes integration

The first international conference bringing together leading marine scientists, policy-makers and legal experts to develop an integrated approach to the protection of the marine environment takes place at NOCS on 17-18 June.

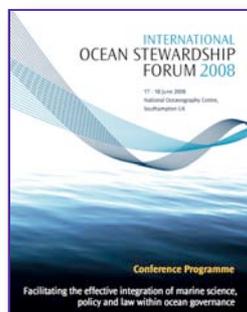
The International Ocean Stewardship Forum will cover a range of topics, including territorial sovereignty and the exploitation of marine resources, carbon emissions from shipping, the transportation of hazardous materials, carbon sequestration, environmental impact assessment and the implementation of international law instruments such as UNCLOS, OSPAR.

The forum will promote greater integration between the legal and technical aspects of marine policy making and will address issues

including Marine Protected Areas and the use of marine genetic resources.

The event is organised under the guidance and leadership of the UNCLOS group at NOCS, who deliver independent, high-quality scientific advice on territorial sovereignty, marine scientific research, resource management, and the preservation of the marine environment.

For more information and to register visit www.oceanstewardship.com



V-C's Teaching Award for Steve

Congratulations to **Stephen Roberts** who has been awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Award for 2008.

Head of School, **Andrew Roberts** said "Anyone who has heard Stephen speak, will know that he is an excellent communicator and teacher. He has also provided leadership and innovation in the curriculum for many years and is leading the employability agenda within the School.

"We are blessed with many outstanding teachers in the School, and it is a real pleasure to be able to acknowledge this with awards of this type. Please join me in offering hearty congratulations to Steve."



Congratulations to Eelco

Eelco Rohling has just been elected as a 'Corresponding Fellow' of the Koninklijke Nederlandse Academie voor Wetenschappen, KNAW (Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences).

KNAW is the Dutch national academy, which is equivalent to the Royal Society. Eelco's new status is as a Fellow of Dutch nationality who resides and works abroad. There are at any time only 70 Corresponding Fellows across all of the KNAW, so this is a prestigious award.

Dr Peter Talling joins NSRD G&G group

Peter has recently joined us from University of Bristol, and is now located in office 676/10.

Peter will primarily be contributing to NOCS research on deep-water sediments and geohazards, as well as strengthening cross-centre research in coastal and volcanic processes.

Esther Sumner, Peter's student, and her associated experimental equipment, will also be joining us later in the year.

Chris manages SSC

Welcome to **Christine Green**, NOCS Shared Service Centre Project Manager.

Chris joins us from the University of Sheffield where she was a member of the project team responsible for implementing a new SAP Finance, HR and payroll system (including employee and manager self service functions). She is no stranger to Southampton, having previously worked at Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust as Training and User Support Manager for a number of years.

Chris will be working with NOCS teams and other NERC colleagues across the Research Councils as the Shared Services Centre processes and systems are implemented. Together with colleagues from Finance and HR, she will be ensuring that the new ways of working are fit for purpose at NOCS.

Look out for more information on the project as it develops on NOCSnet.



...and welcome to: **Christopher Jeffery**, SOES, working with Ian Robinson
Tania Smith, OBE, working with David Billett
Robert Arnell, CSD/Facilities, working with Lewis Rennison
Roland Rogers, NMF, working with Geraint West

Book a time to migrate this summer

The NOCS Email Migration Project is well under way, and ITG are now on the home stretch in terms of IDs they have yet to migrate. The aim is to complete these by the end of July, while we still have extra help within ITG to assist users.

Most groups have been contacted with details of the planned training courses, which are an overview of the PC and Mac client software (Outlook and Entourage).

ITG are now asking ALL users who have not yet been migrated to book a half hour slot with ITG to go through the process. They will try and work around your commitments over the next few weeks, but they do need to schedule all work as soon as possible now.

Please could you therefore send an email to 'migrate@noc.soton.ac.uk' – firstly to select one of the overview courses, and secondly to suggest three or four time slots which are convenient for you, for the actual migration.

Migration overview course dates

Thursday 5 June
Outlook – 9.30 – 10.30
Entourage – 10.45 – 11.45

Tuesday 17 June
Outlook – 13.30 – 14.30
Entourage – 14.45 – 15.45

Thursday 26 June
Outlook – 9.30 – 10.30
Entourage – 10.45 – 11.45

Thursday 10 July
Outlook – 13.30 – 14.30
Entourage – 14.45 – 15.45

After July ITG will have fewer resources to assist users, so please don't be shy, book your migration time today.

Plotting with ITG

The IT Group have replaced the centrally managed A0 plotter with a new HP Designjet 5500ps.

The new printer boasts improved fade resistant lifespan, faster processing and printing times as well as improved print quality. Testing has also revealed that this new plotter can output plots with a much higher initial rate of success than the previous plotter. The old plotter is no longer available so anyone wishing to print posters up to A0 size will need to install this new printer.

A link to the IT Group online user guide, containing full usage details, can be found on the ITG Home Page on the Intranet.



Stanley Gray Fellowship award

Maike Paul was awarded a Stanley Gray Fellowship from IMarEST as support for her PhD. The fellowship is highly competitive with only one awarded each year. As a result of a successful interview, Maike will receive a total of £5,000 as a contribution to her project over the next two years.

Maike's PhD is titled *The role of two seagrass species in wave attenuation and coastal protection* and is supervised by **Carl Amos** (SOES) and **Robert Nicholls** (CivEng). Maike started at NOCS last October.

Grants Deadlines

Royal Society – International Joint Projects
Deadline: 12 June 2008

For details: <http://royalsociety.org/>

Project Aware Foundation – UK grants
Deadline: 15 Jun 08

For details: www.projectaware.org/

EPSRC – Adaptation and Resilience to a Changing Climate

Deadline: 26 June 2008 (Outline bids)

For details: www.epsrc.ac.uk/

Royal Meteorological Society – Rupert Ford award

Deadline: 30 June 08

For details: www.rmets.org/

2008 BBVA Foundation – Frontiers of Knowledge Awards

Deadline: 30 June 2008, 23.00

For details: www.fbbva.es/awards

NERC – Standard/Consortium/Partnership Research Grants

Deadline: 1 July 2008

For details: www.nerc.ac.uk/

STFC – PPARC Industrial Programme Support Scheme (PIPSS)

Deadline: 8 July 2008

For details: www.scitech.ac.uk/

NERC – Antarctic Funding Initiative (AFI)

www.antarctica.ac.uk/afi/ao10.php

Deadline: 31 Jul 2008

For details: www.nerc.ac.uk/

EC – FP7-ERANET-2008-RTD

Deadline: 12 August 2008, 17:00 (Brussels local time)

For details: www.ukro.ac.uk/

EC – FP7-PEOLPE-IEF-2008

EC – FP7-PEOLPE-IIF-2008

EC – FP7-PEOLPE-IOF-2008

Deadline: 19 August 2008, 17:00 (Brussels local time)

NERC – Follow-on Fund Pathfinder

No deadline

For details: www.nerc.ac.uk/

ESPRC – Discipline Hopping in Information and Communication Technologies – Responsive Mode

Open Deadline

For details: www.epsrc.ac.uk/

Awards

Bramley Murton, NSRD, Geochem NERC – IODP Urgency (£19,000)

Tim Minshull, SOES, G&G NERC (£275,041)

Lindsay Parson, NSRD, G&G UNCLOS (£33,000)

Lindsay Parson, NSRD, G&G UNCLOS (£27,500)

New NOCS Folders

Supplies of the new updated folder are now available from COMS.

Contact **Eileen Crockford**, email: etc – ext 26100