

## 2003 Wooster Award

In October 2000, PICES announced a new award that is to be 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; has achieved sustained excellence in research, teaching, administration, or a combination of these in the area of North Pacific; has worked to integrate the various disciplines of the marine sciences; and preferably someone who is, or has been, actively involved in PICES activities.

The award was named in honour of Dr. Warren S. Wooster, the principal founder and first Chairman of PICES, and world-renowned researcher and statesman in the area of climate variability and fisheries production. The award consists of a commemorative plaque and travel support to attend the following PICES Annual Meeting in order to receive the award. A permanent plaque identifying Wooster Award winners resides at the PICES Secretariat in Sidney, British Columbia, Canada. The late Professor Michael M. Mullin (U.S.A.) and Dr. Yutaka Nagata (Japan) were honoured with the Wooster Award in 2001 and 2002, respectively.

At PICES XII in Seoul, Korea, it was announced that Dr. William (Bill) G. Pearcy is the recipient of the 2003 Wooster Award. The following is the citation from Science Board for the 2003 Wooster Award:

Dr. William Pearcy is a world-renowned authority on many aspects of biological oceanography, in particular his extensive work on fishes and squids in the North Pacific. He has made significant contributions to many areas of marine research, including fisheries oceanography, the ecology of deep-sea and open ocean fishes and squids, the trophic dynamics of marine fishes, and pollution and trace metals in the marine environment. He is perhaps best known recently for his contributions to understanding all aspects of Northeast Pacific salmon during their ocean phase. He has over 150 publications in many of the major scientific journals, including *Science* and *Nature*. He has demonstrated sustained excellence in teaching during his years as a professor in the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University, where he was major advisor for over 30 graduate students and a committee member for at least 50 more. He has served on numerous international committees, including those of PICES. He was involved with PICES and its committees very early on, and he gave the keynote address at the 1997 PICES Annual Meeting on his work on salmon in the North Pacific. Since his retirement, he has worked tirelessly on a State panel to examine ways to restore natural runs of salmon to Oregon. Science Board is very pleased to name him as the recipient of the PICES Wooster Award for 2003.

At the award presentation ceremony, Dr. Vera Alexander, Chairman of PICES, read a note from Dr. Warren Wooster:

*I cannot remember when I first met Bill Pearcy, but twenty years ago we first interacted on the question of environmental variability and its effects on fisheries. In May 1983, we convened a workshop at the University of Washington to review existing knowledge on ocean and fish variability and to develop a strategy for investigation of the interactions. In November that year, Bill Pearcy at Oregon State University held another workshop, on the influence of ocean conditions on the production of salmonids in the North Pacific. These two workshops and the resulting publications focused attention on the importance of environmental influence on marine ecosystems.*

*Bill Pearcy has been a pioneer in what I like to call "salmon oceanography". Students of these charismatic fish have had a curious fixation on the fresh water phase of their life, after which the fish just disappeared into the black box we call the ocean. As an oceanographer, Bill knew that life in the black box was important to salmon, and was interesting, and complex, as he, with his students and colleagues have successfully demonstrated. This work has exemplified the spirit of PICES where fishery science is intimately linked with the other disciplines necessary for ecosystem studies - meteorology and climatology, oceanography of the several flavors (physical, chemical, biological) and ecology in the broader sense. Of course, as the Science Board citation makes clear, Bill Pearcy's interests are by no way limited to salmon or even to fish. His scientific perspective, both broad and deep, makes him a worthy recipient of the PICES Wooster Award for 2003.*

Bill's biography can be found elsewhere in this issue of PICES Press.



*Dr. George Boehlert reading Dr. Pearcy's acceptance speech after receiving the Wooster Award on his behalf.*

Dr. Alexander presented a commemorative plaque to Dr. George Boehlert, US delegate to PICES, who read a brief acceptance from Dr. William Pearcy:

*This is indeed a great honor! And I deeply regret not being here. Grape harvest and a visit from distinct friends have intervened.*

*This is not just a prestigious honor for me - it is for all my colleagues, students and friends that have inspired, collaborated and helped me throughout my years in science. This includes many PICES scientists, including many here today. It includes colleagues on PICES and SCOR Working Groups, and my Japanese friends from the University of Tokyo and Hokkaido University, and the crews aboard many cruises of the Oshoro Maru.*

*And I especially thank my loyal friend, Papa Wooster, father of PICES, for this award and for a number of other reasons. Warren prompted me to give the lectures for his series on recruitment fishery oceanography at the University of Washington. This resulted in my little book on Ocean Ecology of North Pacific Salmonids, published in this series by Washington Sea Grant. He also encouraged my participation in workshops and subsequent publications in Interannual Variability of the Environment and Fisheries of the Gulf of Alaska and the Eastern Bering Sea (1983) and El Niño North, Niño Effects in the Eastern Subarctic Pacific Ocean (1985). The 1982-83 El Niño was a nail in the coffin that the ocean had an unlimited carrying capacity for salmonids and as a result stimulated a surge in research on the importance of the ocean lives of anadromous salmonids—research that is prolific today.*

*I consider Warren to be the venerable, world-renowned fishery oceanographer of the 20<sup>th</sup> and now the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. He has made grand contributions to the world organization and community of oceanographers and marine biologists. He is an inspiration for all of us. Banzai, Warren!*

On December 1, 2003, a “COAS Faculty Awards Gathering” was held to acknowledge 5 faculty in the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences (Oregon State University) for a variety of awards, and Dr. William (Bill) Pearcy, who was one of them, was honoured (again) for his 2003 PICES Wooster Award. The Award plaque was officially presented to him by Dr. George Boehlert.



*After the “presentation ceremony”, Dr. Bill Pearcy (middle) poses with Drs. Ric Brodeur (former student and friend of Bill, left) and George Boehlert (Director of the Hatfield Marine Science Center at OSU, right), with a commemoration from OSU and the Wooster Award plaque in hand.*



*Dinner with family and friends to celebrate the Award at the Big River restaurant in Corvallis. Left to right: Susan Boehlert, Amy Schoener (Bill's wife), George Boehlert, Bill, Waldo Wakefield (former student and friend of Bill), Claire Reimers (OSU faculty and CIMRS Director), Ric and Linda Brodeur.*

**We are now soliciting nominations for the 2004 Wooster Award** (Contact the PICES Secretariat [secretariat@pices.int](mailto:secretariat@pices.int) or see PICES Press Vol. 9 (1) 2001 for selection criteria and award description). **Nominations must be received no later than May 1 2004** and should include the following information: nominee’s name institutional affiliation and title address biographical resume and statement of justification for the nomination. The award will be presented during the Opening Session of PICES XIII on October 18 2004 in Honolulu, U.S.A