

2008 PICES Awards

The presentation ceremony for two prestigious PICES awards took place on October 27, 2008, during the Opening Session of the PICES Seventeenth Annual Meeting in Dalian, China.

In 2000, PICES established an award in honour of Dr. Warren S. Wooster, the principal founder and the first Chairman of PICES, a world renowned researcher and statesman in the area of climate variability and fisheries production, and an ambassador of international scientific cooperation. The award is to be given annually to an individual who has made significant scientific contributions to North Pacific marine science; has achieved sustained excellence in research, teaching, administration or a combination of these in the area of the North Pacific; has worked to integrate the various disciplines of the marine sciences; and preferably someone who is or has been active in PICES (award description, nomination process and selection criteria are posted on the PICES website at http://www.pices.int/Wooster_Award/default.aspx). Prior recipients of the Wooster Award are Michael Mullin (2001), Yutaka Nagata (2002), William Pearcy (2003), Paul LeBlond (2004), Daniel Ware (2005), Makoto Kashiwai (2006) and Kenneth Denman (2007).

In Dalian, Dr. John Stein, PICES Science Board Chairman, announced that the Wooster Award recipient for 2008 was Dr. Charles B. Miller (Oregon State University, U.S.A.), a nationally and internationally distinguished biological oceanographer specializing in studies of zooplankton. The citation presented by Dr. Stein is included in the 2008 PICES Annual Report (http://www.pices.int/publications/annual_reports/Ann_Rpt_08/2007%20OPENING_f.pdf), and major steps of Dr. Miller's career can be found in his selected biography published in this issue of PICES Press. A commemorative plaque was given to Dr. Miller by Dr. Tokio Wada, PICES Chairman, who also read the following tribute sent by Dr. Wooster:

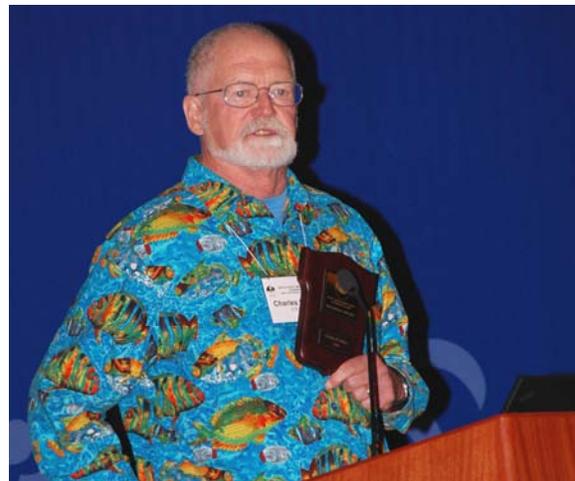
It is a pleasure to acknowledge selection of Charlie Miller to receive the 2008 Wooster Award. His contributions to understanding of zooplankton ecology in the northern North Pacific tie in beautifully with studies of physical changes in the ecosystem. Eventually predictions of these physical changes will lead to predictions of ecosystem changes, with all sorts of applications to fisheries and other problems of PICES concern. Monitoring the ecosystem with the Continuous Plankton Recorder (CPR) and studies in OECOS (Ocean Ecodynamics Comparison in the Subarctic Pacific), both of these involving Charlie Miller, are keys to understanding ecosystems of the region. This work has often made me wish I had chosen zooplankton ecology as the field in which to specialize – too late for me but not too late to appreciate the contributions of Charlie and his colleagues. Congratulations to him for his major contributions to PICES projects in this field.

Very sadly, this was the last public statement by Dr. Wooster who passed way two days later on October 29, 2008, in Seattle, U.S.A. He had influenced generations of scientists and his legacy and spirit will live on in PICES.

After the Annual Meeting, Dr. Miller sent the following note to the PICES Secretariat:

I have always been dubious of awards in science, because so many who deserve them are never recognized. I am still dubious, but getting the Wooster Award is very gratifying, and I thank PICES for it.

Receiving the Wooster Award at this time comes with some sadness because Warren Wooster died just as I was being honored in Dalian. Warren called many times with PICES tasks for me, and I always said “no”. I always ended up doing whatever he asked. That was one of Warren's many gifts: he could turn “no” into “yes” with his magical



Dr. Warren S. Wooster, the principal founder and first Chairman of PICES (left), and Dr. Charles B. Miller, the recipient of the 2008 Wooster Award (right).

powers. Forty-five years ago, he and Polly were very kind to the graduate students at Scripps, offering me and others the initial social outreach from the faculty to newcomers. It was a warm touch of humanity in a ferociously competitive place and never forgotten. Warren's shift in interest from marine chemistry and physics to fisheries and ocean policy has been of great benefit to ICES, PICES, the University of Washington and every aspect of our concern for the ocean. We will miss him personally, but his lasting gifts to us will carry his spirit onward.

Very few work at science alone. I cannot thank everyone here who has pursued ocean ecology with me; I made a list of my more important associates and it came out around eighty! However, I have been especially fortunate in working down the years with Bruce Frost, John McGowan, Peter Wiebe, William Fager, Abe Fleminger, William Peterson, Martha Clemons, Harold Batchelder, Patricia Wheeler and Tim Cowles (in order of appearance in my life). Thanks to them and everyone studying life in the oceans. Keep going, there is much yet to be learned.



Top row, left to right: the *Oshoro-maru I* as a 31-m wooden brigantine built in 1909, the *Oshoro-maru II* as a 42-m steel barkentine built in 1927, and the *Oshoro-maru III* as a 67-m 1,180-ton stern trawler built in 1962; bottom row: the *Oshoro-maru IV* as a 73-m 1,383 t stern trawler built in 1984, and the 2008 POMA presentation ceremony (Dr. John Stein on the left, Dr. Tokio Wada in the centre and Dr. Akihiko Hara on the right).

The PICES Ocean Monitoring Service Award (POMA) was established in 2007 to recognize organizations, groups and outstanding individuals that have contributed significantly to the advancement of marine science in the North Pacific through long-term ocean monitoring and data management (award description, nomination process and selection criteria are posted at http://www.pices.int/awards/POMA_award/POMA_award.aspx). At the presentation ceremony, Dr. Stein introduced POMA and announced that the very first award was unanimously voted to be given to the training ship T/S *Oshoro-maru* of Hokkaido University, Japan.

The observations made aboard T/S *Oshoro-maru* have contributed to the rapid progress of marine science in the region. The annual summer cruises since 1955 have allowed long-term ecosystem observations, and have advanced cooperative research among PICES countries. The data collected during T/S *Oshoro-maru* cruises are

invaluable for addressing current scientific problems of the North Pacific. More than 250 scientific papers have been published using these data. For a brief history of the ship, refer to the PICES Press article by John Bower published in 2001 (Vol. 9, No. 1).

After Dr. Stein quoted the Science Board citation (included in the 2008 PICES Annual Report (http://www.pices.int/publications/annual_reports/Ann_Rpt_08/2007%20OPENING_f.pdf)), Dr. Wada presented a commemorative plaque and a certificate to the representative of the recipient, Dr. Akihiko Hara (Dean, Graduate School of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University), who accepted the award with remarks of appreciation.

We congratulate Dr. Charles Miller and T/S *Oshoro-maru*, respectively, as recipients of the Wooster Award and POMA for 2008.