Dr. Timothy R. Parsons awarded 2001 Japan Prize

In April Dr. Tim Parsons will travel to Tokyo to receive the 2001 Japan Prize for his contribution to the development of fisheries oceanography and the conservation of fisheries resources and the marine environment. It is awarded by the Science and Technology Foundation to people whose original and outstanding achievements in science and technology are recognized as having advanced the frontiers of knowledge and served the cause of peace and prosperity for mankind. Each laureate receives a certificate of merit, a commemorative medal and a cash award of 50 million yen. The Presentation Ceremony is held in the presence of Their Majesties, the Emperor and Empress, and is also attended by the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the House of Councillors, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, foreign ambassadors and over 1000 other guests, including eminent academics, researchers and representatives of political, business and press circles.

After receiving a Ph.D. from McGill University in 1958, Dr. Parsons started his scientific career with the Pacific Oceanographic Group of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada at the Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo, B.C. This phase of his scientific life included a term at the Office of Oceanography for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris from 1962-1964. From 1972 until his retirement in 1992 he was at the Department of Oceanography at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C., where he is a professor emeritus. Dr. Parsons is currently an emeritus scientist located at the Institute of Ocean Sciences, B.C.

Together with his friend and colleague, the late Dr. John Strickland, he wrote the book on analytical methods for oceanographers. Their publication is still on the benches of virtually every oceanographic laboratory. Dr. Parsons also authored *Biological Oceanographic Processes,* the classic textbook for students of biological oceanography. Dr. Parsons pioneered the "ecosystem" approach to conservation-based fisheries management and pollution studies. Through "controlled ecosystem pollution experiments" he and colleagues from the United States, Germany and Japan were able to analyze how low levels of pollutants affect the food-web from plankton to fish. Dr. Parsons' research broke new ground and encouraged others to understand how human activity impacts our environment.

Dr. Parsons was a member of the PICES BIO Committee from 1992 to 1996 and in 1996, he gave the Keynote Lecture at the PICES Fifth Annual Meeting in Nanaimo, Canada. Throughout his career, his students and staff (including the authors) have greatly benefited from his mentoring and guidance. There are many people at many institutes that Tim has encouraged, mentored, taught and/ or hired. He asked us to do things better at the same time that we did things differently. Congratulations from PICES and a couple of admirers.

Submitted by Robin Brown (Fisheries & Oceans Canada) and Skip McKinnell (PICES) who are former employees and students of Dr. Parsons.

Dr. Parsons at PICES III in Nemuro, Japan (left), at PICES V in Nanaimo, Canada (center) and working in his lab (right).