

VOICEPIPE

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The Newsletter of the BIO-Oceans Association



BIO EXPO a ‘Super’ Success



BIO received ~22,000 visitors over the 5 days of latest BIO Open House now called the BIO EXPO from Wednesday 20 September to Sunday 24 September 2017.

Photos: from the top: key BIO EXPO organizers showed their true identities as superheros and wizards; visitors line up to climb aboard the Coast Guard’s helicopter; and young visitors check out a shark’s teeth and skin.

Remember the GCWCC

Please consider the Workplace Charitable Campaign in your giving

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Sherin



Photos: clockwise from the top: The Tuesday Night Jazz Band in full ‘swing’; Ruth Jackson and her partner were one of several pairs of dancers who “cut a rug” to the live Big Band music; and Chris Jauer (left) and David Greenberg, trumpeters with the jazz band, are both BIO staffers.

BIO-OA Hosts pre-EXPO Reception

The Tuesday Night Jazz Band entertained BIO-OA members at a pre-EXPO reception the evening of Tuesday 19 September 2017.



BIO Ocean Association members enjoy refreshments at the intermission in the Tuesday Night Jazz Band open rehearsal and reception.

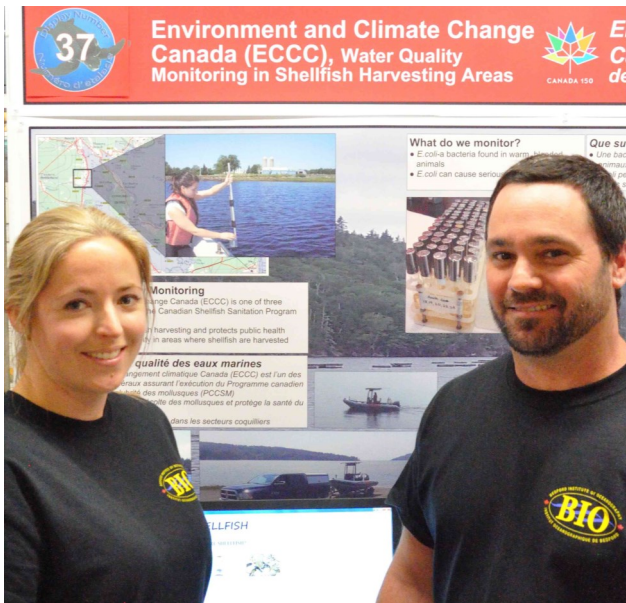
BIO Oceans Association at the BIO EXPO



Photos: clockwise from top left: Chris Rozon sells *Voyage of Discovery* and *The Hudson Expedition* books at the BIO-OA exhibit; Steve Blasco (left) and Borden Chapman stand in front of the “shrunkn cups” and BIO ships’ photograph display, part of the BIO-OA exhibit; and Mike Hughes (left), Lori Collins and John Shimeld (right) stand beside the vintage navigation display.



BIO Oceans Association had a large exhibit at the BIO EXPO that included the models of the CSS *Dawson* and the CCGS *Hudson*, vintage oceanographic and navigation equipment, and pictures of BIO staff and ships.



Photos: clockwise from the top left: Magali Grégoire (left) and Leah Robertson, Back to the Sea Society; Jude van der Meer (left) and Richard Davis with Ocean Tracking Network's wave glider; Petty Officer Second Class Justin Smith (left) and Leading Seaman Antony Savard from the Royal Canadian Navy's Maritime Survey Office; Lauren Stevens (left) and David MacArthur, Environment and Climate Change Canada.

BIO EXPO included outside organizations and smaller groups at BIO

For the first time, at least in your editor's memory, outside organizations from the wider marine community in Halifax were invited to exhibit their work at the BIO EXPO. Notable groups exhibiting were the Back to the Sea Society with their touch tanks, Defence Research and Development Corporation, the National Research Council, Nova Scotia Community College and the Ocean Tracking Network. Also in evidence were some of the smaller Government of Canada organizations housed at BIO.

Images of BIO's DFO and NRCan staff from the BIO EXPO



Photos: clockwise from top left: Emily Baker (left) and Javier Guizarro, DFO Ocean Ecology with the '4K camera'; (from the left) Jessica Conrad, Dawn Gaudet, Tom Roberts, and Frank Roach, Canadian Coast Guard; Matthew Lawson, DFO Ocean Engineering and Technology; Gavin Manson (left) and Dawn Kellet, GSC Atlantic; Kelly Bentham, DFO Underwater Imaging; Mélanie Belzile

(left) and Dave Herbert, DFO Ocean Monitoring; Patrick Potter in the Geological Survey of Canada 175 tent within a tent; Claudia Currie (left) and Nikole Bingham-Koslowski, GSC women in the Geological Survey of Canada 175 tent.

9 Where Cell Phones are Born: The Importance of Mining in a Gadget-Filled World L'origine des téléphones cellulaires : Importance du secteur minier dans un monde de gadgets



More photos: clockwise from the top left: Mike Parsons (left), Owen Brown, Lori Campbell and Dennis Leary; GSC Atlantic with their exhibit on rare earth metals and how they are used in electronic gadgets; Mark McCracken (left), Sara Withrow and Claire Hayson, Canadian Hydrographic Service; Claudia Currie, BIO-OA President (left), 'Super Gerry', and regular Gerry McCormick. 'Super Gerry'

travelled extensively and sent back photographs to cheer up an officemate suffering a severe illness; Bruce Anderson and Bill Bewsher, BIO EXPO's kingpins disguised as 'Muggles' wearing funny hats [see their true wizard identities on page 1]; Matthew Fraser (left) and Leanda Dalaney play in the sand preparing their exhibit on river fish habitat for another day of visitors.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

On a warm sunny day a short while ago, my wife Mary and I were walking the Halifax Waterfront, along with hordes of people from three large cruise ships that were spending the day in port. While making our way to the SeaBridge that links the Maritime Museum Wharf to Murphy's Wharf, we had to hike the length of the *Acadia*, and I was chagrined upon observing the vessel's sorry condition. Needless to say, this [lack of care] contrasted tremendously with the shipshape condition of HMCS *Sackville*, the wartime Corvette on display just two jetties away. I consider the *Acadia* in her present state of disrepair to be an embarrassment to the people of Halifax and to the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, as well as an affront to the memory of those who served on this historic ship.

Earlier versions of the paragraphs above were sent to Dick MacDougall, who responded with the following:

"I understand she is no longer maintained by the Museum but by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal - who are responsible for the bricks and mortar of government assets - so is treated like another government building in setting priorities etc. for budgets."

As most *Voicpipe* readers probably know, this is the same Department that took over the controversial *Bluenose* refit which ended up costing some \$24 million, according to a CBC report that was posted on 24 July 2017. One hopes that the lessons learned during that episode will be considered if and when a decision is ever made to proceed with a refurbishment of the *Acadia*.

A quick search on the TIR Department's website (<https://novascotia.ca/tran/highways/faq.asp>) reveals that based on 2009 figures, it costs "approximately \$3 million to twin 1 kilometre of highway. Building a new highway costs approximately \$3.5 million for a new 2-lane 100-Series highway plus bridges, and approximately \$6 million for a new 4-lane highway." Disregarding inflation and other variables for the moment, this suggests that the *Bluenose* project cost Nova Scotia taxpayers the equivalent of eight kilometres of highway twinning, nearly seven kilometres of a 2-lane 100-Series highway, or 4 kilometres of a new 4-lane highway.

Projecting the above cost figures onto the *Acadia's* situation would be an uncertain gambit at best, but *Bluenosers* are a practical and generally frugal lot; I'm not convinced that they'd favour the restoration of a rusting mu-

seum piece over the construction of a new stretch of highway.

Meanwhile, the refit of the CSS *Hudson* is providing an unsettling background to these ruminations, replete with serious delays and the prospect of cost overruns as described in recent CBC reports (and invoking memories of the ill-fated *Baffin* mid-life refit of many years ago). Clearly, the management of vessel refits is not a task for the faint of heart...

I understand that a committee has been struck to consider the *Acadia's* fate, so here's hoping that its members will either find a way to restore her to some semblance of her former glory, or propose a graceful solution for sparing her from further deterioration...

Best wishes, Ron

Ron Macnab
Geological Survey of Canada (Retired)

[Editor's Note: The letter that follows has been sent to the responsible Ministers in the provincial government]

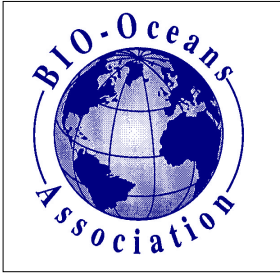
Dear Ministers;

My colleagues on the CSS *Acadia* Task Group of the BIO-Oceans Association visited the CSS *Acadia*, the "Grand Old Lady", at her berth by the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic on 3 August 2017. She was surrounded by many beautiful and well maintained Tall Ships visiting the waterfront at that time. In stark contrast to the gleaming hulls and superstructures of the Tall Ships, CSS *Acadia's* decrepit appearance did not show well.

The BIO Oceans Association Executive is concerned that this national historical monument (designated as such in 1976) has recently not received the maintenance necessary to preserve her for future generations. This concern was deepened upon our reading the 2013 condition assessment we received through a Freedom of Information Request. Unfortunately the recommendations provided in the report were redacted.

The CSS *Acadia* is a remarkable, maybe unique, example of the steam ship era reminiscent of the *Titanic*. She has performed yeoman service for her country, charting navigable waters in the Arctic and Newfoundland and Labrador and serving the Royal Canadian Navy in two World Wars; the only existing ship to our knowledge to have served in both wars.

Beyond her value as a unique and historic artifact of



From the President

Since your President Claudia Currie is taking a well deserved rest after the BIO EXPO, I, as your First Vice President, have taken the liberty of writing this column.

On behalf of the BIO-OA Executive let me thank all of the BIO-OA members who contributed in anyway to the BIO-OA exhibit, the BIO-EXPO and the pre-EXPO reception. Special thanks go to Charlie Schafer and David McKeown who designed the BIO-OA exhibit and Pierre Clement who organized the roster of BIO-OA members to meet the public. As can be seen from the pictures on the first six pages, which is only a small sampling of the exhibits, the EXPO and the reception were a great success.

As you can see from the Letters to the Editor column, your Executive has been active through its CSS *Acadia* Task Group. We have received several condition assessment reports from the province through a Freedom of Information Request and we have sent letters to the responsible provincial Ministers asking for the provincial response to the recommendations given to the province in the 2013 condition assessment report. At the time of publication, we are waiting a response to our correspondence before taking further action. As Ron has pointed out in his letter, the province may decide they would rather spend money on ‘vote getting’ initiatives like road twinning. This may require more community based ‘ship-o-phile’ action to see the ‘Grand Old Lady’

(continued from page 7) marine science and naval history, her value as a tourist attraction (TripAdvisor rates CSS *Acadia* at 4 out of 5) and film location (11 roles between 1982 and 2011) on the Halifax waterfront is diminished and will eventually be lost all together if steps are not taken soon to conduct necessary and long postponed maintenance on her hull and superstructure.

We understand that the recommendations redacted from the 2013 condition assessment report we received are embargoed until March 2018. We feel the poor and deteriorating condition of the CSS *Acadia* demands more urgent attention. We request that you voluntarily release the recommendations to us along with the province’s responses to the recommendations and plans to take action on them.

We hope the provincial government shares our desire for returning the “Grand Old Lady” to a state where her leg-

restored.

Our new webmaster, Jasmine Hayden, with Jennifer Hackett’s help, have been working on the website and social media channels. They encourage you to have a look at the new “Events and Public Lectures” pages on the website.

At our last BIO-OA Executive meeting, we had a presentation on the Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC). I have the privilege of meeting with local staff of the United Way in some of my volunteer work. They have told me that the Phoenix pay system debacle has caused United Ways across Canada to suffer significant reductions in donations. Consider making a donation by cheque or credit card to avoid using payroll deduction.

Andy Sherin, Vice President

What is the GCWCC?

The GCWCC is a charitable giving option developed exclusively for federal public servants and federal retirees. The annual GCWCC takes place in federal workplaces across the country during the fall campaign period and through correspondence to federal retirees from the pension centres. The GCWCC allows public servants to support United Ways/Centraides, HealthPartners or any other registered Canadian charity of their choosing.

Through the GCWCC, public servants and retirees can make a difference and change the lives of people living in your community — be it a friend, a neighbour or a family member.

acy is respected and her value to the provincial economy is sustained.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Sherin
Vice President, BIO Oceans Association

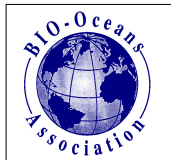
In Memoriam

Robert E. Walker, died 9 August 2017, Oceanographic Technician, BIO

Edith “Jean” Walker, died 2 September 2017, wife of Robert E. Walker (above), and micropaleontology technician or “picker” with Atlantic Paleo Services, under contract to BIO.

Editor's Keyboard: I want to thank all of the *Voicpipe* readers that took the time to respond to either the paper or electronic versions of the survey. It is gratifying to see how many of our readers have such a positive view of the newsletter. There were some offers to help, I will be in touch. Many respondents had ideas of stories they wanted to see in future newsletters and many suggestions for topics to consider. I strongly encourage members to submit articles but especially on current BIO projects and current or past cruises. As the **Colum-**

bia 50 % Mar story (page 12) shows I had the opportunity to travel to Columbia for UNESCO-sponsored meetings. INVEMAR was a very impressive institution with very generous hospitality. They had lost their research vessel in a hurricane, fortunately without fatality. I let them know Canada had the CCGS *Matthew* for sale. It would appear there are no takers at \$1 million. Maybe Columbia will be interested enough to take the *Matthew* south and keep her as an operating research vessel. *Andy Sherin*



ABOUT THE BIO-OCEANS ASSOCIATION

The Bedford Institute of Oceanography Oceans Association (BIO-OA) was established in 1998 to foster the continued fellowship of its members; to help preserve, in cooperation with the Institute's managers and staff, BIO's history and spirit; and to support

efforts to increase public understanding of the oceans and ocean science. Membership is open to all those who share our objectives. Most current members are present or past employees of BIO or of the federal departments of Environment, Fisheries and Oceans,

and Natural Resources (or their predecessors) located in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Membership is \$10.00 per year, \$40.00 for five years, or \$150.00 for a lifetime membership.

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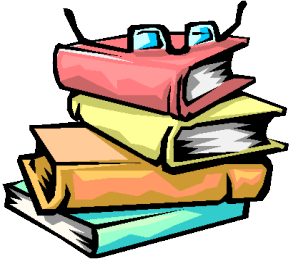
Robert Reiniger (1998-2000), Dale Buckley (2000-02), David Nettlehip (2002-04), Donald Peer (2004-06), Betty Sutherland (2006-08 and 2010-11),
Bob O'Boyle (2008-10), Paul Keizer (2011-13), Mike Hughes (2013-15), Michael Murphy (2015-17)

Note: Some contact information on this page has changed from previous issues of the *Voicpipe*

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Unless otherwise credited all photographs were taken by Andy Sherin



NOTEWORTHY READS: BOOK REVIEWS IN BRIEF

David N. Nettleship
Book Editor & Reviewer

'WONDERFUL FALL & EARLY WINTER READING'

The *Noteworthy Reads* section is an effort to identify recent noteworthy book publications related to the marine sciences and other subjects of general interest. The listing is not intended to be comprehensive or complete, but merely an attempt to highlight a number of 'good reads' that may be of interest to OA members and associates. Most books listed are available at local bookstores and public libraries. Book prices are regular retail in Canadian funds, but discounts of 20-30% are normally available on line at: e.g., amazon.ca or chapters.indigo.ca. Contributions of book reviews to 'Noteworthy Reads' are welcome – send via e-mail to: dnn-lundy@navnet.net.

SPECIAL PUBLICATION:

FALL INTO CANADIAN OCEANS

Hadley, Michael L. and Anita Hadley (eds.). 2017. Spindrift: A Canadian Book of the Sea. Douglas and McIntyre, Toronto, ON. 360 pp. Hardcover, \$36.95 (ISBN 978-1771621731).- The Hadley's have given Canadians and all ocean enthusiasts a special treat in producing this wonderful anthology about Canada's 'From Sea unto Sea' descriptor. After five years of work identifying, compiling, and distilling a rich collection of maritime writings about some aspect of the seas that frame Canada into a massive land mass with the longest coastline in the world, the editors reveal a myriad of outstanding sea-related works by some of Canada's best writers of fiction and non-fiction including Lou Boudreau, Pierre Burton, Silver Donald Cameron, Emily Carr, Yann Martel, Hugh MacLennan, Lucy Maud Montgomery, Donna Morrissey, Farley Mowat, Alice Munro, Peter Newman, E.J. Pratt, Thomas Raddall, Stan Rogers, and a host of others. The collection of 170 pieces, separated into 10 themes and chapters, span all three coasts, highlighting the country's geography, first peoples, early voyages of exploration and discovery to its environmental riches, social and industrial developments, fisheries, ship building, warfare, tragic marine events, and iconic vessels and people. From this grand overview comes a vivid picture of what Canada is all about and its relationship to the sea both now in modern times and historically. Overall, a moving and delightful treasury of Canadian voices that vividly displays Canada as a marine maritime nation – a timely gift to Canada on its 150th anniversary!

General Reviews

Brannen, Peter. 2017. The Ends of the World: Volcanic Apocalypses, Lethal Oceans, and Our Quest to Understand Earth's Past Mass Extinctions. Ecco Press (Harper Collins), New York, NY. 320 pp. Hardcover, \$34.99 (ISBN 978-0062364807).- An enlightening overview of Earth's recent history and the five major planet-wide exterminations of most animal life that have occurred over the last 300 million years. Peter

Brannen, award-winning science journalist and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Ocean Science Journalism Fellow, details the fossil record that shows the correlation of these five events with major geological shifts and the significant role that climate change played in these extreme catastrophes. By taking us through the planet's five mass extinctions and introducing us to key scientists and their recent findings, *The Ends of the World* succeeds in informing us of the danger associated with rapid increases in the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and the real need to prepare for the possibility of a sixth major extinction event. Brannen has delivered the message about our future in a clear and moving manner, one that shows both the nature of the problem and the way to move forward.

Castellani, Claudia and Martin Edwards (eds.). 2017. Marine Plankton: A Practical Guide to Ecology, Methodology, and Taxonomy. Oxford University Press, Oxford, England, UK. 704 pp. Hardcover, \$260.00 (ISBN 978-0199233267).- Once in a while a 'special' volume appears that warrants careful consideration despite the unusually high cost of ownership, and *Marine Plankton* is one such book. This exceptionally structured multi-authored work is a comprehensive practical guide to planktonic organisms over a vast geographic area spanning the northeastern coast of North America east to the North Sea. It provides a general introduction to plankton biology, the ecology and identification of plankton species with detailed line drawings throughout, and reviews and incorporates the latest methodologies and techniques employed in plankton fieldwork. The contents are divided into three sections – Ecology, Methodology, and Taxonomy – prepared by over 50 expert contributors including renown editors Castellani and Edwards, and concludes with a useful General Index and Species Index. This is an essential reference text for marine biologists *per se*, as well as conservation biologists, marine resource managers, environmental consultants, and marine science students. Despite the price, a copy of '*Marine Plankton*' should be in the reference library of every university ocean science department, marine institute and laboratory.

Dean, Cornelia. 2017. Making Sense of Science: Separating Substance from Spin. Belknap-Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA. 281 pp. Hardcover, \$25.00 (ISBN 978-0674059696).- Here is a timely book to help us cope with the new world order as well as our basic science writing. The main readership of *Making Sense of Science* was intended to be the lay public, the educated by-stander who wishes to better understand and evaluate scientific claims reported by the media from government sources and industry. But in today's world, especially since January 2017, we might all benefit from a refresher on how to separate fact from fiction in the quest for factual and unbiased information. In this book, Cornelia Dean, with 30 years experience as a science reporter with the New York Times, provides a set of tools to assess the scientific claims and discussions that dominate our lives and thoughts. She carefully reviews ways to identify flawed reasoning, knowledge gaps, conflicts of interest, and bogus assertions pushed forward by politicians, business and religious leaders, and activists to influence how the findings of science are presented and discussed with self-interested spin. The clear message delivered by Dean is simply that we can no longer afford to allow 'spin' and scientific misinformation to prevail and must demand factual scientific information be dis-

seminated on topics important to the welfare of us all, scientist and non-scientist alike. Sound advice galore!

Johnson, Alex. 2017. *The First Mapping of America: The General Survey of British North America*. I.B. Tauris Company Ltd., London, England, UK. 320 pp. Hardcover, \$118.00 (ISBN 978-1780764429).- This long-awaited account of the first mapping of the entire British North American empire has finally arrived and proven to be well worth the wait! Alex Johnson's book is one of outstanding scholarship, and contributes greatly to a better understanding of both the history of North America and the explosive development and dominance of British cartography in the 19th century. He details the fascinating story of the General Survey of British North America, a mapping effort that began at the end of the Seven Years War in 1764 and continued to the dawn of the American Revolution in 1775. The British government decided to map its expanded territory in North America owing largely to the immense economic and military potential of the region, as well as providing a knowledge platform on which to develop British government policy in North America. The maps produced were unique and technically ground-breaking for the time, and are presented in this magnificent work, many rarely seen before. *The First Mapping of America* is a 'must-have' and 'must-read' volume, a treasure trove of information for historians and cartographers alike, and anyone else interested in the Canadian-American connection!

Mann, Janet (ed.). 2017. *Deep Thinkers: Inside the Minds of Whales, Dolphins, and Porpoises*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL. 192 pp. Hardcover, \$45.00 (ISBN 978-0226387475).- Looking for a thorough and comprehensive overview of the behaviour and intelligence of cetaceans? Go no further than this beautiful single volume comprising the most up-to-date findings and interpretations by some of the world's leading whale and dolphin experts on the subject. Janet Mann, renowned cetacean biologist and professor of biology and psychology at Georgetown University, has gathered together this impressive 'think-tank' to delve into what we know about these incredibly smart sea mammals and their intricate societies. In eight chapters prepared by ten researchers, *Deep Thinkers* takes the reader on an inspiring journey to explore the astounding capacities of the cetacean brain including unique syntheses of cognition, communication, social structure and culture. The well-written text combined with 150 highly informative illustrations provides a clear understanding of cetacean intelligence and its comparison with those of primates, birds and bats. From the astonishing conclusions drawn in this invaluable summary work, it is essential to find a way for humans and cetaceans to co-exist to prevent the tragic loss of the 'great minds' of the sea.

McGoogan, Ken. 2017. *Dead Reckoning: The Untold Story of the Northwest Passage*. Harper Collins Publishers, Toronto, ON. 438 pp. Hardcover, \$33.99 (ISBN 978-1443461261).- Here is another 'not-to-be-missed' book on arctic exploration history. This one by award-winning author Ben McGoogan for his previous northern works – *Fatal Passage*, *Ancient Mariner*, *Lady Franklin's Revenge*, and *Race to the Polar Sea* – focuses largely on the British Admiralty and the Royal Navy officers sent out on voyages of discovery and exploration in the Canadian arctic through the 19th century. This work attempts to bring the many

forgotten heroes and heroines of arctic exploration to the forefront, those that either laid groundwork or provided information necessary for the amazing accomplishments made by the recognized heroes of Victorian England including the Rosses, Parry, and Franklin. McGoogan identifies the many unsung heroes and gives them a strong voice, one that reveals the striking roles they played, from non-British and fur-trade explorers to Canada's indigenous peoples, in the discoveries claimed by others. *Dead Reckoning* goes a long way in setting the record straight and should be in the collection of any Arctic historian or polar aficionado!

Staaf, Danna. 2017. *Squid Empire: The Rise and Fall of the Cephalopods*. University Press of New England, Lebanon, NH. 256 pp. Hardcover, \$35.00 (ISBN 978-1611689235).- Interested in history, especially biological evolution and life in the global sea? If you are, this book by invertebrate biologist Danna Staff will delight, fascinate, and inform. While there are many fans of living cephalopods, there are fewer that focus attention on their shelled ancestors and cephalopod evolution. However, *Squid Empire* will change all of this! By going back hundreds of millions of years into the primordial seas and examining the fossil record, Staaf opens our view of the living world and its origin to a far wider horizon. The record shows that before fish in the sea, dinosaurs and mammals on land, there were cephalopods – the ancestors of modern squid and the first animals to leave the sea-floor and swim. They were sometimes enormous – fossils discovered in Iowa up to 3.5 metres from the Ordovician – and ruled the seas for millions of years, until fish with jaws appeared and the predatory cephalopod became the prey. The evolutionary story is amazing as the cephalopods developed beaks, shed their shells for speed, and became masters of hiding using remarkable systems of camouflage. Find a copy of *Squid Empire* and immerse yourself in the drama surrounding the rise, fall, and current comeback of the cephalopods. You won't be disappointed, and likely be launched into the wonderful world of paleontology!

Stroksues, Morten. 2017. *Shark Drunk: The Art of Catching a Large Shark from a Tiny Rubber Dinghy in a Big Ocean*. Knopf Publishing, New York, NY. 320 pp. Hardcover, \$35.95 (ISBN 978-0451493486).- Here is a read to enjoy, an outdoor travel memoir placed in the beautiful setting of the Lofoten Islands in Norway! Maritime Norwegian historian, journalist and photographer Morten Stroksues takes readers into the fantastical ocean environment in search of the ferocious and feared Greenland Shark. Although a fish tale of the variety of Ishmael, Jonah, and other classic stories about the denizens of the deep, author Stroksues uses the infamous monster shark as a platform into the exciting sea world it inhabits, along with an overview of the history and natural history of the place. And what a story and fascinating read it is! The book, originally published in Norwegian in 2015 has now been translated into English, and is a 'gold mine' of information not only on preparations for a search of the elusive Greenland Shark in a small inflatable boat, but also about the history, oceanography, fauna and flora, and culture of the Lofoten islanders. This is a 'book of the sea' that will delight anyone interested in outdoor marine literature and northern waters, as well as the awesome folklore associated with the fiords of Norway!



Photos: top, A view of the plaza and front entrance of INVEMAR. The plaza is used by the surrounding community for recreational programs especially for youth; above, a view of the beach at Rodadero that was a block from our hotel. INVEMAR is located behind the tall buildings at the top left of the photograph.

Columbia 50 % Mar

In September, your editor had the opportunity to travel to Santa Marta, Columbia to participate in the International Coastal Atlas Network’s 8th workshop on the contribution of coastal web atlases to ocean literacy and to teach at the Ocean Teacher Global Academy’s course on “Story Maps”. Both events were elegantly hosted by INVEMAR, Columbia’s BIO. INVEMAR is housed in a modern building (see photo at the left) with well equipped laboratories and conference facilities. It is located in a touristy suburb of Santa Marta, Rodadero. It is partially funded by the Colombian Department of the Environment and is a regional training centre for the Ocean Teacher Global Academy.

INVEMAR’s slogan is “Columbia 50 % Mar” emphasizing that if it’s EEZ is included, half the country is under the sea.

We had the opportunity to tour the historic downtown. Santa Marta is oldest continuously inhabited European established settlement in Colombia, settled in 1525.

Results for the Newsletter Survey

A paper survey was included in a previous issue and was followed up by an electronic survey asking readers about their satisfaction with the *Voicemail*. Forty seven responses were received with 64 % of the responses indicating the newsletter was excellent with only one respondent suggesting the newsletter needed a major overhaul. Ninety-two percent read all or most of the newsletter. Readers were asked what sections to never

drop and what sections to drop immediately. For ‘never drop’ 51 % answered ‘**Nothing**’. For ‘drop immediately’ 79 % answered ‘**Drop nothing**’. The ‘Noteworthy Reads’ column had a small minority (11 %) suggesting it be dropped. Many readers wanted stories on current research at BIO, articles on cruises and especially past cruises of the *CSS Hudson*. Your editor would like to thank the readers who responded to the survey.

