The Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) and Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO) announce an open science meeting for an International Quiet Ocean Experiment (IQOE). The purpose of the open science meeting is to develop a Science Plan for the IQOE, a focused international research effort that may last a decade or so. This plan will include background information to document the importance of the issue of sound in the ocean and its effects on marine organisms; identify information gaps; and describe research, observations, and modeling activities needed to fill these gaps.

Ian Boyd, Sea Mammal Research Unit, University of St. Andrews, Scotland
George Frisk, Florida Atlantic University/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, USA

**Plenary Presentation Topics**
- IQOE history and concept
- What is known about the physics of acoustics in the ocean?
- The future industrialization of the oceans
- What is known about the biological effects of sound exposure? Biologically significant effects? What is already possible using existing technologies? How could existing technologies be added to existing observing systems?
- What is a soundscape and how should soundscapes be quantified and characterized?
- Modeling and prediction of soundscapes

**Themes for discussion sessions**
- Observing systems, including technology development
- Scientific knowledge needed for government agencies, industry and regulators
- Ocean soundscapes
- Designing research relating soundscapes (cumulative effects of many sources) to biologically significant effects on organisms
- Experimental approaches to understanding responses of organisms to specific sources

**Important Dates**
- 31 March: Registration opens (see www.IQOE-2011.org)
- 15 July: One pagers due for input to discussion sessions
- 31 July: Early registration deadline

**Registration Fees**
- Early registration: $200 for regular scientists ($100 for students)
- Regular registration: $300 for regular scientists ($150 for students)