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The CMOS HALIFAX CENTRE and OCEANOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT
present

The Canadian IPY - Issues and Approaches: A View from Western Canada

by

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Abstract

The Canadian International Polar Year was launched in 2007 with 80% of the funding to be spent in the first two years of this 5-year program. In many ways IPY is timely in that the Arctic is undergoing unprecedented change in ice climate with as yet less clear consequences for biology and geochemistry. In this talk I will discuss some of the issues we face in a changing Arctic Ocean and review the major oceanographic programs that have been funded in western Canada. These studies, now underway, provide widely disparate geographical approaches to the issue of change ranging from a greater than 5000 mile transect across Canada's three oceans to freezing a ship in for a full seasonal view of shelf polynya processes to combining moorings and sections to work out how the Arctic Ocean sheds its fresh water. Equally disparate is the approach to sampling and the combination of atmospheric, oceanic and biogeochemical components. IPY will produce a large harvest of data which will require a commitment for many years down the road.

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