



Eighth Annual Great Lakes Science Vessel Coordination Workshop

Great Lakes Maritime Academy
1701 E. Front Street
Traverse City, MI 49686

February 3-5, 2004

December 17, 2003

Dear Colleague:

On behalf of the Great Lakes Science Vessel Coordination Steering Committee, we are pleased to invite you to the **Eighth Annual Great Lakes Science Vessel Coordination Workshop**, to be held February 4, 2004 at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy in Traverse City, Michigan.

Over the past seven years, individuals representing science, management and vessel operations interests from both the U.S. and Canada have attended the workshops to provide input on developing a coordinated approach to the management and operations of Great Lakes science vessels. Through facilitated small group discussion, attendees have helped craft and refine an action plan, to promote – through enhanced communication and cooperation – the more efficient and cost effective use of the Great Lakes Science Vessel resources. One of the recommendations from the first workshop in 1997, which has been reconfirmed each subsequent year, is to annually convene a Great Lakes Science Vessel Workshop to provide a forum for continued discussion of important issues and to gauge progress on implementing recommendations from the action plan.

At the 2003 workshop, the conference organizers introduced a plan to move from discussion to action, presenting a framework for the conduct and completion of project work between workshops. Three work groups were formed; project administration, standards development and the captain/crew forum with each group assigned one or more tasks for completion by the 2004 workshop.

In addition to being more product and progress focused, the 2004 workshop will also offer several training courses for boat captains and crew members. These classes will be offered before and after the workshop on February 3 and February 5. Interested individuals will be able to take two courses, one on Tuesday and one on Thursday. Depending upon interest and attendance, the plan is to offer courses in the following areas:

- basic engineering-diesel and hydraulics; (full day class - offered both Tuesday and Thursday)
- basic engineering-electrical; (full day class - offered both Tuesday and Thursday)
- basic first aid and wet weather drills (full day class - Thursday only)

As mentioned above, these courses will be offered on February 3 and February 5, the days immediately preceding and following the workshop. The cost of these classes is \$100 per individual per class, payable in advance to the Great Lakes Commission.

We encourage you to mark your calendar for the February 3-5 training and workshop. A workshop registration form for the two-day event is enclosed. A registration fee of \$65 (U.S.), (\$85 Canadian) will provide for all meeting materials, a continental breakfast, lunch, coffee breaks and an evening reception on February 4.

There will also be a dinner and roundtable discussion for captains and crew as part of the captain/crew forum on Tuesday February 3 from 6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Please check the project website: www.canamglass.org for more information on this event.

The registration deadline for the workshop and associated events is **January 19, 2004**. A block of sleeping rooms has been reserved at the Bayshore Resort at a rate of \$65 (no lake view), \$70 (partial lake view) or \$82 (full lake view) plus tax, single or double. **Please call Toll-Free: 1-800-634-4401 or 1-231-935-4400 before January 21** to ensure your reservation (ask for the Great Lakes Commission block of rooms). A preliminary program for the workshop is attached and also available on the project website.

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We value your expertise and hope that you will be able to attend. Also, please share this letter with your colleagues involved with the science, operations or management aspects of vessel-based research and monitoring programs.

If you have any questions, please contact us at the phone numbers included at the bottom of this letter. Thank you for your interest; we look forward to seeing you on **February 3-5** in Traverse City.

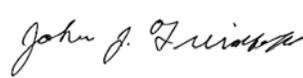
Sincerely,



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