



August 2021

International Nutrient Inter-Comparison 2022: Newsletter #5

Keep up to date on the facts, plans and people involved with the International Nutrient Inter-Comparison voyage (INIV2022) scheduled for May 2022

Photo: the hydrochemistry lab onboard the RV Investigator

INIV is an opportunity for global nutrient chemists to come together to gain first-hand knowledge and experience of measuring nutrients in the ocean.

The goal of this voyage is to enhance peer to peer communication while tackling a broader understanding of time-scale nutrient changes for the oceanographic community.

Across the voyage our focus will be on better understanding method variabilities that cannot be achieved with a standard proficiency study. We hope to answer questions and improve techniques that will be shared with the global community

Welcome

Welcome to the fifth INIV newsletter. This newsletter aims to provide monthly updates around the current and future activities for INIV 2022. Important newsletter this month: (1) information on the COVID-19 situation in Australia, (2) an update on funding available. Some calls for funding are closing in September and October. Read on to make sure you don't miss out. We close this newsletter with our traditional "Meet the team".

Funding update

Various funding sources have closing time fast approaching. Please refer to the excel sheet received with the newsletter and do not miss out.

A COVID-19 update from Australia

How did Australia go?

Initially, Australia did reasonably well to manage the virus when the pandemic hit. Similarly, to many other countries, Australia went into lockdown for a few months, this coupled with an international (and then domestic) border closure, the number of cases went down to 0 and we were able to live a normal life through 2020.

Since March 2020, Australian international borders are closed to anyone who is not a permanent resident or a citizen of Australia. Additionally, there is also a cap on weekly entries for anyone wanting to enter the country. Anyone entering the country must quarantine for two weeks in a specifically designated hotel, in their port of entry, at their own cost. The cap put on entries and the hotel quarantine system has created a backlog of people wanting to come into Australia.

How is Australia going now?

While a lot of countries have “learnt to live with COVID-19”, Australia’s primary strategy has been to keep the virus out, at least until the majority of the population has been vaccinated. This results in regular local, regional, and state lockdowns every time a case is found active in the community. For example, the Northern Territory went into a snap lockdown (within two hours of announcement) after 1 case was found in the community, Greater Sydney went into lockdown after approximately 20 cases were found active in the community and Greater Melbourne after just 5 cases. Borders between these localities, states and territories are being shut intermittently. The more recent outbreak in Sydney has caused most of the country to shut down in an attempt to contain the Delta variant. Tasmania has benefitted greatly by being the only island state of an island nation, we have been extremely fortunate to not have an outbreak since the original one in March 2020. It does mean however that Tasmanian borders are often closed to other states and territories.

What are the chances to travel to Australia?

This is a very difficult question to answer because the situation is constantly evolving, but exceptions do exist. If we were looking at getting voyage participants into the country now, we would need to:

- Obtain individual exemption on compassionate grounds or national interest grounds by the Australian Border Forces
- Get everyone into Australia considering very few flights and quarantine spots are available
- All arriving participants would have to do a mandatory two weeks quarantine wherever they first land into Australia – which will not be Tasmania as there is no international airport in Tasmania

- Get participants granted access into Tasmania. Considering that currently Tasmania is closed to most major ports of entry where hotel quarantine is available.

This is a summary of the current situation as of this last week in August.

We are hoping that with the vaccination rate currently increasing daily and the increasing possibility of home quarantine for Australian residents participant arrivals will become much easier in the future.

To get the latest information on the situation please visit:

- The Australian borders arrangement: <https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/>
- Travel exemptions: <https://travel-exemptions.homeaffairs.gov.au/tep>
- The Australian health department: <https://www.health.gov.au/>
- The Tasmania government website: <https://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/>

Potential impact on INIV 2022

The restrictions in place to come to Australia would have an obvious impact on the voyage.

We are currently planning the voyage with the initial dates, but we are also working on contingency plans with the Marine National Facility.

Participant Bios



Name: Sarah-Ann Quesnel

Role: Arctic Field Analyst

Organisation: Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Total days at sea: 306

Favourite voyage: I have been participating on Joint Ocean Study (JOIS) and Distributed Biological Observatory (DBO) expeditions yearly since 2013. I never get tired of sailing through the sea ice and occasional tourism on the sea ice in the Beaufort Gyre, and observing the polar bears, the walruses, snowy owls, whales, and of course being part of the cool science happening onboard and on the ice.

What interests you the most about INIV?: For a long time I have been wanting to partake in an international inter-comparison study just like this one. I am so pleased to be able to participate. I am excited to finally meet other analysts and chemists to discuss, compare, and exchange tricks, tips, and hints of the trade. Nutrient analysis is “common” in oceanography, yet so many different methodological tweaks have been adopted by different institute and sometimes amongst different groups within the same organization.



Name: Stephen Tibben

Role: Seagoing Hydrochemist

Organisation: Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

Total days at sea: 427 over 16 voyages

Favourite voyage: Au1602 – Casey Station resupply followed by sampling the Totten, Mertz and Ninnis glaciers. We were treated to snow and orcas on Christmas, pattered around Newcombe bay in IRBs, and formed a close community on board.

What interest you the most about INIV? There are not many people in Australia who measure nutrients at sea so I am looking forward to connecting with the wider international community. Whether it's sharing stories from previous voyages or learning new tips and tricks, I am excited to participate on such a collaborative project. We have interesting experiments planned and by working together I am confident that we can produce some meaningful outputs.

Voyage Website

We have a website! Check it out for additional information about our voyage including voyage location, planning, getting involved, FAQ and more: <https://wp.csiro.au/iniv2022/>

Contact Us

Please feel free to reach out to the CSIRO Hydrochemistry team at any time during the planning process – iniv2022@csiro.au



The RV Investigator alongside the CSIRO wharf on a Hobart moody day. Photo: CSIRO

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For further information

Hydrochemistry – National Collections and Marine Infrastructure (NCMI)

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