

Atlantic Zone Cruise Numbering System

A cruise numbering format currently in use both within the Atlantic Zone and by other organizations is **YY-nnn** where **YY**=last two digits of the year and **nnn** is a unique serial number assigned to each scheduled cruise. This format doesn't readily accommodate the addition of data sets from non-ship based field programs, other organizations, non-zonal DFO vessels, etc. Furthermore, some oceanographic data currently on file dates from the early 1900's and even the late 1800's so a two-digit year no longer suffices. Use of the government's fiscal rather than calendar year also causes confusion in some databases.

It appears as though there are a number of databases in use within DFO and other departments that incorporate in some fashion the cruise numbers assigned by the Atlantic Zone Science Platform Committee (AZSPC). While it is not the responsibility of the AZSPC to devise a system of cruise numbering that is compatible with these database structures, an effort has been made to consult with custodians of such databases and accommodate their wishes where possible. However, the end result is a compromise that will inevitably cause disruption to some.

As of April 1, 2000, the Atlantic Zone will adopt a 10-character cruise identification system, **VVVyyyyNNN**, where:

- VVV** = 3 alpha-numeric character ship or organization designator
(See table)
- YYYY** = 4 digit year number
- NNN** = 3 digit sequential identification number

The cruise numbers will be assigned on a calendar year basis after April 1, 2000.

Atlantic Zone Regional Schedulers will:

1. Assign 3 digit characters for region's ships and inform the Chair, Atlantic Zone Science Platform Committee of additions and alterations, which may be required from time to time.
2. Assign sequential numbers to cruises independent of platform identifier, that is, all cruises for calendar year will be numbered sequentially.

The Chair, Atlantic Zone Science Platform Committee will ensure that an updated list of these codes is included either as an attachment to or information block on the zonal ship schedules each time they are issued.

Organizations, individuals, etc. are free to invent and use their own three character **VVV** codes. If they wish to reduce the possibility of duplication, they can negotiate a unique code with the Chair, Atlantic Zone Science Platform Committee. This individual will then add it to the published list of vessel and organization codes.

D. L. McKeown
Chair, Atlantic Zone Science Platform Committee
Feb. 9, 2000

Ship and Organizational Unit ID Codes

Region	Ship/Org	ID Code
Laurentian	Martha L. Black	MLB
	Fredrick G. Creed	FGC
	Calanus II	CAL
Maritimes	Acadia	ACD
	Alfred Needler	NED
	A.T.Cameron	ATC
	Baffin	BAF
	Dawson	DAW
	E. E. Prince	PRN
	Frank M. Weston	WES
	Geological Survey of Canada (Atlantic)	GSC
	Harengus	HAR
	Hudson	HUD
	J.J.Cowie	JJC
	J. L. Hart	HRT
	Lady Hammond	HAM
	Louis S. St. Laurent	LSL
	Marine Fish Division	MFD
	Matthew	MAT
	Navicula	NAV
	Opilio	OPL
	Pandalus III	PAN
	Parizeau	PAR
	Sackville	SCK
Newfoundland	Teleost	TEL
	Wilfred Templeman	TEM
	Shamook	SHA