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Beaufort Gyre Exploration Project: Dispatch 1: Welcome aboard the CCGS Louis S. St. Laurent!

Steve Lambert, WHOI
August 2, 2012

After many miles of travel the science crew for the 2012 Joint Ocean Ice Studies (JOIS) project converged on the little air field in Kugluktuk, Nunavut. Upon arrival we were greeted by beautiful blue skies and warm weather which made the helicopter ride out the ship even more enjoyable.

This year's compliment includes twenty-eight scientists from the United States, Canada, Japan, and the United Kingdom. And although a handful of the science crew is new to the *LSL*, many have returned for what should be another exciting cruise. We are most fortunate to welcome back Linda White from the Institute of Ocean Sciences located in Sidney, BC. Linda has been part of the project since it first began in 2000 on the *CCGS Sir Wilfrid Laurier*. The project was later moved to the larger *LSL* and has become an annual summer event ever since.

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Kugluktuk's approximately 1300 residents must endure the extremely harsh Arctic winters . Formerly known as Coppermine, Kugluktuk sits at the mouth of the Coppermine River in the westernmost part of Nunavut, Canada's newest province. In this part of the world temperatures can drop to well below zero and remain there for weeks on end. Fortunately for us today was calm and warm as the mercury reached nearly 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

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Mail: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, 266 Woods Hole Road, Woods Hole, MA 02543, USA.
E-Contact: info@whoi.edu; press relations: media@whoi.edu, tel. (508) 457-2000
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