

Jim Ledwell Selected as a Fellow of The Oceanography Society



Jim Ledwell, Emeritus Research Scholar at the Wood Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), has been named a 2017 Fellow of The Oceanography Society (TOS). The society noted his many achievements, in particular his “seminal contributions to the understanding of oceanic mixing,” as the reason for his selection.

Ledwell is best known for pioneering the use of perfluorinated tracers to study ocean mixing and circulation, driven largely by the need to understand the role of the ocean in Earth’s climate system. After earning a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1982 and studying for two years as a National Research Council Fellow at the Goddard Institute for Space Studies, Ledwell worked at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory from 1984 to 1990 before moving to WHOI and conducting tracer experiments on more than 50 research

cruises. In 2007 he was awarded the Alexander Agassiz Medal by the National Academy of Sciences, and in 2011 he was made a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union.

In a letter supporting Ledwell’s nomination for the award, WHOI physical oceanographer John Toole wrote, “I consider Jim to be the ideal scientist and leader: brilliant, diligent, soft spoken and understated.” Ledwell will be formally recognized by TOS on 13 February 2018, during a ceremony in Portland, Oregon, at the semiannual Ocean Sciences.

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