

Two lakes on opposite sides of the world – Crater Lake in Oregon and Lake Baikal in the Soviet Union – share one unusual similarity: they are the only known freshwater lakes in the world that may have hot springs on the bottom.

Grigory I. Galazy, a Lake Baikal scientist and director of the Baikal Ecological Museum, is one of two Soviet scientists who visited Oregon in October 1990 as part of an exchange program. "We're counting on the fact that between our lake and Crater Lake there will be some definite organized cooperation in the future," Galazy said after taking his first look at Crater Lake.

The visit came two months after a Soviet-American team found evidence of a hot vent field in Lake Baikal. The vent area, which lies about 1300 feet down at the lake's northeastern corner, supports a community of sponges, bacterial mats, worms, snails, and fish. The sponges are white and grow in circles. The spring area

is significantly warmer – as much as 24 degrees F warmer – than the water surrounding it.

Oregon State University oceanographers Jack Dymond and Robert Collier are completing a draft report for NPS of the 1990 summer research in Crater Lake, where the pair found the warmest temperatures ever detected in the lake – 66 degrees F – in a bacterial mat on the lake's floor. The reading was 28 degrees higher than the surrounding water temperature.