

# Canada

## Overview of Ocean Literacy in Canada

Ocean Literacy:

Understanding the ocean's influence on you and your influence on the ocean



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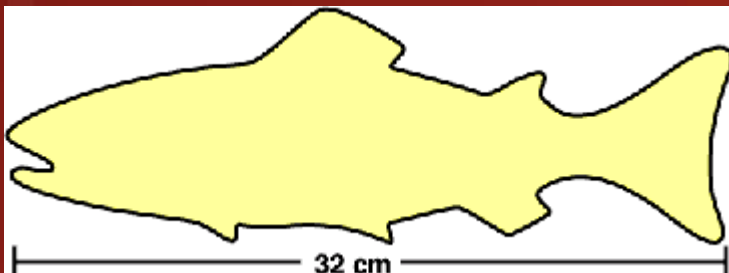


Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

# Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO)

- Canadian government lead department for ocean science
- Promotes and encourages aquatic science literacy
- **Outreach activities across Canada**
  - Tours, displays, school visits, public open houses, lectures and workshops at science institutes
  - Materials and resources for schools
  - Community programming
  - Post secondary – DFO staff with adjunct appointments; mentoring grad students and post docs
- **Headquarters has a coordinating role**
  - Web content
  - Expert advice to others
  - With other gov't departments, maintains government's science portal [www.science.gc.ca](http://www.science.gc.ca)



# Ocean literacy in Canada

## We don't have...

- National ocean literacy policy or strategy
- Consistent messaging

## But we do have...

- Local, regional and national activities
- Strong advocates
- Associated with / using U.S. ocean literacy resources
  - National Marine Educators Association
  - Marine Advanced Technology Education Centre programming
  - Consortium for Ocean Leadership
  - Centers of Ocean Science Education Excellence
  - Ocean Literacy Framework
- Efforts to 'normalize' programming through association with school curricula

***Some sample programming follows...***

# Ocean Networks Canada

## Centre for Enterprise and Engagement

- Canadian centre of excellence for commercialization and research
- Attached to Ocean Networks Canada and the NEPTUNE & VENUS observatories

Education and Public Engagement =  
a priority area of focus

- Creating learning materials - school and university level
- Organizing events and exhibitions for students and public
- Upcoming launch of “Ocean Alive” - TV / transmedia project
- Ocean literacy concepts and principles a foundation for all activities





# ArcticNet

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## Canada's Network of Centres of Excellence (NCE) to study the changing Arctic

Public education part of the core mandate

We have **'Arctic Literacy'** as well as **'Ocean Literacy'**  
aspirations in Canada

# Fisheries & Marine Institute, Memorial University

***Ocean Net*** – youth conferences & beach clean up programming

***Coastal Connections*** – programming for school children on board 11.5m vessel

***Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) ROV international competition*** - 450 young people in the province involved annually

***Immersion Presents*** – real time link for school children to scientists on board RV Nautilus (in collaboration with URI)





Halifax **MARINE RESEARCH** Institute



**DALHOUSIE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

*Inspiring Minds*

- Conducting Ocean Literacy baseline survey in Nova Scotia schools
- Working with National Film Board of Canada on 'Ocean School' interactive learning idea
- Ongoing talks in high schools
- CBC Radio column 'Surf and Turf' (ongoing for past three years)
- Working with Discovery Centre (provincial science centre) on ocean content for traveling school exhibits
- bringing schools kids to university for half-day ocean science immersion (collaboration with 'Let's talk science' [www.letstalkscience.ca](http://www.letstalkscience.ca) )

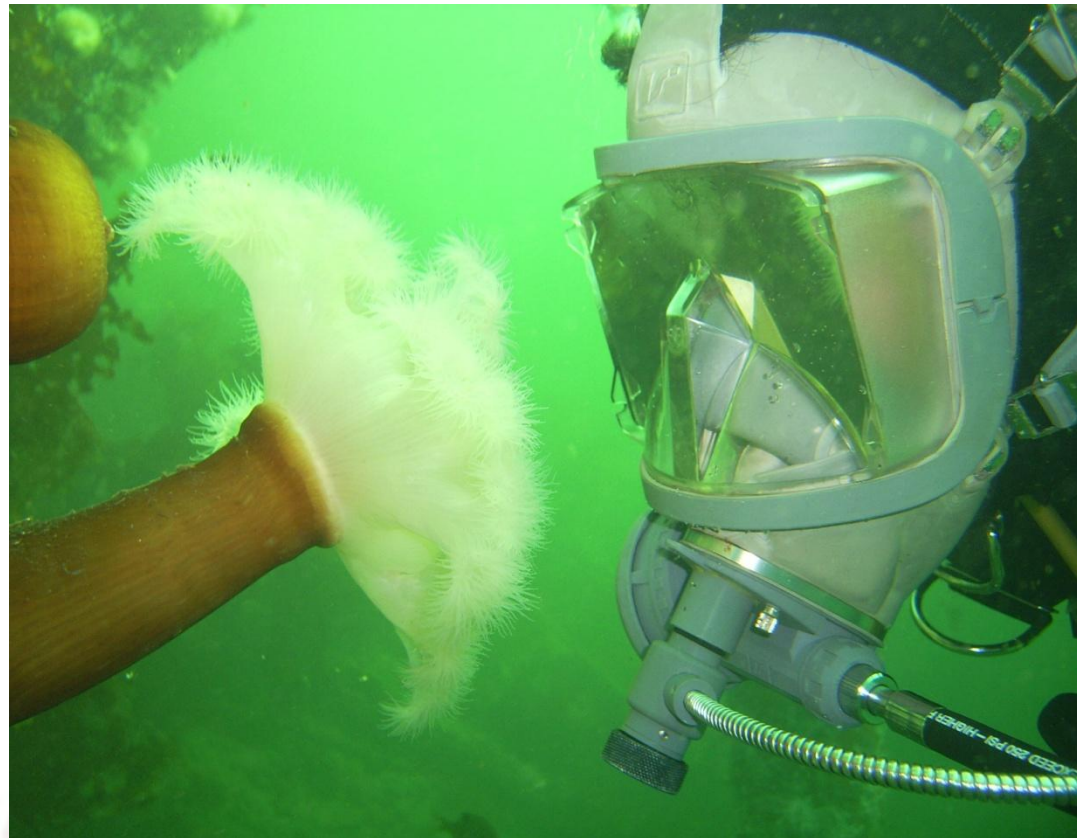


# Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre



A marine education and research initiative of: Simon Fraser University, University of Alberta, University of British Columbia, University of Calgary, University of Victoria

- National award-winning public education programming for 40 years
- Intense, multi-day marine science immersion experiences
- Support for transition from “consumer of science information to producer of science information”
- Using the Ocean Literacy Framework





# In Closing ...

- No national framework or policy for ocean literacy in Canada
- Efforts to start a network of Canadian ocean literacy advocates and practitioners
- Work has started to "Canadian-ize" the prescribed learning outcomes of the U.S. Ocean Literacy Framework
- Some links with OL networks and practitioners in the U.S.; few with Europe
- STRONG interest from Canada in forging more connections

## Recommendations / Requests from Canada:

- Enhance mechanisms for sharing of resources and ideas
  - e.g. Develop an online OL Tool Box
  - e.g. Foster a network of marine educators in EU, US & CA
- Identify 'best practices' in OL promotion