Marine Life 2030

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Newsletter

Ocean Tracking Network Hosts Symposium in Nova Scotia

Provided by Amanda Leslie, Ocean Tracking Network

Photo Caption: OTN's technical engineer, Sean Potter, provides a demonstration of the Falcon-DR remotely operated vehicle (ROV) during a behind-the-scenes tour of COVE. Photo Credit: Ocean Tracking Network.

Photo Caption: OTN's scientific director, Robert Lennox, and executive director, Fred Whoriskey, address the crowd during the 2024 OTN Symposium. Photo Credit: Ocean Tracking Network.

Nearly 200 attendees from across the globe took part in the Ocean Tracking Network's (OTN; a Marine Life 2030-affiliated project) 2024 Symposium in Halifax, Nova Scotia. This event featured more than 60 oral presentations, speed talks, workshops, and panel discussions on aquatic animal tracking. OTN's former scientific director, Sara Iverson, gave a memorable keynote address, sharing her stories on tracking marine animals and ocean ecosystems, as well as her perspectives on being a woman of wild science. Her talk was followed by two days of sessions on different aspects of aquatic telemetry, including movement ecology, management and best practices, methods and tools, and collaboration and outreach.

In addition to the main programming, attendees got a behind-the-scenes tour of OTN's glider space at COVE and a tour of the Innovasea facilities. There was also a full-day workshop for early career researchers that provided a hands-on opportunity to practice data analysis with sessions on estimating the detection efficiency of acoustic receivers, comparing migration success between groups in acoustic telemetry studies, using GAMs for analyzing movement data, and machine learning with telemetry data.

OTN would like to thank all the speakers, attendees, sponsors, and other supporters (Innovasea, Dalhousie University's Faculty of Science, Transport Canada, Emera Newfoundland and Labrador, Teledyne Marine, GLATOS, Lotek, Liquid Robotics, and the Atlantic Groundfish Council) for helping to make this event a huge success!
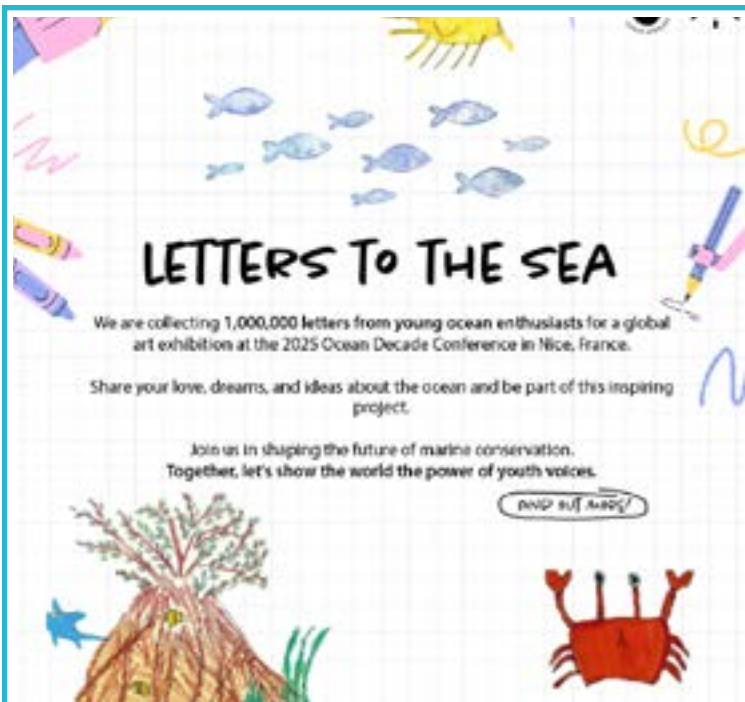
For information about future events, please subscribe to OTN's e-list.

UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development Vision 2030 White Papers Released

The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (UN Ocean Decade) has published a series of white papers, each focusing on the ten Ocean Decade Challenges. The papers were presented at the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona, Spain in April 2024.

The Challenge 2 white paper focused on 'Protecting and Restoring Marine Ecosystems and Biodiversity.' Marine Life 2030 program leads Frank Muller-Karger and Aileen Tan led a working group, which included many members of the Marine Life 2030 and the Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON) communities, in the development of the white paper.

All of the white papers are available on the UN Ocean Decade website here. The Challenge 2 white paper is available here. See this article for a more detailed description of the white paper, including an interview with co-lead Frank Muller-Karger.

LETTERS TO THE SEA

We are collecting 1,000,000 letters from young ocean enthusiasts for a global art exhibition at the 2025 Ocean Decade Conference in Nice, France.

Share your love, dreams, and ideas about the ocean and be part of this inspiring project.

Join us in shaping the future of marine conservation. Together, let's show the world the power of youth voices.

FIND OUT MORE!

Marine Life 2030-affiliated project Somos Oceanos is leading an effort to engage youth world-wide in a dialogue about marine conservation. The Letters to the Sea initiative is setting out to collect 1,000,000 letters for an art exhibition at the 2025 UN Ocean Conference in Nice, France. To learn more, and to participate, please visit the Marine Life 2030 website here and/or the Letters to the Sea website here.

Marine Life 2030 at the 2024 Ocean Best Practices Workshop

Marine Life 2030 led two sessions at the Ocean Best Practices Workshop, held virtually from October 14-18, 2024, on Advancing Biology and Ecosystem Ocean Observations and Forecasting. The recordings are available here (Session1) and here (Session 2).

Additional details on the Workshop, including recordings of the other sessions, can be found on the Ocean Best Practices website here.

Video Clips

The Marine Life 2030-affiliated project Coastal Environmental Baseline Program has released a series of videos, now available on YouTube: National, Personal Side, Quebec, and New Brunswick.

News and Announcements

The Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) and the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to coordinate on a new project called FathomNet, whose goal is to use artificial intelligence (AI) to better understand ocean biodiversity. **Learn more here.**

The Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) is seeking a co-chair for the GOOS Expert Panel on Biology and Ecosystems. Applications are due no later than November 29, 2024. **Learn more here.**

The BioEcoOcean Project: Co-Creating Transformative Pathways to Biological and Ecosystem Ocean Observations (funded by Horizon Europe) is co-creating a Blueprint for Integrated Ocean Science with a focus on biology and ecosystems in the ocean. The vision for the Blueprint is to create a question-based support tool to enable and encourage collaboration to increase our understanding of the ocean and especially its marine life. You can contribute to the process through a survey, which is **available here.**

The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development published a report synthesizing the work done to date in support of marine biodiversity and in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, through the Decade. It was developed to help inform discussions during the 16th Conference of Parties (COP16) on the Convention on Biological Diversity. **Learn more here.**

The Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON of GEO BON) provides leadership and support to Marine Life 2030 in partnership with the Ocean Knowledge Action Network (OKAN), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR), and its Ocean Decade affiliated projects.

Welcome to the following recently-affiliated projects:

Hybrid Governance to Protect and Manage High Seas
Project Lead: Université de Bretagne Occidentale / Institut Universitaire Européen de la Mer / UMR 6308 AMURE

Ocean Decade Expeditions
Project Lead: SOI Foundation, Canada

New Copernicus Capability for Ocean Food Networks
Project Lead: Mercator Ocean International (MOi), France

The Grass Underwater Project
Project Lead: Sustainable Ocean Alliance, Tanzania

Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard
Project Lead: Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping (IWG-OCM), United States

Picture Perfect: Rapid Classification of Plankton
Project Lead: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa

Kelp Forest Challenge
Project Lead: Kelp Forest Alliance, Australia

Developing a Conservation Plan for Maui's Corals
Project Lead: University of California-Santa Cruz

Biodiversity in Northern European Seagrass Meadows - Drivers, Responses, and Resilience (NORSE)
Project Lead: Norway

Please visit the Marine Life 2030 website to see all affiliated projects.