

CANADIAN OCEAN LITERACY TIMELINE

Ocean literacy has been shaped by geography and culture for thousands of years in what is now called Canada, beginning with the origin stories of Indigenous Peoples and relationships to place. Canada's engagement, commitments, and leadership related to global ocean sustainability have been shaped by landmark institutions, pivotal co-management agreements, foundational research and reports, as well as national and international targets and pledges.

The timeline illustrated here, although far from complete, helps to situate ocean literacy in Canada with a specific focus on the last three decades; it helps to showcase Canada's evolving leadership role and to highlight the rapidly growing international momentum and relevance of ocean literacy (abbreviated to OL in timeline).

*ALL FEATURED EVENTS AND INSTITUTIONS ARE HYPERLINKED

SEVERAL INSTITUTIONS WERE NOTED BY COLC'S STUDY PARTICIPANTS AS "EARLY TRAILBLAZERS" OF OCEAN (SCIENCE) LITERACY WORK, INCLUDING, FOR EXAMPLE:

Vancouver Aquarium (1956); Fisheries and Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland (1964); Huntsman Marine Laboratory (1969); Western Canadian Universities Marine Sciences Society (1970); Bamfield Marine Science Centre (1972); International Ocean Institute - Canada (1972); and International Centre for Ocean Development (1985).

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

1ST WORLD OCEANS DAY, JUNE 8 1992

OCEAN LITERACY: THE ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES OF OCEAN SCIENCES IS PUBLISHED IN THE U.S. 2005

CANADA SIGNS THE GALWAY STATEMENT ON ATLANTIC OCEAN COOPERATION; ATLANTIC OCEAN RESEARCH ALLIANCE OL WORKING GROUP IS LAUNCHED 2013

LAUNCH OF THE MULTI-YEAR, MULTI-COUNTRY SEACHANGE PROJECT IN THE EUROPEAN UNION 2015

1ST UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE (NEW YORK) COMMITMENT TO OL IN SDG #14: LIFE BELOW WATER

OCEAN LITERACY FOR ALL: A TOOLKIT IS PUBLISHED BY IOC-UNESCO

LAUNCH OF THE ALL-ATLANTIC OCEAN RESEARCH COMMUNITY

CANADA ADOPTS THE COMMONWEALTH BLUE CHARTER

CANADA CO-HOSTS THE SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY CONFERENCE

1ST VIRTUAL OL SUMMIT

LAUNCH OF THE EU4OCEAN COALITION

OL BECOMES ONE OF THE 7 SOCIETAL OUTCOMES FOR THE UN OCEAN DECADE

CANADA JOINS THE GLOBAL OCEAN ALLIANCE, ADVOCATING FOR PROTECTION OF 30% OF THE GLOBAL OCEAN BY 2030

LAUNCH OF THE UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL EVENTS

1993 QATUWAS: RESURGENCE OF THE TRIBAL CANOE JOURNEYS ON THE PACIFIC COAST

THE GWAII HAANAS AGREEMENT, A GROUND-BREAKING COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN, IS SIGNED BY THE HAIDA NATION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

1ST EVENT OF THE GREAT CANADIAN SHORELINE CLEANUP

1996 CANADA'S OCEANS ACT IS PUBLISHED

2002 CANADA'S OCEANS STRATEGY IS PUBLISHED

2005 CANADA'S OCEANS ACTION PLAN IS LAUNCHED

2010 CANADA COMMITS TO MEETING THE AICHI TARGETS, INCLUDING 10% MARINE AND COASTAL AREA CONSERVATION

2014 THE CANADIAN NETWORK FOR OCEAN EDUCATION (CaNOE) IS ESTABLISHED

2016 CANADA'S OCEANS PROTECTION PLAN IS LAUNCHED
THE OCEANS RESEARCH IN CANADA ALLIANCE (ORCA) IS LAUNCHED

2017

2018

CANADA'S CONSERVATION VISION AND INDIGENOUS CIRCLE OF EXPERTS REPORTS ARE PUBLISHED

COLC OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES DURING THE G7 MINISTERIAL MEETINGS IN HALIFAX, N.S.

2019

CREATION OF TALLURUTIUP IMANGA, INUIT-CROWN CO-MANAGED MARINE PROTECTED AREA, ACHIEVING 10% AICHI CONSERVATION TARGET

2020

CANADA HOSTS THE UN OCEAN DECADE NORTH ATLANTIC WORKSHOP IN HALIFAX, N.S.

COLC PUBLISHES THE UNDERSTANDING OCEAN LITERACY IN CANADA RESEARCH REPORTS

CANADA COMMITS TO BUILDING A BLUE ECONOMY STRATEGY

2021

LAUNCH OF THE CANADIAN OCEAN LITERACY STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN