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130+ Organizations
1 Goal

Your National Forum for Everything Ocean Science!



Oceans Research in Canada Alliance

Keeping a finger on the ocean's pulse
ORCA
Oceans Research in Canada Alliance
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Advancing the Coordination of Canadian Ocean S&T



- 1 Align Efforts, Plans and Funding Around Shared Priorities
- 2 Advance the Sharing of Infrastructure
- 3 Science in Support of Public Policy, Regulation and Decision-making
- 4 Encourage Innovation and the Commercialization of Knowledge and Technology
- 5 Work Towards a Cohesive Voice for the Ocean Science Community in International Fora
- 6 Communicating Ocean Science and Technology



Building ORCA

ORCA was established in 2016 to address the challenges facing Canadian ocean S&T: namely the **vision gap**, the **coordination gap** and the **information gap**. ORCA began with a 2017 Workshop to determine what kind of organization ORCA should be.

Key players in Canada's ocean research community came together, from government, academia, NGO's, Indigenous organizations and industry. They developed a draft vision and the **foundational principles** of ORCA, and articulated the preferred future for ocean science in Canada.



The Challenge

The 2017 Workshop also developed 6 key themes or "Challenge Areas" to frame ORCA's discussions and activities. These are cross-cutting and cover some of the key areas that were identified for us to address as a community, in order to advance ocean S&T in Canada. Some initial information gathering and organizational activities were also recommended to get the Alliance up and running.



Who We Are How We Connect

ORCA is an inclusive alliance of all those who work in ocean S&T in Canada: from ecologists, to fisheries managers, to knowledge holders, to oceanographers, to tech designers, and beyond!

The **Community of Practice** includes all of the above and is our national forum for discussions on ocean S&T. ORCA connects us all, and enables us to better identify partnership opportunities, align our efforts, share our knowledge, and work together.

The **Council** is the leadership body for ORCA, facilitating collaboration, promoting coordination and encouraging engagement.

The **Secretariat** supports the community in their collaborative efforts.

Our hub is the **ORCA Community Platform**, an online tool that facilitates coordination and collaboration.

A Culture of Collaboration

In April, the community assembled for ORCA 2018 - which was the first large scale meeting of ORCA. The meeting's theme was **Creating a Culture of Successful Collaboration**: Societal challenges surrounding global oceans are increasingly complex and require enhanced collaboration at the local, regional, national and international levels and across disciplines and sectors. The ocean S&T needed to respond to these challenges must be multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral.

The meeting included community building sessions and also included targeted discussions on how we can advance ocean S&T to meet our preferred futures, under each challenge area. The ORCA 2018 report summarizes all of the community-recommended initiatives and outlines the paths forward for our collective work on oceans.

Get Involved!

ORCA now has a community driven work plan, and cross-cutting, multi-disciplinary work is already beginning on many of the recommended **initiatives**. Leaders from within the community have stepped forward, and building on discussions from ORCA 2018, are making a difference right now! From the National Infrastructure Working Group's efforts on coordinating vessels, to the Canadian Ocean Literacy Coalition's national strategy, there are so many initiatives to choose from and so many ways for you to get on board and become a leader!

Become a Member!

Contact the ORCA Secretariat ORCA.AROC@dfompo.gc.ca to become a member. Membership is free and grants you access to the ORCA Community platform, including its contact lists, calendar of events, news updates and communications.

