

Landscape Scan of Indigenous and Community-led Oceans Conservation Opportunities

**Report Prepared for the Oceans Collaborative of
Environment Funders Canada**

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We live, work, meet, and travel on the traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples who have cared for this land, now called Canada, since time immemorial. From coast to coast to coast, these lands are either subject to Indigenous self-government under modern treaty, unceded, and un-surrendered territories, or traditional territories from which First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples have been displaced.

The authors of this report reside on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, and Métis Peoples. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land. The Dish with One Spoon Covenant is a peace agreement made between Indigenous Nations prior to Europeans' arrival. It characterizes our collective responsibility to each other and Mother Earth – land, waters, and air - we should take only what we need, leave enough for others, and keep the dish clean.

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Introduction

Community-based, ground-up initiatives are increasingly recognized as critical for the success of conservation projects (e.g., species at risk protection, securement of key habitats) that also meet the economic, social, and cultural needs of people. Yet in coastal and marine contexts, local stewardship – which includes actions to sustainably manage, restore, and conserve species, habitats, and ecosystems – has been shown to be lacking sufficient recognition and support¹. This includes lack of monetary support for Indigenous Peoples and Local Community (IPLC) led conservation initiatives – such as tribal parks, Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs), Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs), and Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs) – as well as programs and practices (e.g., Coastal Guardians, traditional knowledge) that enable more equitable marine conservation. At the same time, conservation organizations in North America have been shown to be lacking in gender, racial, and class diversity, both in terms of their staff and board compositions and the types of initiatives that are undertaken².

Environment Funders Canada (EFC) and the Oceans Collaborative (OC), as national philanthropic catalysts, are positioned as valuable supporters for generating positive outcomes for marine ecosystems and coastal communities. The OC manages the Oceans Fund, a pooled grantmaking fund that strategically invests to catalyse conservation projects. The OC applies a broad definition of ocean conservation that extends beyond 'direct' conservation work to include initiatives that support the social, cultural, political, legal, and financial conditions for effective ocean conservation and stewardship.

To this end, the OC commissioned this landscape scan to help build their network of potential grantees and partners, with particular emphasis on small, dynamic, community-based and equity-serving civil society organizations³, and to identify specific opportunities to consider for investment. By extending the OC's network of known Indigenous and equity-seeking⁴ organizations and entities, and associated stewardship initiatives and programs, the OC took steps to open new possibilities for

¹ Bennett et al. 2022, <https://www.nature.com/articles/s44183-022-00002-6>

² Taylor 2014,

https://diversegreen.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/FullReport_Green2.0_FINAL.pdf

³ Organizations is used very broadly in this report as an umbrella term that includes First Nations, non-profit organizations, network coordinators, and other entities that were considered as potential grantees.

⁴ Equity-seeking was broadly defined for this project as representing vulnerable and historically marginalized communities including Black and racialized people, gender-diverse people, seniors, youth, those with experiences of living with poverty, and differently abled bodies.

marine and coastal conservation across Canada. Important points of emphasis for this landscape scan were to identify potential grantees along all three of Canada's coasts and to apply an equity lens in all aspects of the project.

This report is organized with two main sections. After a brief description of the methods used for the landscape scan, the first main section provides insights into the contexts and needs of small, coastal conservation organizations in Canada. This section includes insights about challenges faced by these organizations, as well as insights about the unique contexts for each of Canada's three coastlines. The second major section begins by introducing a typology of organizations. This typology was developed for this landscape scan as a way to help analyse and distinguish broad types and needs of organizations. This section also describes the list of aligned organizations that were identified through the landscape scan. The list itself and profiles of the potential grantees are attached as separate appendices.

Approach and Methods

The landscape scan began with a network mapping exercise activity that included the consultants and representatives from the OC. This exercise resulted in a list of more than 115 names of individuals and organizations who were considered as potential contacts for further information. Following this network mapping exercise, the consultants developed an interview guide and then began to reach out to contacts.

Two types of interviews were pursued. 'Scoping' interviews were held with individuals who were knowledgeable about community-based coastal conservation but were not directly involved with such organizations or projects. A total of 169 individuals were contacted via email, resulting in 28 scoping interviews. An additional five people communicated only via email. Interviews were conducted via Zoom where possible and were conversational in format, meaning that the interview questions were used as a guide rather than script to follow. All of these interviews and communications were extremely valuable for identifying further people and organizations to contact (i.e., snowball sampling), as well as for understanding the landscape of coastal conservation in Canada. As specific conservation organizations were identified, the consulting team reached out to individuals to request 'exploratory' interviews. These interviews were more detailed and were intended to learn about the goals and orientation of organizations, as well as projects and initiatives that might be of interest for the OC. A total of 33 exploratory interviews (mostly via Zoom) and form the basis of the list of potential grantees described later in this report.

The Marine Conservation Landscape

Grant-making can be most effective through a strong understanding of the needs and challenges faced by Indigenous-led and equity-serving organizations that are advancing marine conservation in Canada. This section first provides general insights that will be of interest for the OC and its work to support and engage potential grantees. Next, a descriptive overview of each of Canada's three coasts helps to provide an understanding of unique regional contexts.

Insights on Needs and Ways to Build Support

Interviews revealed a number of trends and insights that were valuable for understanding the needs of Indigenous and equity-seeking organizations and entities. The insights presented here are broadly applicable across Canada.

Core Operations and Capital Assets

Funds for core operations are always a challenge. Specific organizational needs vary, but some of the common needs include human resources (staff pay), administration of grants, travel costs and office space. Many organizations spoke of 'squeezing' staffing and administration out of program and project budgets, and how this practice jeopardizes long-term stability of organizations and increases staff turnover. Lack of core funding increases organizational insecurity and is also a barrier to creating long-term relationships with potential partners and funders. Similarly it is difficult to secure funding for capital assets and their associated ongoing costs such as research equipment and vessels which require insurance, fuel, and ongoing maintenance. The need for external funding also leads organizations to prioritize the goals and objectives of the funders over the goals of communities and organizations. Organizations that administer larger, often multi-million-dollar projects supported by federal government agencies also report that the slowness of the bureaucracy associated with getting funding approved makes it difficult to plan, especially with costs increasing by the time projects are implemented.

Building Relationships

The list of potential grantees that is presented later in this report is only a starting point. The OC will be most effective when more interpersonal, trust-based relationships are formed with potential grantees. Interviewees offered many perspectives on how to build relationships with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, with a key message being that there is no singular, 'right' way to build relationships. However, some of the common messages included: (1) start by going through official

channels and protocols (e.g., write a letter to leaders that explains who the funders are, what the funders are trying to achieve, and asking for direction about who to communicate with); (2) ask about Indigenous priorities and goals for marine conservation; (3) ask what work is already ongoing and whether funding would be most effective to supporting existing projects or helping to start-up new projects; and (4) consider people's time and energy and be clear about prospects for grants. A variety of resources for learning about respectful and appropriate protocols are available online, such as the [Beyond Conservation Toolkit for Respectful Collaboration with Indigenous Peoples](#).

Willing Network Builders

Over time, the list of potential grantees included in this landscape scan will become out of date. As this happens, the OC will need to identify additional and emerging organizations in need of funding. The vast majority of interviewees for this landscape scan were willing to recommend additional people to talk with and share contact information. There were also some notable organizations and networks who the OC may consider reaching out to in again in the future to help identify potential grantees:

- Nature Canada manages a [Nature Network](#) list that includes more than 1,200 organizations (e.g., land trusts, birding groups) of varying organizational sizes and budgets.
- The [Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association](#) is the umbrella organization that includes six coastal biosphere reserves (out of 19). As part of their mandate, the biosphere reserves all have relationships with local organizations and work towards Indigenous reconciliation.
- The [Aboriginal Aquatic Resource And Oceans Management \(AAROM\)](#) program is funded by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and includes a network of First Nations across Canada. AAROM members have core staff funds but each Nation needs to look for other funding to do other fisheries conservation or restoration work (especially when First Nation priorities do not align with current DFO funding).
- [Students on Ice](#) is positioned as a facilitator and platform relationship building. Through their ship-based activities, they are often highly aware of local communities and organizations that are in need of support. SOI can also support members of the OC to join expeditions and help connect OC members with other leaders and organizations.
- The [Indigenous Guardians Network](#) has been recognized as a global leader for Indigenous-led conservation. Building relationships with individual First Nations members of the network can help connect the OC to local, place-based needs.

- As an advocacy organization that represents First Nations across Canada, the [Assembly of First Nations](#) has a strong network. AFN can be a powerful connector through their networks.
- The [Canadian Ocean Literacy Coalition \(COLC\)](#) has a good understanding of organizations operating in the oceans conservation space in Canada. Similar to other organizations on this list, the COLC are interested and willing to make connections and help build relationships.

Decolonizing Philanthropy

Members of the OC are already actively working towards decolonizing philanthropy and need to continue to do so. There is a counterpoint to operating through existing networks: this process can continue to exacerbate the differences between well-funded and underfunded organizations. Relatively unknown and underfunded organizations are often not well known among the larger, established networks. The organizations also often do not know about or apply through known channels for funding (either because they aren't aware about them or don't have staff capacity). Beyond the identification of potential grantees in an equitable way, decolonizing philanthropy can include making the grant-making process more straight-forward and accessible (e.g., not requiring qualified donee status). Additionally, funders should treat the funding process as a collaborative opportunity to build relationships and increase the internal capacity of organizations. Interviewees emphasized that truly enabling Indigenous-led conservation requires funders to not ask for things in return for grants (non-extractive) and enabling Indigenous autonomy in decision-making. Trust towards funders can also be improved through transparency and clarity about when and how funding might flow.

Funding Priorities

The OC may consider becoming more specific about the types of projects and activities that may receive grants through the Oceans Fund. In light of the points above about decolonizing philanthropy, the emphasis here is that there is a difference between offering thematic direction but not being prescriptive. For instance, if funding cycles are instituted, one funding cycle may focus on fisheries restoration, while another funding cycle may focus on oceans education programming. As many organizations have multiple lines of work and projects, interviewees were curious to learn more details about types of conservation work that may be funded by the OC. Interviewees also suggested that philanthropic funding could be used strategically to help organizations leverage funds to secure government grants that require matching funds. Likewise even small amounts of philanthropic funding extended over several years would provide organizations with

longer term security and the ability to leverage staff time and funds to secure other sources of funding.

Perspectives on Canada's Three Coastlines

While there are some similarities for grantees across Canada, it is also helpful to understand the historical, political, and economic differences faced along all three of Canada coastlines. For Indigenous peoples in particular, the legal and lived contexts are quite different on the Pacific, Atlantic, and Arctic coasts.

Pacific

There is broad perception that the Pacific coast currently receives the most philanthropic attention among Canada's three coastlines. While there is likely at least some truth to this perception, this landscape scan did not perform this type of analysis. It is notable, however, that interviewees made observations that First Nations on the west coast have organized themselves in ways that are conducive to garnering philanthropic support. For example, Coastal First Nations - an alliance of First Nations along British Columbia's north and central coast (including Haida Gwaii) - is working with many partners to establish First Nations-led conservation and employment.

There is a lot of frustration with DFO on the Pacific coast (this was expressed on the Atlantic coast as well, but was most prominent among Pacific coast interviewees). As such, many organizations actively seek to identify potential partners and funders to work with so that they do not have to rely on DFO. A lot of attention in the near future will be going towards rebuilding First Nations fisheries, including First Nations-led monitoring programs. Funding could potentially be used for staffing, technologies, and addressing specific stock-related questions. Although government funding will support parts of these efforts, First Nations have noted that public funding often comes with many controls and limitations (related to federal procurement rules).

First Nations alliances are an important aspect of ocean conservation in the Pacific. Philanthropic relationships can operate through alliances or through individual First Nations. At times, it may be valuable to work with individual First Nations on projects, while at other times it may be effective to partner with allied groups of First Nations. Either way, it is important to retain an appreciation that fisheries and resource departments often face capacity constraints in terms of staff who can dedicate their time to building relationships with outside organizations.

Atlantic

Conversations around marine conservation on the Atlantic coast are often focused on fisheries and fishing rights. For both Indigenous and non-Indigenous rural communities, fishing is a way of life and a central part of identities, cultures, and economies that are perceived as threatened. Interviewees discussed how community and Indigenous priorities for fisheries and conservation are difficult to move forward due to the large influence of DFO and oil and gas interests.

The Supreme Court of Canada's *Marshall* decision (1999) has impacted many treaty First Nations in this region⁵. The *Marshall* decision "affirmed First Nations' treaty right to fish, hunt, and gather in pursuit of a moderate livelihood". A second part of the decision added a caveat that those treaty rights "could only be limited for conservation reasons or other compelling and substantial public objectives". Interviewees for this landscape scan described how the *Marshall* decision has been both a benefit and limitation on First Nations' fishing activities. Importantly for the OC and philanthropy more broadly, there is a need to appreciate this legal framework for Indigenous fisheries in Atlantic Canada that is different compared to the Pacific and Arctic regions.

The relatively smaller presence of philanthropy and lower levels of charitable giving on the east coast means that some organizations and First Nations at times have had difficulties finding matching funding for government sponsored projects. In some provinces (notably New Brunswick), interviewees indicated that the political atmosphere has meant that provincial funding for conservation efforts has been extremely limited.

Building relationships with First Nations on the Atlantic coast can begin with well-established entities representing Mi'kmaq communities provincially (e.g., Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, Nova Scotia; Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI). It also helps to understand that there is a distinction between Mi'kmaq communities in Quebec and the Atlantic provinces, which historically are considered one group but due to provincial boundaries are impacted differently by historical treaties. Finally there is very little overlap between the Francophone and Anglophone communities in Atlantic Canada. Efforts are needed to connect with Francophone organizations to reach this particular population.

⁵ 35 First Nations have been identified as directly impacted by the *Marshall* decision <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/aboriginal-autochtones/moderate-livelihood-subsistance-convenable/marshall-overview-apercu-eng.html>

Arctic

There are several factors that make investment in the Canadian Arctic unique from the other coasts. First, conservation is generally seen as embedded within institutions that were established under Inuit comprehensive land claims agreements (e.g., hunter and trappers committees (HTCs) and various fish and wildlife co-management bodies). For this reason, there are not many civic conservation organizations (non-profits, charities, etc.) that are community-based in the Arctic. Second, the fish and wildlife bodies tend to be funded through agreements with federal, territorial, and provincial governments. This is not to conclude that these organizations do not have funding needs, but there is not a history of philanthropic support for these types of organizations in Inuit Nunangat. At the community level, it is likely that many HTCs could use more funding for specific initiatives and projects, but these organizations tend to have very limited staffing resources (e.g., one person who is paid part or full time). With these limited resources, the HTCs don't put effort towards scoping out potential projects or seeking external funding. Hamlet governments tend to have more staffing resources but as their mandates don't tend to be oriented towards conservation, they are not as likely to be operating the kinds of programs that the OC is looking to fund. Third, a lot of philanthropy tends to be facilitated by larger, well-connected organizations. Namely, these organizations include Oceans North, WWF Canada, and MakeWay. Sometimes philanthropic dollars flow through these organizations and sometimes these organizations can help to identify specific areas of need (e.g., they are aware of an HTC who needs targeted funding).

In spite of these differences in the Arctic, it is imperative to emphasize the importance of relationships and trust. Similar to the other coasts, when the OC would like to operate in the Arctic, a starting point should be to communicate directly with the communities or organizations of interest. There can be formal channels to go through and it is advisable to work with well established organizations in order to learn about who and how to communicate within a particular area of the Arctic.

Documentation of Conservation Organizations

A central motivation for this landscape scan was to identify organizations and investment opportunities for the OC. As the OC seeks to provide catalytic funding to Indigenous and other equity-seeking organizations, this section of the report delves into specific organizations who are either currently or will soon be seeking funding for their conservation and equity-engagement work (referred to here as potential grantees). The first part of this section introduces a typology that helps to categorize potential grantees according to their leadership structure, geographic scope, and level of current resources. The latter part of this section introduces the full list of potential grantees that were identified as part of this project.

Typology of Organizations

At the outset of this project, the OC sought the identification of potential grantees who are currently 'ready' for funding and those who may be seeking funding in the near future. During interviews, however, it became apparent that all potential grantees who we were able to contact have immediate funding needs. To help the OC interpret and assess the landscape of granting options, a typology of organizations was developed for this project. The full typology is presented in Figure 1 and a brief description of each 'type' is provided below.

A subset of the potential grantees that are included in the list in the following section have been organized into these different types. While the typology helps to understand the governance and scale of potential grantees, the categorization should not be considered as rigid. It is notable that designation of potential grantees into the types was a qualitative process and the potential grantees are most likely to fall along a gradient rather than in singular boxes. When reviewing the designations below, it is important to keep in mind that these categories are meant to help interpret potential granting opportunities, not as official designations.



Figure 1: Typology of potential grantees.

Type 1 - Community-based Organizations with Inconsistent Conservation Funding

Type 1 refers to conservation initiatives that are typically community-based and local in scale. They typically have a conservation focus and have one or more projects or programs that are geared towards equity-seeking groups. Some organizations within this category are also led by members of equity-seeking groups. Type 1 organizations may be relatively new (i.e. 2-5 years since founding) or may be long-standing. From a financial perspective, the distinguishing characteristic is that these organizations tend to be subject to inconsistent funding cycles. Hence, any grants to the organizations can help to strengthen institutions and capacity for conservation in the communities that they serve. Grants to type 1 organizations can have large impacts relative to the size of organizations.

Type 2 - Indigenous with Inconsistent Conservation Funding

Type 2 includes individual local initiatives that are Indigenous-led (including Inuit-led organizations, Métis-led organizations, or First Nations). These Nations and organizations often face challenges finding matching funding or have not had success securing consistent funding through their known funding channels (e.g., grant proposals to governments or foundations). Conservation projects are often underfunded and unable to get started. Providing grants for type 2 First Nations,

Métis and Inuit organizations can help to strengthen institutions and catalyse local projects that are prioritised by Indigenous Nations/organizations.

Type 3 - Well Resourced Community-based Organizations

Type 3 organizations are typically community-based and local in scale, although some operate at a regional level. They typically have a conservation focus and have one or more projects or programs that are geared towards equity-seeking groups, with some organizations within this category being led by members of equity-seeking groups. These organizations have a solid foundation in terms of funding and capacity (e.g., full time executive director and/or person responsible for conservation projects), but do not always have funding for conservation projects that would like to initiate or grow. Support for type 3 organizations can help provide immediate impacts via organizations that are experienced and well organized.

Type 4 - Well Resourced Indigenous

Type 4 includes local or regional initiatives that are Indigenous-led (including Inuit-led organizations, Métis-led organizations, or First Nations). These Nations and organizations have a solid foundation in terms of funding and capacity (e.g., full time executive director and/or person responsible for conservation projects), but do not always have funding for conservation projects that would like to initiate or grow. Providing grants for type 4 First Nations, Métis and Inuit led organizations can help to strengthen institutions and catalyse projects that are prioritised by Indigenous Nations/organizations.

Type 5 - National-level Organizations

Type 5 refers to highly organized and nationally visible organizations. The organizations included within this landscape scan all have a focus on oceans conservation, as well as one or more projects or programs that are geared towards equity-seeking groups. These organizations have relatively large operating budgets, yet can still benefit from targeted funding to initiate or grow specific projects/programs. Grants can contribute to ongoing initiatives and/or help to affect large-scale change.

Type 6 - National-level Indigenous Networks

Type 6 refers to Indigenous led or owned conservation initiatives that are national in scale. These organizations and networks are highly organized and nationally visible. These organizations and networks have relatively large operating budgets, yet can still benefit from targeted funding to initiate or grow specific projects/programs. Grants for type 6 organizations and networks can help to prioritize Indigenous-led conservation and to support initiatives that may not receive public funds.

Lists of Potential Grantees

An important contribution of this landscape scan was the development of a list of aligned organizations. The full list of organizations is presented in Appendix A (a separate .xls file has also been submitted to the OC). It is notable that not all organizations included in the list were interviewed directly by the report authors. A number of organizations were identified through the landscape scan but did not respond to communications. Reasons for not responding may be related to capacity and time constraints within those organizations.

In order to support the OC's interest in building relationships with aligned organizations and individuals, the organizations who were interviewed as part of this project have been further profiled. These profiles are available as a combination of a spreadsheet (sent separately to the OC) and written descriptions (available in Appendix B and sent as a .pdf document to the OC). The columns of the spreadsheet (Table 1) were designed to facilitate re-sorting of the potential grantees according to different interests. For instance, if the OC would like to assess needs in a particular region, the spreadsheet can be re-sorted according to ocean or province/territory. Alternatively, the spreadsheet can be re-sorted according to the various organizational types presented above. The written profiles (Appendix B) are more descriptive than the spreadsheet and include examples of specific projects or needs that could be supported with grants. These profiles are presented in alphabetical order. The distribution of organizations according to types and geographic coverage are also overviewed in Figure 2.

Table 1: Description of column categories for list of profiled organizations (spreadsheet available as .xls file).

| Column | Explanation |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Organization | Name of organization, First Nation, network, business, or other entity |
| Organizational Status | Organizational status with respect to ability to hold funds (e.g. charity, not-for-profit, qualified donee, etc.) |
| Organization Type | Categorization according to typology (Figure 1) |
| Location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Region/Ocean - Province/Territory | Indication of location where organization is based and/or operates |
| Alignment with Oceans Collaborative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indigenous-led or Equity-seeking | Qualitative indication of the level of alignment with Oceans Collaborative priority areas <u>High</u> = leadership and/or direct primary accountability to Indigenous or equity-seeking community <u>Medium</u> = part of core organizational goals/mandate <u>Low</u> = element of key programs/projects |
| Alignment with Oceans Collaborative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oceans Conservation | Qualitative indication of the level of alignment with Oceans Collaborative priority areas <u>High</u> = part of core goals/mandate <u>Medium</u> = part of key programs/projects <u>Low</u> = element of programs/projects |
| Conservation Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Direct, Indirect, or Both | Indication of whether an organization predominantly engages in work that is direct oceans conservation/stewardship (e.g., restoration, engagement), versus indirect ocean conservation/stewardship (e.g., education, research) |
| Funding Needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Core Staffing - Project Staffing - Project Costs - Capital Assets - Relationship Building - Training - Research - Communications | Columns in this category are given a '1' to indicate for each type of funding that may be useful for the organization |
| Existing Funding Sources | Indication of current or recent major funding sources (e.g., government, private, fundraising, revenue generation) |
| Supporting Documents | A separate folder of documents has been submitted to the Oceans Collaborative; 'yes' or 'no' indicates whether organizations provided additional materials in a sub-folder |

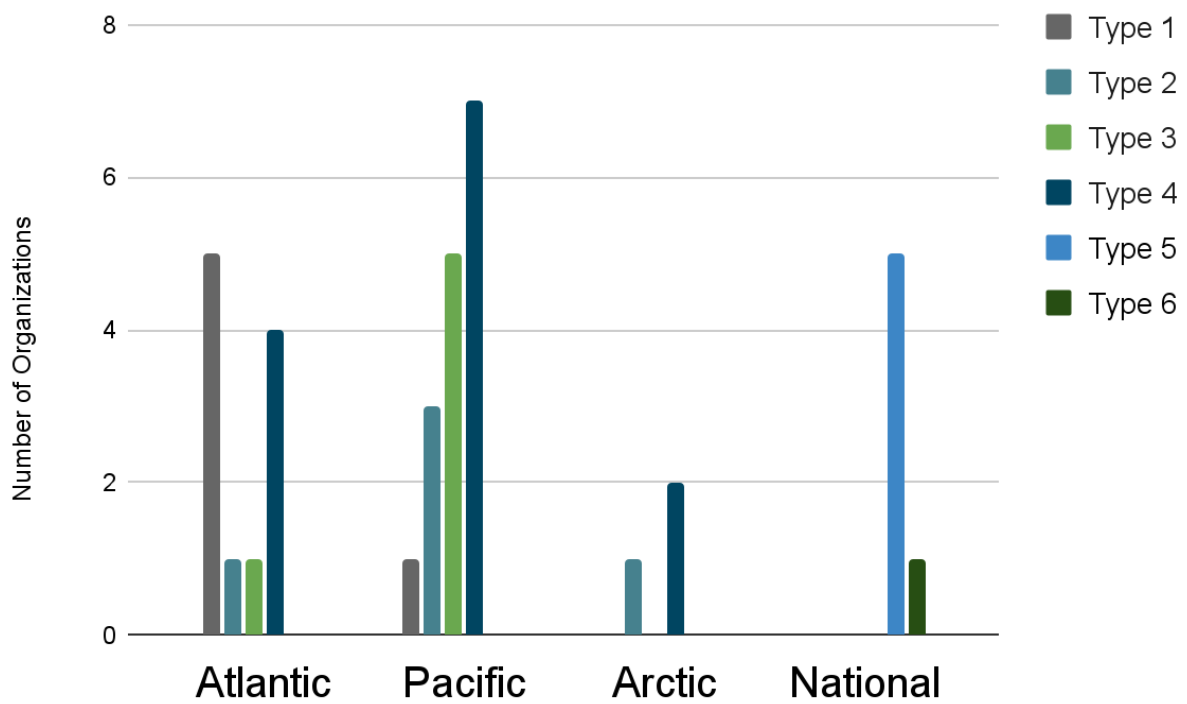


Figure 2: Number of each type of organization within each region (total number of organizations is 36).

Conclusion

Through the Oceans Fund, the OC is in position to advance place-based oceans conservation and support a wide variety of organizations across Canada. The list of potential grantees included with this landscape scan is full of outstanding organizations that are working hard to advance oceans conservation, Indigenous priorities, and equity. As the Oceans Fund is limited in scope, however, the OC will have to be strategic in how potential grantees are selected. The section within this report on The Marine Conservation Landscape provides a starting point for better understanding challenges faced by potential grantees.

This landscape scan would not have been possible without enthusiastic engagement from interviewees and other contacts. Through this project, the consultants were in contact with more than 75 individuals who were willing and helpful to offer insights and stories. It is those individuals who made this report possible and who are driving oceans conservation to a brighter future.

Appendix A: List of Aligned Organizations

A separate .xls version of this spreadsheet has also been sent to the OC.

| Organization | Organizational Status | Region/ Ocean | Province/ Territory | Contact Person | Email | Website |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACAP Humber Arm | NFP | Atlantic | Newfoundland and Labrador | Sheldon Peddle | speddle@acaphumberarm.com | https://oceansadvance.net/member/acap-humber-arm/ |
| Arctic Connection (in Quebec City) | NFP | Arctic | Nunavut | Vincent L'Herault | info@arcticconnexion.ca | https://arcticconnexion.ca/ |
| Arctic Corridors Research, University of Ottawa | University-based research centre | Arctic | Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Quebec | Natalie Carter | ncarte3@uottawa.ca | https://www.arcticcorridors.ca/ |
| Arqvilliit project (northern Quebec) | | Arctic | Quebec | Johnny Kasudlak | arqvilliit@inukjuak.ca | www.Arqvilliit.ca |
| Arviat Wellness Society | NFP | Arctic | Nunavut | Kukik Baker | arviatwellness@gmail.com | https://www.aqqiumavvik.com/ |
| Attention Fragiles, Îles-de-la-Madeleine | NFP | Atlantic | Quebec | Marie-Eve Giroux | megiroux@attentionfragiles.org | https://www.attentionfragiles.org/ |
| BC Métis Federation | NFP | Pacific | British Columbia | Angel Fisher | A.Fisher@bcmetis.com | https://bcmetis.com/ |
| BC Whales | NFP | Pacific | British Columbia | Janie Wray | janie@bcwhales.org | https://www.bcwhales.org/ |
| Canadian Oceans Literacy Coalition | Academic Network | National | National | Diz Glithero | diz@colcoalition.ca | http://colcoalition.ca/ |

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|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CanNor | Government | Arctic | Nunavut | Rob Aube | | https://www.cannor.gc.ca/ |
| Centre for Indigenous Fisheries | University-based research centre | Pacific | British Columbia | Andrea Reid | a.reid@oceans.ubc.ca | https://www.cif.fish/home |
| Coastal Action | Charitable NFP | Atlantic | Nova Scotia | Brooke Nodding | brooke@coastalaction.org | http://www.coastalaction.org/ |
| Coastal First Nation - Great Bear Initiative | NFP | Pacific | British Columbia | Steve Diggon | sdiggon@coastalfirstnations.ca | https://coastalfirstnations.ca/ |
| Community Conservation Research Network (CCRN) | University-based research centre | National | Nova Scotia | Tony Charles | Tony.Charles@smu.ca | www.CommunityConservation.net |
| Conservancy Hornby Island | NFP | Pacific | British Columbia | Mykl Clovis Fuller | chihornby@gmail.com | https://www.conservancyhornbyisland.org/ |
| Conservation Corps NL | NFP | Atlantic | Newfoundland and Labrador | Darren Feltham | dfeltham@ccnl.ca | https://www.ccnl.ca/ |
| Ecology Action Centre | Charitable NFP | Atlantic | Nova Scotia | Shannon Arnold | sarnold@ecologyaction.ca | https://ecologyaction.ca/ |
| Ecotrust Canada | Charity | National | National | Chuck Rumsey | chuck@ecotrust.ca | https://ecotrust.ca/ |
| False Creek Friends | NFP | Pacific | British Columbia | Kira Leeb, Zaida Schneider | kira@falsecreekfriends.org , zaida@falsecreekfriends.org | https://www.falsecreekfriends.org/ |
| First Nations Fisheries Council (FNFC) | NFP | Pacific | British Columbia | Brooklyn Carey | brooklyn@fnfisheriescouncil.ca | https://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca/ |
| First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance | Indigenous-led conservation initiative | Pacific | British Columbia | Bob Chamberlin | RChamberlin@shaw.ca | |
| Fisheries for Communities | Network | Pacific | British Columbia | | info@fisheriesforcommunities.org | https://www.fisheriesforcommunities.org/ |

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|------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fishing for Success (F4S) | NFP | Atlantic | Newfoundland and Labrador | Kimberly Orren | kimberly.orrren@islandrooms.org | https://fishingforsuccess.org/ |
| Georgia Strait Alliance (GSA) | Charitable NFP | Pacific | British Columbia | Christianne Wilhelmson, Cheryl Onciul | christianne@georgiastrait.org, cheryl@georgiastrait.org | https://georgiastrait.org/ |
| Ha'oom Fishery Society | NFP | Pacific | British Columbia | Saul Milne, Candace Picco | saul@haoom.ca, candace@haoom.ca | https://www.haoom.ca/ |
| Heiltsuk Tribal Council | Registered Donee | Pacific | British Columbia | Frank Brown | seequest1996@gmail.com | https://heiltsuknation.ca/ |
| Howe Sound Marine Stewardship Initiative/Átl'ka7tsem | Charitable NFP | Pacific | British Columbia | Courtney Smaha | marinestewardshipinitiative@gmail.com | https://howesoundguide.ca/ |
| Ikaarvik | NFP | Arctic | Nunavut | Justin Milton, Eric Solomon | justin.milton@ikaarvik.org, eric.solomon@ikaarvik.org | https://ikaarvik.org/ |
| Indigenous Climate Action | Charitable NFP | National | National | Jacod Crane | info@indigenousclimateaction.com | https://www.indigenousclimateaction.com/ |
| Indigenous Leadership Initiative/Guardians Network | NFP | National | National | Valérie Courtois, Shaunna Morgan Siegers | vcourtois@borealcanada.ca, smorgan@borealcanada.ca | https://www.ilinationhood.ca/ |
| Intervale Associates | NFP | Atlantic | Newfoundland and Labrador | Kathleen Blanchard | kblanchard@intervale.ca | http://intervale.ca/ |
| Island Nature Trust | Charitable NFP | Atlantic | Prince Edward Island | Bianca McGregor | exdir@islandnaturetrust.ca | https://islandnaturetrust.ca/ |

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| Ittaq (Ilisaqsiq Society) | Charitable NFP | Arctic | Nunavut | Shari Fox | foxshari867@gmail.com | https://itraq.ca/ |
| Kopit Lodge - Elsipogtog First Nation | Registered Donee | Atlantic | New Brunswick | Alex Levi | alex.levi@kopitlodge.org | https://www.kopitlodge.org/ |
| Lennox Island First Nation | Qualified Donee | Atlantic | PEI | Chief Bernard, Corinne Dymont | darlene.bernard@lennoxisland.com, corinne.dyment@lennoxisland.com | https://lennoxisland.com |
| Living Oceans Society | NFP | Pacific | British Columbia | Karen Wristen | kwristen@livingoceans.org | https://livingoceans.org/ |
| Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance (LFFA) | Charitable NFP | Pacific | British Columbia | Aidan Fisher | aidan.fisher@lffa.ca | https://www.lffa.ca/ |
| Maliseet Nation Conservation Council (MNCC) | NFP | Atlantic | New Brunswick | Patricia Saulis | psaulis2@yahoo.ca | https://www.maliseetconservation.ca/ |
| Mamalilikulla First Nation | Registered Charity, Qualified donee | Pacific | British Columbia | John Bones | jbones@mamalilikulla.ca | https://mamalilikulla.ca/ |
| Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate (MAARS) | Network | Atlantic | Nova Scotia | Vanessa Mitchell | vmitchell@mapcorg.ca | https://mapcmaars.ca/maars-team/ |
| Mind Your Plastic | Charity | National | Nova Scotia | Natasha Tucker | natasha@plasticoceans.org | https://mindyourplastic.ca/ |
| Mushkegowuk Council | Network | Arctic | Ontario | Vern Cheechoo | verncheechoo@mushkegowuk.ca | https://mushkegowuk.ca/ |
| Nanwakolas (Ha-Ma-Yas) | Registered Charity | Pacific | British Columbia | Merv Child | mervchild@gmail.com | https://nanwakolas.com/ |
| Nova Scotia Environmental Network | NFP | Atlantic | Nova Scotia | Kass Harris | info@nsenvironmentalnetwork.com | https://www.nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/ |

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|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nunami Sukuijainiq (“Our Science on the Land”) | Academic Partnership | Arctic | Quebec | José Gerin-Lajoie | Jose.Gerin-Lajoie@uqtr.ca | https://nunamisukuijainiq.weebly.com/ |
| Nunatsiavut Government | Registered Donee | Arctic | Labrador | James Goudie, Rodd Laing | jim.goudie@nunatsiavut.com, rodd.laing@nunatsiavut.com | https://nunatsiavut.com/ |
| Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council | Charitable NFP | Pacific | British Columbia | Danielle Burrows | Danielle.Burrows@nuuchahnulth.org | https://nuuchahnulth.org |
| Ocean Ambassadors Canada | NFP | Pacific | British Columbia | Alison Wood | info@oceanambassadorscanada.org | https://oceanambassadorscanada.org |
| Ocean Minded Inc. | Business | Atlantic | Quebec | Claudia Hurtado Toro | oceanminded.ed@gmail.com | https://oceanminded.ca/ |
| Ocean Wise | Charitable NFP | National | National | Hannah Edmunds, Nicole Straughan | hannah.edmunds@ocean.org, Nicole.Straughan@ocean.org | https://www.ocean.org/ |
| Organisation Bleue | Charitable NFP | Atlantic | Quebec | Anne-Marie Asselin | am@organisationbleue.org | www.organisationbleue.org |
| Pitquhirnikkut Ilihautiniq/Kitikmeot Heritage Society | Charity | Arctic | Nunavut | Emily Angulalik | eangulalik@kitikmeotheritage.ca | https://www.kitikmeotheritage.ca/ |
| Project Seahorse (British Columbia and UK) | Charity | International | British Columbia | Amanda Vincent | info@projectseahorse.org | https://projectseahorse.org/ |
| Qqs Projects Society | Charitable NFP | Pacific | British Columbia | Jess Housty | jess.housty@gmail.com | https://www.qqsprojects.org/ |
| REDD Fish Restoration | NFP | Pacific | British Columbia | | info@reddfish.org | https://reddfish.org/ |
| Salmon Parks | Indigenous-led conservation initiative | Pacific | British Columbia | Eric Angel, Roger Dunlop | eric@bigcanoe.ca, lands@yuquot.ca | https://www.salmonparks.ca/ |

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|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sea Change Canada | NFP | National | National (office in Ontario) | Jessica Legere | jessica@ecoexecutive.ca | https://www.seachangecanada.ca/ |
| Sea Smart School Society | Charity | Pacific | British Columbia | Elaine Leung | elaine@seasmartschool.com | https://seasmartschool.com/ |
| SeaBlue Canada | NFP | National | National | Jennifer Josenhans | jjosenhans@oceansnorth.ca | https://seabluecanada.org/ |
| SeaChange Marine Conservation Society | NFP | Pacific | British Columbia | Sarah Cook, Nikki Wright | sarahcook@seachangelife.org, nikki@seachangelife.org | https://seachangesociety.com/ |
| SmartICE | NFP social enterprise | Arctic | Newfoundland and Labrador | Trevor Bell | tbell@mun.ca | https://smartice.org/ |
| South Coast Conservation Program | NFP | Pacific | British Columbia | | info@sccp.ca | https://www.sccp.ca/ |
| Stqeeye' Learning Society | NFP | Pacific | British Columbia | | admin@stqeeye.ca | https://www.xwaaqwum.com/ |
| Students on Ice Foundation | Charity | National | Quebec | Geoff Green | geoff@soifoundation.org | https://soifoundation.org/en/ |
| Surfrider Foundation - Vancouver Island Chapter | NFP | Pacific | British Columbia | Sally McIntyre | chair@vancouverisland.surfrider.org | https://vancouverisland.surfrider.org/ |
| The Conservation Council of New Brunswick | Charity | Atlantic | New Brunswick | | info@conservationcouncil.ca | https://www.conservationcouncil.ca/ |
| Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources (UINR) | NFP | Atlantic | Nova Scotia | Lisa Young, Shelley Denny | lisa@uinr.ca, shelley.denny@uinr.ca | www.uinr.ca/ |
| Watershed Watch Salmon Society (WWSS) | Charity | Pacific | British Columbia | Aaron Hill | aaron@watershedwatch.ca | https://watershedwatch.ca/ |
| WSANEC Leadership council | Indigenous Network | Pacific | British Columbia | Shauna Johnson | shauna.johnson@wsanec.com | https://wsanec.com/ |

Appendix B: Selected Organizational Profiles

The profiles presented here are based on interviews that were conducted as part of this project. A separate .pdf version of the profiles has also been sent to the OC.

BC Métis Federation

Vancouver, BC

Contact: Angel Fisher (A.Fisher@bcmetis.com) <https://bcmetis.com/>

Type 4 Well Resourced Indigenous

The BC Métis Federation (BCMF) is a non-profit association that works to promote the **well-being** of its members (self-identifying Métis) and advocate on their behalf. "Community is at the core of Métis culture. It is through our shared time, experience, and ceremony that we can deeply connect with our ancestors, and each other." While not solely focused on oceans, BCMF has launched several projects with an oceans focus. These projects include building relationships with the Coast Guard and how they assess marine incidents, aquatic habitat restoration that includes communications and community engagement (e.g., beach clean ups and documentary screenings), and field trip based education programs. A new www.CoastalWaterProtectors.ca website is planned to go live at the end of March 2023.

A significant issue that BCMF has faced for its **marine programs** is that public grants are often focused on land-based Métis, whereas BCMF members are community-based (i.e., not associated with specific territories). Current programs/projects that could benefit from additional support include:

- First Responder Initiative - this new initiative has started with the distribution of 70 First Responder spill kits, and is looking to expand kits distribution on a broader level; kits include a water resistant bag with heat sealed boom kit to contain any spill on a vessel; kit distributor provides training to staff and members and offers discounted kits to BCMF for \$55/kit (\$100/kit retail)
- Beach clean ups - thanks to a CBC News report, beach clean ups have generated a lot of interest; funding is needed for travel to additional communities (e.g., Port Alberni, Sooke, Nanaimo)
- In-person relationship is important; funding to visit members and engage communities to hear concerns one-on-one will help to build lasting relationships
- Education programs - programs are set up for three age groups (some currently in pilot phase): Coastal Pups (5-11), Coastal Seawolves (12-17), and Coastal Ambassadors (18+); all projects have a conservation focus, where participants learn about actions that they can take and learn about traditional fishing and other cultural elements; at present, educators are volunteers and use only small amounts of admin funds to support the projects; funding can help cover travel costs and purchase program materials (e.g., bags, reusable straws, art supplies, food, books); a minimum of one sessions runs per month (after school)

Canadian Oceans Literacy Coalition

Location

Contact: Diz Glithero, National Lead (diz@colcoalition.ca) <http://colcoalition.ca/>

Type 5 **National-level Organizations**

The Canadian Oceans Literacy Coalition (COLC) is a well networked, nationwide alliance of organizations, networks, institutions, and communities working together to better understand and **advance ocean literacy** in Canada. Their work focuses on education and engagement, research and impact, leadership, and advocacy. The COLC is **women-led** and works towards **equity and diversity** and working with **Indigenous partners** throughout their projects and programs.

Although well established and funded the COLC has 2 programs that could use addition support to amplify the longer term impacts:

- The recently launched Ocean Literacy Community Grants program currently has a pool of \$40,000 to distribute micro-grants to coastal communities, this is a pilot project that will be looking for future support (<https://colcoalition.ca/projects/community-microgrant-program/>)
- Research and advocacy through the co-design of a collaborative survey tool with partners to use in 2023, 2026 and 2029 to track changes in public ocean perceptions over the Ocean Decade; as well as continue with National Strategy Impact Measurement work over the course of the Ocean Decade.

Centre for Indigenous Fisheries

Vancouver, BC

Contact: Andrea Reid (a.reid@oceans.ubc.ca) <https://www.cif.fish/home>

Type 4 Well Resourced Indigenous

The Centre for Indigenous Fisheries (CIF) is a unique research centre based at the University of British Columbia. "At the CIF, we re-imagine traditional 'lab' dynamics to build a community of Indigenous scholars and allies that place the needs and interests of Indigenous Peoples at the heart of all that we do. Grounded in this core commitment to conducting collaborative, just science, we aim to engage in and restore healthy relations between fish, people, and place." Conceptualized as a centre in the 1990s, the CIF was finally established in 2021 with the hiring of Dr. Andrea Reid. When Dr. Reid started her position she met with more than 40 First Nations to learn more about how to **grow relationships** with them. This type of activity is ongoing and embedded in all CIF work.

The CIF is guided by an **Indigenous Advisory Council** that spans geographic regions and helps to think strategically and long-term. There are also an elder in residence and an artist in residence who help the centre be a group beyond only academics.

Funding for research activities typically comes from Tri-Agency (SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR) agencies. However, the Tri-Agencies do not tend to fund activities that are at the core of CIF's **identity around relationship building** outside of the university setting. For example, community gatherings that bring people together are important so that partners can know each other and learn how to support each other. Convening prospective and existing partners often requires funding for travel, meals, and other related costs.

Coastal Action

Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia

Contact: Brooke Nodding (brooke@coastalaction.org) <http://www.coastalaction.org/>

Type 1 **Community-based Organizations with Inconsistent Conservation Funding**

Coastal Action is a charitable non-profit with a goal to promote and enhance environmental protection through research, education, action, and engagement. Coastal Action currently has five focal areas: species at risk and biodiversity; watersheds and water quality; climate change; coastal and marine; and environmental education.

Coastal Action has explained that their environmental education team is hardest to support and fund because there is not a lot of funding available for education type initiatives. Coastal Action has also found that microplastics work is difficult to secure because Environment and Climate Change Canada (as the main funder) has focused on specific watersheds. Current programs/projects that could benefit from additional grants include:

- A notable **equity**-oriented project is the Go Crew - this program for female or female identifying youth was piloted in 2022 for junior high school students (age 12-15); Go Crew is an outdoor leadership program that invites girls to learn about outdoor skills, leadership skills, and recreation; Coastal Action is hoping to expand this program
- Ocean microplastics and marine debris - Coastal Action partners with Mi'kmaq Conservation Group (MCG) for training and capacity building so that MCG can lead projects in their territory;
- Ghost gear project - at sea retrievals and shore line clean ups and looking at end of life recycling opportunities for those materials; rope recycling from fishing industry, working with some industry partners to look at turning rope into diesel fuel
- Saltmarsh project work with Indigenous partners - capacity building project; develop survey assessment protocols and training other groups to do surveys; setting up an equipment bank so that other groups can undertake surveys; partners include MCG, ACAP Cape Breton, Clean Annapolis River Project

Community Conservation Research Network

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Contact: Tony Charles (Tony.Charles@smu.ca) www.CommunityConservation.net

Type 5 **National-level Organizations**

The Community Conservation Research Network (CCRN) works at the intersection of communities, livelihoods, and conservation by gathering stories and helping to amplify community-based success stories. Leadership for the CCRN is based at St Mary's University but partners are located at various other Canadian and international institutions. The CCRN is called a "research network" but it involves NGO and Indigenous partners in Canada, and a range of researchers nationally and internationally each of whom is working directly with local communities. In other words, the CCRN supports action research. A key goal is to support and publicize the work of those communities.

The CCRN currently looking to scale up funding to further support its action research. Some of the Canadian coastal communities that have been featured by the CCRN have included:

- Nuu-chah-nulth (BC) fight to assert their fishing rights
- Innu Nation (Labrador)
- Port Mouton (NS) community organization to draw on scientific support and build a strategic response to a marine degradation stemming from aquaculture

Ecology Action Centre

Nova Scotia

Contact: Shannon Arnold, Senior Marine Program Coordinator (sarnold@ecologyaction.ca)
<https://ecologyaction.ca/>

Type 3 Well Resourced
Community-based Organizations

Ecology Action Centre (EAC) "work to ensure our ocean is resilient, healthy and provides for thriving coastal communities. The Ecology Action Centre's Marine Team works locally, nationally and internationally for better fisheries management, strong ocean protections, traceable and transparent seafood supply chains and sustainable livelihoods. We work in communities and on the water, with advocacy informed by science and socio-economic expertise as well as Indigenous and local knowledge."

EAC faces the challenge of securing long-term funding and notes that in Atlantic Canada the majority of ocean funding comes from American philanthropic organizations and they are not always interested in Canada. EAC promotes that Canada should have a much bigger voice in international supply-chain discussions.

Current programs/projects that could benefit from additional support include:

- Build and launch a Local Catch Network Canada, hire coordinator and secure funding for first summit, have a steering committee and have begun preliminary work
- Sea Choice (<https://www.seachoice.org/>) had private sector funding (Packard) but they are no longer interested in Canada and therefore EAC needs to shift to find other core funding for 1.5 staff
- Seaweed/Kelp Farming and Training Centre - supports small scale seaweed farmer and entrepreneur through programming specific to Indigenous communities and needs to develop programming for newcomer/underserved and African Nova Scotian communities, this requires support for relationship building and program development (<https://ecologyaction.ca/our-work/marine>)

Ecotrust Canada

Vancouver, BC

Contact: Chuck Rumsey (chuck@ecotrust.ca) <https://ecotrust.ca/>

Type 5 National-level Organizations

Ecotrust Canada was established in 1995 with a focus on developing **conservation-based economies**. As the organization has refined its focus over the years, its most recent priorities involve working with rural, **remote and Indigenous communities** toward building an economy that provides for a healthy and resilient natural environment; sustainable and abundant energy, food, and housing; prosperous and meaningful livelihoods; and vibrant cultures and inclusive societies. Ecotrust often acts as a matchmaker between funders and communities that they work with - this may involve Ecotrust as a grant partner or simply making introductions. The organization is national in scope, although much of their work is focused on rural, remote, and Indigenous communities in British Columbia.

Ecotrust has very strong foundations and a relatively long history working on coastal and marine conservation that emphasizes the importance of communities. The organization benefits from core staff, yet still relies on project funding. Examples of current projects that could benefit from additional support include:

- Restorative/regenerative ocean farming and food security project is in its second year (see supporting documents folder). Ecotrust is working with Metlakatla First Nation Community Ocean Farm Hub and has found huge potential with this model for a regional hub to support smaller farms. Granting could support the creation of materials to support this model in other communities (and/or further support Metlakatla FN).
- More dedicated staff time to consult and work with First Nations about rights and access issues for fisheries on BC coast (e.g., monitoring and support for Indigenous-led fisheries). Ecotrust works with First Nations to make sure they have the tools to participate in fisheries, meet regulatory requirements set out by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and build capacity to become fisheries managers.
- Helping communities to tackle ghost gear retrieval.

False Creek Friends

Vancouver, British Columbia

Contact: Kira Leeb (kira@falsecreekfriends.org) & Zaida Schneider (zaida@falsecreekfriends.org) <https://www.falsecreekfriends.org/>

Type 1 **Community-based Organizations with Inconsistent Conservation Funding**

False Creek Friends "work to restore the False Creek marine environment in alignment with First Nations stewardship values and marine science, with recognition and respect for the presence and rights of all people to enjoy and use False Creek in sound and healthy environmental ways." False Creek Friends want to bring the wilderness of their local marine environment to the public's attention, so people "realize what they have at their fingertips." There is a huge opportunity to elevate the conversation about marine conservation for an urban population as 200,000 people interact everyday in the False Creek area. As False Creek Friends have found through underwater videos, the [local waterway is teeming with marine life](#) that the public should know more about.

As a new organization False Creek Friends has limited experience in grant-writing in the extremely competitive funding environment of urban British Columbia and have found that even small grants requires a lot of capacity to administer. The organization also notes competing priorities of NFPs and government indicating it is difficult to find funding to support ocean water quality research. Additionally there work is complicated by learning to navigate multiple jurisdictions, with 15 government agencies administer False Creek.

Current programs/projects that could benefit from additional support include:

- False Creek Climate Change Centre - create a space for engagement, research and learning in False Creek
- Engagement with diverse and Indigenous community - are in early days and could use support with engagement activities
- Science Projects - including citizen science; upstream sampling of pollutants in False Creek, partner with Raincoast Foundation and a bivalve reef building project that is in the exploratory phase and the BioBlitz

First Nations Fisheries Council

Vancouver, BC

Contact: Brooklyn Carey (brooklyn@fnfisheriescouncil.ca) <https://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca/>

Type 4 Well Resourced Indigenous

The First Nations Fisheries Council (FNFC) was created as an intermediary body to support First Nations across British Columbia, and established through the BC First Nations Fisheries Action Plan (2007) and endorsed by resolution of the BC Assembly of First Nations, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, and the First Nations Summit. FNFC supports a shared vision for First Nations' goals and priorities through capacity building and fostering relations that influence the integrated planning and management of Pacific **fisheries and aquatic resources** at the province-wide level.

While FNFC has core funding through a legacy fund, current programs/projects that could benefit from additional support include (see Supporting Documentation folder for more information):

- Save Our Salmon coalition - working with private sector and First Nations on a campaign to echo the priorities of rightsholders' and stakeholders' perspectives; this coalition is also helping to gather public support
- Water for Fish initiative - developing research papers on special topics of interests to the 14 First Nations that FNFC represents (e.g., strategic plans about net pen aquaculture)

First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance

British Columbia

Contact: Bob Chamberlin (RChamberlin@shaw.ca)

Type 2 **Indigenous with Inconsistent Conservation Funding**

The First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance (FNWSA) was formed in order to provide a political voice related to **wild salmon** and a transition away from salmon farming. A central task for the alliance has been to identify First Nations that support the federal government plan to transition away from salmon farming. The alliance does not have a website - only a small social media presence <https://twitter.com/FNWildSalmon>. A [short video of a press conference](#) from the FNWSA shows the position and approach of this alliance.

To date, Bob Chamberlin has gathered 100+ alliance members. This work has been done in absence of funding. Next steps for consultation include the identification of **First Nations priorities** for protection and rehabilitation. The motivation is to be able to gather and synthesize these priorities to support the federal government's duty to consult, while offering a voice that is different from apolitical organizations (e.g. First Nations Fisheries Council).

Current projects that could benefit from grants include:

- Establish a consistent presence for media and government relations; develop a legal team
 - Researcher
 - Writer
- Gatherings for alliance building - rather than a province-wide gathering (where some chiefs won't really contribute because of their preferred communication style), it would be helpful to have someone travel to meet with Chiefs as a consultation process; these consultations would be synthesized into a commentary on a fish farm transition plan

Fishing for Success

Petty Harbour, NL

Contact: Kimberly Orren, Co-founder (kimberly.orrren@islandrooms.org)
<https://fishingforsuccess.org/>

Type 1 **Community-based Organizations with Inconsistent Conservation Funding**

Fishing for Success is a community-based non-profit social enterprise that runs several programs aimed towards sharing the **cultural heritage** of Newfoundland & Labrador's family fisheries. Fishing for Success actively advocates for **inclusive, gender-equitable, and sustainable small-scale fisheries**, while running a variety of programs that also work to address climate change and improve local food security through access to seafood. They run educational programs that are centered around connecting fishing to ocean literacy. Fishing for Success also provides specialized programming for women, children, newcomers, and Indigenous community members by partnering with other like-minded non-profits.

Fishing for Success has benefitted from partnerships with university researchers and several media profiles. However, as a fully volunteer run organization, it can be difficult to find time for grant writing (especially when not successful) and for funding to implement all programs. Current programs that could benefit from additional support include:

- Girls That Fish - A year long program with meetings held two times per month. Aims to expand "who gets on the boat" by giving women more of an opportunity to participating in fishing. A grant would help the program operate again post-COVID. Featured in YouTube video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRX_1qStjRk
- WISH (Women Sharing Heritage) - A project under Girls That Fish that provides access to fishing and nature experience for newcomer women and their children.
- Sea to School - "We have children in Newfoundland and Labrador who live within sight to the ocean, but they've never been in a boat or they've never caught a fish." Sea to School brings more fishing programming to school kids and teaches them about fishing, processing fish, and eating fish. The students also learn about food paths and start to learn about what they should be eating to combat climate change.

Georgia Strait Alliance

Vancouver, BC

Contact: Christianne Wilhelmson (christianne@georgiastrait.org), Cheryl Onciul (cheryl@georgiastrait.org) <https://georgiastrait.org/>

Type 3 Well Resourced
Community-based Organizations

The Georgia Strait Alliance (GSA) is a 32 year old grassroots organization that helps to raise awareness about environmental threats to Georgia Strait, on the south coast of BC. GSA began with an emphasis on community engagement and grew into more of an advocacy and engagement organization with capacity for consultation on legislative agendas and legal work. In recent years, GSA has focused on getting back to its roots of engagement work. In 2022-23 GSA has engaged in a strategic planning process that has involved the development of a new mission that focuses on environmental justice and mobilization of collection action to protect the Salish Sea. Another outcome of these strategic efforts is that GSA is actively working to improve **equity within the organization** (e.g. composition of the team, board recruitment; JEDI as individuals and as a collective organization; retaining a JEDI consultant).

Current programs/projects that could benefit from additional grant support include:

- Full time staff to oversee marine planning conversations; this is currently done by the Executive Director (Christianne) off the side of her desk; a full time staff person would enable GSA to do more community engagement around the importance of these process and to continue be at the table with governments and other agencies
- Expand community organizing program and more tools to engage online and be more present in communities; support campaign work in communities, focused on work with equity-seeking communities, not typically included in environmental conversations
- Biodiversity program - this program is many faceted and has grown beyond the capacity to be managed by a single person. Funding is needed to support increased staffing to support program delivery on multiple fronts (e.g., community engagement as a discrete effort; build capacity to more effectively engage around policy issues)
- New website - additional funding would enable a major website overhaul and support improved community-facing communications

Ha'oom Fishery Society

Tofino, BC

Contact: Saul Milne (saul@haoom.ca), Candace Picco (candace@haoom.ca)
<https://www.haoom.ca/>

Type 4 Well Resourced Indigenous

Ha'oom Fishery Society (HFS) cooperatively supports and facilitates the **participation** of the Ahousaht, Ehattesaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, Hesquiaht and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations in **traditional fisheries**. This work includes implementation of multi-species commercial rights, development of multi species plans in collaboration with all five Nations, and supporting each Nation as it renews its relationship with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). HFS has an active scientific team that supports fisheries management and implementation through data gathering and monitoring, as well as through conservation and rebuilding projects (e.g., chinook redevelopment plan).

A significant challenge for working with DFO is that DFO manages species at a different scale than the five Nations' territories. They are collaboratively exploring ways of accessing different species for First Nations' needs. DFO has been much more willing to fund projects in part due to increase in reconciliation funding from federal government, however, securing philanthropic funds can help to support outcomes that DFO does not prioritize. Current projects that could benefit from grants include:

- DNA analysis lab - HFS is in the early stages of looking at developing DNA analysis lab; the only place for this type of analysis currently is DFO and they are very slow and the privacy of data for Nations is not ensured; funding could be used for purchase of lab equipment and costs for processing; there is potential for revenue generation as well, as Nations could benefit from in-season management that is currently not available
- Coho salmon stock assessment - coho are a species where the traditional rights have not been accommodated; DFO does not assess coho but this species is a priority for First Nations; sampling and assessment will help to build a fishing plan;
- Explore new fisheries opportunities - (1) tuna are more northern now and Nations have aspirations to take advantage; (2) salmon laws using 'hahuupa' teaching and learnings around salmon, using those stories to bridge the gap around monitoring and enforcement

Heiltsuk Tribal Council

Bella Bella, BC

Contact: Frank Brown (seequest1996@gmail.com) <https://heiltsuknation.ca/>

Type 4 Well Resourced Indigenous

The Heiltsuk Tribal Council is involved with a number of oceans conservation initiatives, including:

- Advancing the Northern Shelf Bioregion conservation work through the Coastal First Nations and Nanwokalas, amongst a coalition of First Nations from the northern tip of Vancouver Island to the Alaskan border
- In discussions about a national marine preserve as central coast First Nations; current participating in a feasibility study
- Transboundary work with Native Americans throughout Alaska, Washington; and Oregon; this work involves development of a conservation economy through ecotourism; this work has also been advanced over the last seven years in partnership with Vancouver Island University and North Island College

Frank Brown has indicated that building a relationship with the Oceans Collaborative can start with a single project. Additional projects can be shared once relationships are established. A current projects that could benefit from additional support is the [Sacred Journey traveling exhibit](#) on the resurgence of ocean going canoes. They are looking for funding to develop curriculum that will accompany the exhibit. Curriculum will help connect to reconciliation through public education (e.g., through Science World Vancouver, Royal BC Museum).

Howe Sound Marine Stewardship Initiative/Átl'ka7tsem

British Columbia

Contact: Courtney Smaha, Project Director (marinestewardshipinitiative@gmail.com)
<https://howesoundguide.ca/>

Type 3 Well Resourced
Community-based Organizations

Marine Stewardship Initiative shares the capacity to protect the **diverse economic, ecological, cultural, and social values** associated with Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound's ocean and freshwater. The organization works closely with the Squamish Nation in Howe Sound.

Although well established and well networked there are several programs and projects that could benefit from additional support including:

- Annual herring research and education program - connect herring surveys (distribution and abundance) with Indigenous youth by building capacity through employment and ongoing education in partnership with Cultural Journeys.
- Ocean Watch Report, formerly produced by OceanWise would benefit from funding to support ongoing measuring and reporting back about ocean health.
- Foreshore Forage Fish Monitoring engaging Squamish Nation youth and other diverse groups in the Greater Vancouver region
- In past had program to certify members of the Squamish Nation as divers for monitoring as archeological, conservation, environmental (ACE) technicians, there is the potential to build this program back.

Like other marine/ocean research organizations MRI has a difficult time securing funding for capital assets such as boats for their work. They also have many additional research and monitoring programs that could use additional support (e.g. rockfish and glass sponge reef monitoring).

Ikaarvik

Nunavut

Contact: Justin Milton, Manager (justin.milton@ikaarvik.org) & Eric Solomon (eric.solomon@ikaarvik.org) <https://ikaarvik.org/>

Type 2 **Indigenous with Inconsistent Conservation Funding**

"Ikaarvik creates opportunities that allow **Northern Indigenous youth** to empower themselves for self-determination in Arctic research and decision making." Ikaarvik works with youth as a bridge between North and South, youth engage with their communities to understand research priorities and first look for existing knowledge and skills within the community. Ikaarvik will bring in a researcher for specific needs that can not be met internally. The projects are Inuit youth led and the researcher must be willing to work within that framework. Ikaarvik is "about making research work better; for both the researchers and communities; it is about highlighting the strength of Indigenous knowledge that can be used for making important conservation decisions."

Ikaarvik will often have funding to go through the process of identifying community interests but not necessarily for carrying out a project, the organization would like to shift from a project-based budget to a more mission-based, programmatic budget to do this they need core operating funds and help to increase internal capacity. In addition, current projects that could benefit from additional support include:

- Kugluktuk, Nunavut - completed 3rd field season of monitoring (climate change and health project) and now anxious to figure out next steps, immediate need for funding to run another workshop in community
- Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Yukon - first field season delayed by Covid need funding to restart project focused on bringing back salmon river practises

Other current projects include research on invasive species in Pond Inlet (related to shipping) and monitoring the impact of mining on water quality.

Indigenous Leadership Initiative & First Nations National Guardians Network

National, Canada-wide

Contact: Valérie Courtois, ILI Director (vcourtois@borealcanada.ca) & Shaunna Morgan Siegers, Operations Manager Guardians (smorgan@borealcanada.ca)
<https://www.ilinationhood.ca/> <https://landneedsguardians.ca/>

Type 6 **National-level Indigenous Networks**

The Indigenous Leadership Initiative (ILI) **supports Indigenous Nations** in honouring their responsibility to care for lands and waters. The organization is dedicated to strengthening Indigenous Nationhood and Indigenous leadership on the land. The First Nations National Guardians Network will be independent of the ILI, however, at the moment operates similarly to a secretariat.

"Guardians are trained experts who manage protected areas, restore animals and plants, test water quality and monitor development. They play a vital role in creating land-use and marine-use plans. And they connect youth with Elders and provide training that prepare young people to become the next generation of educators, ministers and leaders."

The Network will act as a funnel for funding to First Nations and position philanthropy to augment and support public funds to meet the priorities of Nations and simplify the administrative process. The Network indicated interest in the work of the Ocean's Collaborative but did not have the capacity to engage at this time. As their work continues they would be interested in re-engaging with the OC.

Intervale Associates

Newfoundland & Labrador

Contact: Kathleen Blanchard (kblanchard@intervale.ca) <http://intervale.ca/>

Type 1 **Community-based Organizations with Inconsistent Conservation Funding**

Intervale Associates provides programs and services in the fields of **conservation, heritage interpretation, and sustainable development**. Intervale is a NFP that also provides consulting services to generate an operating budget. Marine-related programming is focused on (1) **youth engagement** and in particular rural youth through summer camp programs to become conservation leaders for Newfoundland and Labrador and (2) **marine species at risk conservation** through education and plastic waste recovery.

Intervale is challenged by lack of staff capacity and insecure core funding for administration, human resources etc. Additionally staff do not have the time to pursue grant-writing although opportunities are available for federal funding securing matching funds is a barrier. Current programs that could benefit from additional support include:

- Marine species at risk conservation through the recovery of marine waste. The 2 main threats to marine species at risk, leatherback turtles and deep sea diving whales, are entanglement and ingestion of plastic. Bait box liners that are used for crab and lobster harvesting are discarded at sea, Intervale has created an initiative to change behaviour of harvesters around waste practices. This project is in partnership with Quebec-Labrador Foundation and has been very successful with 25 harvesters participating and is now ready to be expanded. <https://youtu.be/8xs9nfWkxLU>
- Marine spatial planning through 'dockside dialogues' and community meetings is very difficult and funds could support workshops and education
- Intervale has partnered with documentary filmmakers and could use funding to produce a documentary to advocate and promote learning around marine species at risk

Kopit Lodge, Elsipogtog First Nation

New Brunswick

Contact: Alex Levi (alex.levi@kopitlodge.org) <https://www.kopitlodge.org/>

Type 2 Indigenous with inconsistent funding

Kopit Lodge is a Mi'kmaq not for profit, conservation group mandated by the Elsipogtog First Nation (EFN) Chief and Council to ensure **stewardship** of their territory. Kopit Lodge emerged from collective actions to stop fracking in Kent County, which is part of the sixth district of Mi'kma'ki: Signigtog (also written as Sikniht). Kopit Lodge's mission is to protect the water and all that live in the water and all that needs the water to survive. The organization has grown and now functions as the environmental and natural resource 'department' of EFN.

The communities of EFN have traditionally depended upon the salmon fishery and therefore Kopit Lodge and EFN are working to protect salmon habitat. Kopit has a committed staff but lack capacity and financial support to undertake all the projects that they know are needed. Current programs/projects that could benefit from additional support include:

- Re establish coastal restoration and salmon research program that ran from 2016-2021 funded by DFO. This would involve planting trees, increasing depths of salmon beds, adding artificial shade and acquiring a fish counter
- Kopit Lodge has already built relationships with staff at Kouchibouguac NP and want to develop a project to work together to protect and monitor Indigenous burial grounds within Kouchibouguac NP that are threatened by coastal erosion.

Other large scale projects that the Nation would like to undertake that are still in the exploratory phase are a fish hatchery and marsh-land buy-back project.

Lennox Island First Nation

Prince Edward Island

Contact: Chief Bernard (darlene.bernard@lennoxisland.com) and Corinne Dymont (corinne.dymont@lennoxisland.com) <https://lennoxisland.com>

Type 4 Well Resources Indigenous

The Lennox Island Mi'kmaq community is 'strong, proud and vibrant.' The community has for thousands of years and still is sustained by the sea. Citizens harvest oysters, snow crab, clams and countless other fish resources. As stated by Chief Bernard "The fishery is our largest employer and we remain eternally grateful to the sea for its bounty. It is with respect, dignity and thanks that our people accept these offerings." The community is heavily invested in maintaining a **healthy marine environment**, providing **opportunities for sustainable socio-economic growth, maintaining and re-establishing cultural practises**, and **supporting vulnerable community members**. For example the community undertakes an annual Food Social and Ceremonial Fishery from August - October and share the catch (lobster) to the community and set aside food to support locally operated food security programs.

As a coastal community the impacts of climate change via coastal erosion, increasing storm intensity and frequency and changes to the ocean environment, are the biggest challenge for Lennox Island FN. Current programs/projects that could benefit from additional support include:

- Gear Clean Up
- Guardians Program that works on research project and do presentations to community (Northern Atlantic Right Whale, American Eel, Leatherback Turtle).
- Oyster growing operation - not yet sustainable
- Lobster hatchery - working with province
- Future development of new national park and visitor centre (<https://experiencelennoxisland.com>)
- Communications through website

Living Oceans Society

Vancouver, BC

Contact: Karen Wristen (kwristen@livingoceans.org) <https://livingoceans.org/>

Type 3 Well Resourced
Community-based Organizations

Formed in 1998, Living Oceans Society has a vision to ensure that Canada's oceans are "sustainably managed and thriving with **abundant and diverse sea life** that supports vibrant and resilient communities." In order to achieve this vision, Living Oceans Society develops campaigns based on scientific and social research, helps to interpret scientific data for diverse audiences, engages with a variety of actors (government, industry, communities, First Nations) in order to create viable conservation solutions, and works to **enable coastal communities** to protect the ocean resources they depend upon. As an emphasis on enabling coastal communities, all of the prospective work that the Living Oceans Society shared as part of this landscape scan was focused on supporting First Nations. It is notable that Living Oceans Society also has a strong relationship with the First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance (Bob Chamberlin).

The following local economic development activities are examples of work that Living Oceans Society would like to undertake with additional grants (see also **supporting documents folder** for a position paper about economic transitions related to removal of net-pen aquaculture):

- Investigate local economic development opportunities for First Nations that were involved or are involved in salmon farming; Living Oceans Society has connections with programs such as [Green Wave](#) and [SeaChoice](#) that can provide resources for identification of transferable skills for fish workers, finance options, and other opportunities
- Capacity building in Nations - start with a pilot project in Broughton Archipelago where salmon farm is closing and restoration can begin in earnest; Living Oceans Society already has all players identified from scientists to lawyers to project managers
- Convening Nations - no one nation has the capacity to take the lead on restoration work or economic development alternatives

Maliseet Nation Conservation Council

Fredericton, NB

Contact: Patricia Saulis (psaulis2@yahoo.ca) <https://www.maliseetconservation.ca/>

Type 4 Well Resourced Indigenous

Maliseet Nation Conservation Council (MNCC) was established in 2007 with the chiefs of the five Maliseet First Nations in New Brunswick forming the board of directors: Oromocto First Nation (Welamuktok), St. Mary's First Nation (Sitansisk), Kingsclear First Nation (Pilick), Woodstock First Nation (Wotstak), and Tobique First Nation (Negotkuk). MNCC was created with a vision to promote the involvement of Maliseet people in stewardship, education, and decision-making processes in their traditional territory of the Wolostog (Saint John River) watershed and Bay of Fundy.

Due to the political climate and influence of the oil and gas interests in New Brunswick, MNCC has faced persistent difficulties securing conservation funding (including Guardians funding and provincial funding). Two current initiatives are highlighted here as that could benefit from support and grants:

- Salmon restoration - local **salmon populations are on the brink of extirpation**; governments have been reluctant to invest towards their commitment to maintaining this species; MNCC has worked to convene governments on both sides of the Canada-US border (the Saint John River traverses the border and they have a Tribal community in the US); have been working to cooperatively bring governments to the table, called the Transboundary Governance Process; this process includes seven US agencies (e.g., EPA, NOAA) and several Canadian agencies (e.g., DFO), but plans always fall apart due to Canadian government not securing funding; now looking to all venues to contribute to species augmentation, support programs, and early rearing programs; MNCC has a number of programming options that could be implemented with additional financial capacity; finding partners and collaborators that are able to bring a more collective approach to funding projects (potentially multi-year) would be very helpful
- Formation of a **Atlantic Canada IPCA Innovation Centre** - looking to find partners and collaborators to help establish an innovation centre for the east coast; MNCC are aware of the needs of other local First Nations and see this as a strong base for progressing the Indigenous-led momentum within conservation in Atlantic Canada; now need support to build and sustain (e.g., funds to convene potential partners); early work will also involve design of a model for fiscal sustainability; Innovation Centre will be a new doorway for enabling IPCAs in Atlantic Canada and can be a **catalyst for conservation transformation** in the east

Mamalilikulla First Nation

Vancouver Island, British Columbia

Contact: John Bones Coordinator IPCA, Special Projects & Liaison (jbones@mamalilikulla.ca)
<https://mamalilikulla.ca/>

Type 4 **Well Resourced Indigenous**

On February 5th, 2023, the Mamalilikulla First Nation along with federal and provincial officials announced the marine portion of the Gwaxdlala/Nalaxdlala IPCA as the first marine refuge to be recognized through the Northern Shelf Bioregion Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network planning process. The Mamalilikulla FN are committed to **marine conservation** and to pushing that agenda forward while acknowledging and taking steps to **rebuild connections** with the lands and waters of their territory.

The OC previously supported the development of the IPCA business plan and now Mamalilikulla FN are ready to enact phase two and begin implementation. Aligned with and supporting this work are several current projects and programs that could benefit from additional support, they include:

- Project costs and capital asset needed for Guardians to maintain work agenda (restoration, inventory, baseline surveys).
- External consultants are required to conduct archeological assessments (midden beds) to move forward with eelgrass restoration projects to support salmon conservation. This has been scoped at approximately \$60,000.
- Support for collaborative governance agreements between DFO and Nation on Marine Refuge Plan
- Cultural connections to land and waters through annual gatherings, studies to bring back cultural place names and engaging with Elders

Nanwakolas Council

Northern Vancouver Island & South
Central Coast of British Columbia

Primary Contact: Merv Child, Executive Director (mervchild@gmail.com), Secondary Contacts: Scott Harris, Ha-ma-yas Stewardship Network Coordinator (scottharris@nanwakolas.com) & Barb Dinning, Marine Planner (bdinning@nanwakolas.com) <https://nanwakolas.com/>

Type 4 **Well Resourced Indigenous**

Nanwakolas Council represents six member First Nations who collectively **take care of the marine environment** through enhancing stewardship responsibilities that reflect "governance, economy, cultural and human well-being objectives".

The Ha-ma-yas Stewardship Network fulfills **ancestral rights and responsibilities** to take care of lands, waters, wildlife and food sources for future generations. Funding for this program would support *training and capacity building*.

- Immediate need
 - support work experience for 3 graduates in June 2024
- Medium to long term need
 - create a pathway and accreditation for Guardians to become "Master Guardians" that provides cultural and language training with Elders (in-field, in-community and creating videos to ensure knowledge is captured and maintained) and is in partnership with current program at Vancouver Island University
 - supporting year-round employment focusing on compliance to local indigenous laws and research and monitoring of developments before and after implementation
 - Equipment for Guardians including environmental response equipment and vessels to do the work that is prioritized by Nations

The Reconciliation Framework Agreement is focused on regional marine work that is aligned among west coast nations e.g. seafloor mapping and MPA networks.

- There is a need to support *connection to place*. After decades of displacement people are not connected to their territories, activities are needed (e.g. gatherings in traditional communities) that reconnect people to lands and waters.

Nunatsiavut Government

Labrador

Primary Contact: James Goudie, Deputy Minister Lands and Natural Resources (jim.goudie@nunatsiavut.com) & Rodd Laing, Director of Environment (rodd.laing@nunatsiavut.com) <https://nunatsiavut.com/>

Type 4 Well Resourced Indigenous

Efforts to support marine conservation by the Nunatsiavut Government are currently focused on the establishment of the first Inuit protected area adjacent to the Torngat Mountain National Park. Imappivut is a plan to manage and protect Labrador Inuit interests in the coastal and marine areas of Labrador. This is a large scale project that requires **relationship building** across multiple jurisdictions and interests. The Nunatsiavut Government simultaneously support traditional knowledge and youth education. Programs are challenged by conditions in the northern remote communities including high staff turnover, capacity, and housing.

Current and ongoing projects that would benefit from support include:

- Funding for policy and legislative baseline work to support Imappivut adjacent to Torngat Mountain National Park under the Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act. The first phase of started in 2017 with a feasibility study. <https://imappivut.com/>
- Youth Education - (1) school visits to bring traditional knowledge into the classroom and field trips to bring students to research centre to learn traditional skills (eg. ring seal harvest/skinning). These two programs have been provided in the past but suffer from inconsistent funding. (2) Securing an external consultant to development curriculum for Newfoundland and Labrador school boards that reflect traditional knowledge and practices around marine conservation and protection.
- Peer-to-Peer learning - the Nunatsiavut Government have work with the Great Bear Sea initiative and Gwaii Haanas (funded through Makeway) and feel it there is potential for more Indigenous network building and peer-to-peer learning across oceans in Canada
- Capital Asset Purchases - boat, office space and housing in community for staff are a particular challenge in northern remote communities

Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council

Vancouver Island, British Columbia

Contact: Danielle Burrows, Marine Stewardship Coordinator
(Danielle.Burrows@nuuchahnulth.org) <https://nuuchahnulth.org>

Type 4 **Well Resourced Indigenous**

The Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council (NTC) represents 14 First Nations on Vancouver Island. The role of NTC is to support work that will impact all member Nations. In general there has been a recent shift in focus from fisheries to **marine conservation** although each Nation have their own priorities and initiatives as well. NTC are in the early and exciting phase of marine conservation planning, this work is partially supported by the Federal government.

The challenges that NTC face are a limited capacity to write grant proposals and fulfill reporting requirement, the short term nature of most funding and the complex nature of their work makes it difficult to find funding that 'fits'. Current programs/projects that could benefit from additional support include:

- Supporting the legislation/law making work associated with the Salmon Parks initiative. This work will be foundational for all Nations moving forward salmon conservation.
- Convening and collaboration to support marine conservation planning among the 14 member Nations and the additional research and documentation of culturally significant species to build into the marine conservation plan.
- Sea Otter Action Plan/Oceans Dialogue - NTC has been working with the Haida Nation under the Ocean's Dialogue agreement and needs support to move plans forwards that are collaborative and transboundary in nature.

Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council would benefit from philanthropic support in their near future as the NTC and members nations are currently identify priorities and process for marine conservation planning.

Ocean Minded Inc.

Montréal, Québec

Contact: Claudia Hurtado Toro (oceanminded.ed@gmail.com) <https://oceanminded.ca/>

Type 1 **Community-based Organizations with Inconsistent Conservation Funding**

Ocean Minded Inc. aims to "connect people of all ages to the Ocean, no matter how far from the coast, through knowledge transfer and unique art and outdoors experiences." Ocean Minded offers programs that include presentations, field trips, and activities for schools, community groups, and businesses. Ocean Minded is unique as a business and having a base in Montreal. The choice of location was because of the lack of oceans education in inland Canada - and Montreal offered the opportunity to use the St. Lawrence River to people understand how water systems are connected to oceans. Examples of partners include [La Baline Nomad](#) who help to offer an online interactive experience for students in schools, and Nature Canada through a project called [NatureHood](#) that is designed for **inner city youth** to connect to natural environments.

Education programs currently run year-round with no charge to participants. Recent work has been supported through Canadian Wildlife Federation hiring Ocean Minded to host and run events. Current programs that could benefit from grants include:

- Hands and feet on ground - need staffing to run the educational programs (salary and hourly wages), materials, transportation costs (taking kids from inner city to nature)
 - Programs cost \$60/hour plus tax and materials (e.g., art canvas 6-10\$ per indiv student)
 - Materials and additional costs depend on each activity e.g. rent paddle boards, transportation, canvas

Ocean Wise

Vancouver, British Columbia

Contact: Hannah Edmunds, Development Team (hannah.edmunds@ocean.org) & Nicole Straughan, Ocean Bridge (Nicole.Straughan@ocean.org) <https://www.ocean.org/>

Type 5 **National-level Organizations**

Ocean Wise builds communities that take meaningful action to protect and restore our ocean. Recognizing that we are all connected to and rely on the ocean for food, water and clean energy and that the ocean is our first line of defence against climate change. Ocean Wise has grown into a global environmental charity that **addresses overfishing, ocean pollution and climate change**. Ocean Wise facilitates multiple **youth-focused education programs** and supports participants to amplify their impact by developing projects in their own communities.

Current programs/projects that could benefit from additional support include:

- Ocean Bridge, Youth to Sea Program and Direct Action Program have 60% self identify as marginalized/racialized youth
- Pilot accelerator program for alumni (supported by Canada Service Corps) microgrant and coaching
- Seaforestation Program - restoration working with Indigenous Nations - cultivating kelp for carbon sequestration, biodiversity and community benefits

Opportunities for investment exist to support accelerator and alumni projects that have met with success and are looking to build their programs and initiatives. Ocean Wise has a newly appointed Alumni Engagement Coordinator who would be a good contact for potential youth-led community-based projects.

Organisation Bleue / Blue Organization

Quebec

Contact: Anne-Marie Asselin, Founder, Marine biologist & Conservationist
(am@organisationbleue.org) www.organisationbleue.org

Type 1 Community-based Organizations
with Inconsistent Conservation Funding

Blue Organization is dedicated to environmental awareness, pushing the boundaries of innovation to deliver accurate information and finding accessible solutions. Launched in 2018 by a "generation dazed by the environmental alarmism of the mainstream media and the inertia of governments in the face of climate change" this nonprofit educates and inspires those on the front lines - youth - to action. **Women-led**, valued driven, with a small staff and annual budget of just over \$100,000, Blue Organization generates revenue through multi-media consulting focused on helping companies meet environmental targets, fundraising and strategic corporate partnerships. Blue Organization has a niche in the Francophone youth community and has created 'buzz' around their work through both traditional and social media.

Funding would support relationship building with Inuit communities and expanding the organizations presence in Atlantic Canada and the Arctic through two successful projects:

- Clean Up Tours
 - Reaching youth ages 18-35 by joining festivals on the coastline from the St. Lawrence up to the Gulf, each clean up engages 50 - 100 volunteers in action and research related to plastic waste in the marine environment.
 - In 2022 held 30 events in 3 months and have 20 clean up tours planned for the summer of 2023.
 - Funding would support project staffing to continue building relationships with Indigenous communities in Quebec, Labrador and Nunavut to bring clean up tours and research to these communities.
- Blue Expedition (ran as a pilot project in 2022)
 - An inclusive 'live science' research expedition led by women and 2SLGBTQIA+ scientists and crew in collaboration with creative writers and researcher. Researching micro and macro plastic pollution and witnessing climate change.
 - With funding this project could expand further to Labrador Sea, James Bay, and Nunavut.

Salmon Parks

Nootka Sound, BC

Contact: Eric Angel (eric@bigcanoe.ca), Roger Dunlop (lands@yuquot.ca)
<https://www.salmonparks.ca/>

Type 2 Indigenous with Inconsistent
Conservation Funding

Salmon Parks was established with a mission to "**protect and restore** expansive areas of forest habitat surrounding key salmon streams and to improve forest practices on the rest of the landscape." Led by the muwačath (Mowachaht/Muchalaht) and Nuchatlaht First Nations, Salmon Parks is focused on watersheds in Nootka Sound on Vancouver Island's west coast. As shown in their [10-minute film about the importance of salmon](#), a major threat to these streams is old growth logging. Part of the aim of Salmon Parks is to protect 20 percent of the lands surrounding salmon streams so that they can naturally regenerate. Salmon Parks strategy is to **build relationships** and **trust** with all players in the region, including recreational fishing lodges, tourism operators, forestry industry, and fishing industry.

A [recent article in the Seattle Times](#) featured Salmon Parks and includes excellent visuals and graphics that demonstrate the purpose and goals of this initiative.

Salmon Parks is a relatively recent initiative, with activity starting in fall 2022. They are in the process of applying for charitable status. Current projects that could benefit from grants include:

- Develop a holistic science agenda that is proactive - want to develop science agenda that is responsibility-based, not rights-based; this approach has a foundation in the Nuuchalnath belief system
- Policy development
- Engagement and convening of actors and potential partners
- Peer to peer learning

Sea Smart School Society

Vancouver, BC

Contact: Elaine Leung (elaine@seasmartschool.com) <https://seasmartschool.com/>

Type 1 **Community-based Organizations with Inconsistent Conservation Funding**

Sea Smart School Society began on the premise that kids are the future generation of environmental stewards and will need the skills to be empowered for conservation action. Sea Smart offers ocean based education programs, habitat stewardship and restoration activities, and shortline clean-ups.

- **Equity focus:** board composition is 100% women of color, 40% immigrants, 20% with disabilities; full time staff are 100% women, 80% women of color, 40% immigrants, 20% with disabilities; demographic of Sea Smart students 42% low-income, 12% disabilities, 28% immigrants/refugees, 27% Indigenous, 3% black, 46% POC
- **Reconciliation focus:** partnership with Selilwitulh (Tsleil Waututh) school that merges traditional knowledge with contemporary science

Educational programs are provided free to equity deserving groups, vulnerable youth, and low income families to help connect these kids to the ocean in intertidal zones. Funding has helped to bring kids to the ocean and help clean up shoreline (creating sense of stewardship and connection). Current programs/projects that could benefit from additional support include:

- Funding to cover rent of facilities to teach programs (Sea Smart Centre of Excellence), including larger office and storage space; currently summer camps are run outdoors but heat waves can make it difficult to operate at times; therefore would like to find an air conditioned indoor space that is large enough to run kids programs
- Delivery of online courses and virtual programming and free online educator resources
- Costs for beach clean ups (e.g., permits to run events with groups)
- School bus to operate their programs; kids don't always live in places accessible by public transit (this would also require proper certifications to operate bus, and ideally a permanent facility for bus parking)

SeaChange Marine Conservation Society

British Columbia

Contact: Sarah Cook Executive Director (sarahcook@seachangelife.org) & Nikki Wright (past Executive Director) (nikki@seachangelife.org) <https://seachangesociety.com/>

Type 3 **Well Resourced
Community-based Organizations**

SeaChange Marine Conservation Society "envision an **abundant and healthy coast** supporting generations of caring people who are actively caring for this place and the diverse culture it supports." The organization works at the nexus of conservation, restoration and education and work with Indigenous Nations through 'declarations of respect'. Eelgrass restoration is the interface between land and oceans and the organizations work increases the understanding of marine estuary environments.

The challenges faced by SeaChange are long term funding, building relationships with donors, turnover of government staff that impacts relationship building and more specifically securing funding to move the technology forward that SeaChange uses; they need long term investments in the asset, training and programs and capacity to use technology. Current programs that could benefit from additional support include:

- Education and production of training materials through visual media to reach younger audiences in both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities
- Long term monitoring of up to 5 years of eelgrass transplants
- Training for communities and for DFO on restoration

SmartICE

St John's, NL

Contact: Trevor Bell (tbell@mun.ca) <https://smartice.org/>

Type 4 Well Resourced Indigenous

SmartICE partners with Northern communities to help map sea ice and freshwater ice. There are currently ~35 partner communities that include Inuit communities across Inuit Nunangat and First Nations in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Through the provision of equipment and skills training, SmartICE helps to **empower communities** to map potentially hazardous conditions (e.g., cracks, thinning, leads, slush) that lead to harvesting areas, and to maximize the window for when winter roads can be built. As climate change is altering safety during freeze-up and melting, these are important tools for isolated communities. SmartICE has developed a global reputation for merging technology and Indigenous knowledge. They have spent the last six years working to document this learning (e.g., illustrated sea ice knowledge books that are distributed to all houses in partner communities). Other notables:

- The organization is actively working towards becoming fully **Indigenous-led**. The board of directors is now more than 50% Indigenous, more than 50% of full time staff are Indigenous (around 25 full time positions), and 100% of seasonal positions in communities are Indigenous (50-75 seasonal positions).
- Stationary sea ice sensors won the Arctic Inspiration Prize because it was designed by the North for the North.
- Focus on NEET individuals (not in education, employment, and training). NEET youth are those "who need to be lifted up" and are given training and skills.

Current initiatives that could benefit from additional grants include:

- Development of more training curriculum and culturally sensitive protocols; Inuit culture is unwritten and requires constant repetition (which takes ample time); need to enable Inuit trainees to be successful in their own ways and meet their needs
- Development of more training materials for satellite reading - satellite imagery can be used for mapping sea ice conditions and can also be used during summer months to track caribou and other large mammals
- Feasibility study for the development of a new technology assembly/production centre in Arviat; this study would include bringing leaders from Nain (Labrador) who can help share learnings about the production centre that they have

Students On Ice Foundation

Québec

Contact: Geoff Green (geoff@soifoundation.org) <https://soifoundation.org/en/>

Type 5 National-level Organizations

Students On Ice Foundation (SOI) operates mostly in polar regions, using ships as classrooms and laboratories. The organization was founded more than 20 years ago, and in the last five years SOI have **focused more on Indigenous-led initiatives and conservation**. 50 percent of youth who participate in SOI are Indigenous (mostly Inuit), most of whom are fully funded for participation. Through their on-ship programs, SOI engages mental health, careers, environment, flora, fauna, and research. Expeditions bring together scientists, leaders, artists, educators and others who can contribute to SOI's **holistic approach to education**.

SOI has been endorsed as an official Ocean Decade program (UN Decade of the Ocean). The focus for 2023 is along the Labrador coast and with the Innu Nation. Innu have two distinct coastal areas that they are looking to protect. SOI is also working with Nunatsiavut in the Torngat area where they are looking at creating a protected area that will contribute towards 30 by 30 goals.

A program called Blue Futures Pathways, largely for Indigenous youth, is focused on bringing the blue economy to Canadian youth. In 2022, SOI placed 450 youth in internships. The main funding for this program has been the Canadian Oceans Supercluster.

Beyond core funding that contributes to scholarships and participation of youth, current needs for SOI focus on capital costs:

- Mobile container laboratory - a mobile laboratory built within a shipping container; SOI know exactly what they want and are looking for approximately \$200,000 investment
- Smaller vessel to go on one of their ships - following COVID-19 pandemic, SOI found the need to be adaptable and flexible on ships

Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources (UINR)

Cape Breton, Nova Scotia

Contact: Lisa Young, Executive Director (lisa@uinr.ca) , Shelley Denny, Director of Aquatic Research and Stewardship (shelley.denny@uinr.ca) www.uinr.ca/

Type 4 **Well Resourced Indigenous**

Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources was established in 1999 and represents the five Mi'kmaq communities in Unama'ki/Cape Breton; Eskasoni, Membertou, Potlotek, Wagmatcook and We'koqmaq. UINR integrates Netukulimk (**traditional Mi'kmaq management**) with traditional and conventional ways of understanding, known as Etuaptmumk (Two-Eyed Seeing), to lead best-management practices in Unama'ki/Cape Breton. UINR is responsible for aquatic research and stewardship, species management, traditional Mi'kmaq knowledge, conserved and protected areas, water quality monitoring, and environmental partnerships.

UINR is well established and networked in Atlantic Canada. The organization benefits from dedicated core staffing and have clear processes to engage communities based on previous experience but is challenged by funding gaps in long-term project implementation and competing priorities on limited staff time and resources. Current projects that could benefit from additional support include:

- Marine IPCAs
 - Phase 1 with a focus on raising awareness is funded and planned for Spring 2023, Phase 2 focusing on strengthening governance and convening structures related to marine conservation within the communities UINR serves could use funding to engage a consultant to hold community meetings.
- Barachois Ponds of Bras d'Or Lake
 - The Barachois Ponds are a subset of coastal saline ponds that are a significant fishing and cultural resource. The policy landscape is complicated across municipal, provincial and federal departments. Work to strengthen policy to ensure fishing and cultural practises of UINR communities is needed.

Watershed Watch Salmon Society

Vancouver, BC

Contact: Aaron Hill (aaron@watershedwatch.ca) <https://watershedwatch.ca/>

Type 3 Well Resourced
Community-based Organizations

Watershed Watch Salmon Society (WWSS) is a conservation advocacy organization for wild Pacific salmon. WWSS emphasises the vital importance of salmon to coastal ecosystems, cultures and economies in BC. A small staff (currently 8) with a mix of science, policy, and advocacy backgrounds strategically focus on areas where their efforts are most needed in relation to wild salmon policy and provincial strategies. WWSS has been effective in their work by marrying science and policy expertise with advocacy expertise, and by gathering support and partnerships with First Nations to **engage and mobilize** powerful public constituencies.

WWSS have received philanthropic support but their largest source of funding will soon be ending. WWSS prefers to avoid large government grants as they are an advocacy organization, and they are now working to rebuild philanthropic support. A series of specific ideas that could be supported by Oceans Collaborative grants are provided in supporting documents (**see supporting documents folder**). A summary of current projects that could benefit from additional support includes:

- Continue to grow their politically diverse constituency via email and social media.
- Hire an established Indigenous filmmaker to produce short videos that uplift First Nations voices and stories around protecting wild salmon and the risks posed by open net-pen salmon farms; this work would include collaboration or partnership with First Nations allies in the production (e.g. First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance)
- Fund DNA analyses on Chinook branded as "Sustainable, Wild, Alaskan" to establish beyond doubt that these salmon are in fact BC and Washington State-origin fish from either (a) endangered populations, or (b) populations that endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales depend upon for survival, or both