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Letter from Leadership

Throughout 2019 and early 2020, everyone involved in MEOPAR—from its management, to its administrative centre, its Board of Directors, Research Management Committee, researchers, HQP and partners—has been focussed on both maximizing our impact within the current funding cycle and exploring strategies for sustaining important MEOPAR contributions into the future. At the centre of this is the Network's greatest asset: its ability to bring people and ideas together from across sectors and the country—to share knowledge, make connections and build bridges in the name of Canada's future ocean sector. And the past year's strides were reflective of just that.

Key collaborations and promising partnerships were at the centre of 2019-20. MEOPAR continued to play a significant role in the evolution of the Canadian Integrated Ocean Observing System (CIOOS) and joined forces with Réseau Québec Maritime (RQM) to commit to jointly fund multi-disciplinary, inter-provincial research in the St. Lawrence system. We also celebrated the establishment of the National Research Vessel Task Team (NRVTT), bringing together a team of Canadian and international researchers, industry and government partners to develop a vision for the future of Canada's vessel needs for offshore research.

These major initiatives complement the broad range of MEOPAR ocean and coastal research projects, which total well over 100 to date.

The postdoctoral fellowship funding program welcomed another cohort of promising postdocs, spanning disciplines and corners of the country, to the Network, while 2018-19's award recipients celebrated funding renewals and career milestones. Through our knowledge mobilization program, we launched a fund dedicated to creative, innovative research dissemination activities and engaged the public in three exciting Fathom Fund crowdfunding campaigns.

As MEOPAR pursues options for a post-NCE transition, we are committed to supporting a strategic understanding of the science and research needs of the ocean sector and moving our scientific knowledge into key actions to protect our marine environment and Canadians' use and enjoyment of it. With the progress and partnerships made throughout 2019-20—and over the past eight years—we are confident that our role in strengthening Canada's research capacity in the changing marine environment will remain vital through 2022 and beyond.

KAREN DODDS, Chair of the Board

DOUG WALLACE, Scientific Director

RON PELOT, Associate Scientific Director

About MEOPAR

Established in 2012, the Marine Environmental Observation, Prediction and Response Network (MEOPAR) is a national Network of Centres of Excellence that connects top marine researchers across the country with highly qualified personnel (HQP), partners and communities. Built on the concept of a coordinated Canadian approach to ocean research, MEOPAR aims to train the next generation of marine research professionals, fund leading-edge research and bridge research results to real-world solutions.

VISIT **meopar.ca** FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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Board of Directors, 2019-20

CHAIR: Dr. Karen Dodds, Retired Assistant Deputy Minister, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Dr. Pierre Baril, administrateur d'état, Ministère de L'Environnement et de la lutte contre les changements climatiques

Dr. Neil Bose, Vice President (Research), Memorial University

Ms. Amanda Dean, Vice President, Atlantic, Insurance Bureau of Canada

Ms. Angie Gillis, Senior Director, The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaw, Mi'kmaw Conservation Group

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Dr. Stewart Fast, Senior Program Manager, Network of Centres of Excellence (Observer)

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Stefan Leslie, Executive Director (to August 2019)

Heather Desserud, Manager, Communications and Strategy (to October 2019)

Alexa Reedman, Manager, Research Program (to August 2019) and Program Manager, CIOOS (to May 2020)

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Dr. Brad deYoung, Memorial University

Dr. Christiane Dufresne (HQP, non-voting), Université du Québec à Rimouski

Dr. Dany Dumont, Université du Québec à Rimouski

Dr. Brent Else, University of Calgary

Dr. Stewart Fast (NCE Representative, non-voting)

Dr. Sherilee Harper, University of Alberta

Ms. Helen C. Joseph, HCJ Consulting

Dr. Denis Lefaivre, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Dr. Phil Loring, University of Guelph

Dr. William (Bill) Merryfield, University of Victoria/Environment Climate Change Canada

Dr. Rich Pawlowicz, University of British Columbia

Dr. Ronald Pelot, MEOPAR

Mr. Brian Pentz (HQP, non-voting), University of Toronto

Mr. Jamal Shirley, Nunavut Research Institute

Dr. Nadja Steiner, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Dr. Martin Taylor, University of Victoria

Dr. Isabelle Tremblay, MEOPAR

Photo: Karim Sakhibgareev, Unsplash

71

active research
projects

\$5,501,020

total funds granted to research

91

Principal Investigators

158

attendees at 2019 ASM

26

Network members

Photo: Amundsen Science Data Collection.
ROV imagery collected by the CCGS
Amundsen in the Canadian Arctic, 2018.
Baffin Bay.

HIGHLIGHTS: Research Program

For the last eight years, MEOPAR has supported solutions-oriented research addressing both the risks associated with direct human impacts on the marine environment as well as the risks and opportunities connected to marine environmental change. MEOPAR's Research Program fosters a networked, multi-disciplinary approach to increasing knowledge of the physical, ecological, economic and technological changes and phenomena associated with marine risk and translating findings into valuable solutions for Canadians.

EARLY CAREER FACULTY

In 2019-20, the Research Program continued to provide support to its network researchers via project funding and core activities, strengthening the capacity of the network through new collaborative research initiatives. As part of this, MEOPAR's cohort of Early Faculty Career award recipients developed new collaborations, secured new sources of funding and had a successful first field season from the Skeena Estuary in British Columbia to Muskrat Falls in Newfoundland and Labrador to Nunavut's Kitikmeot region.

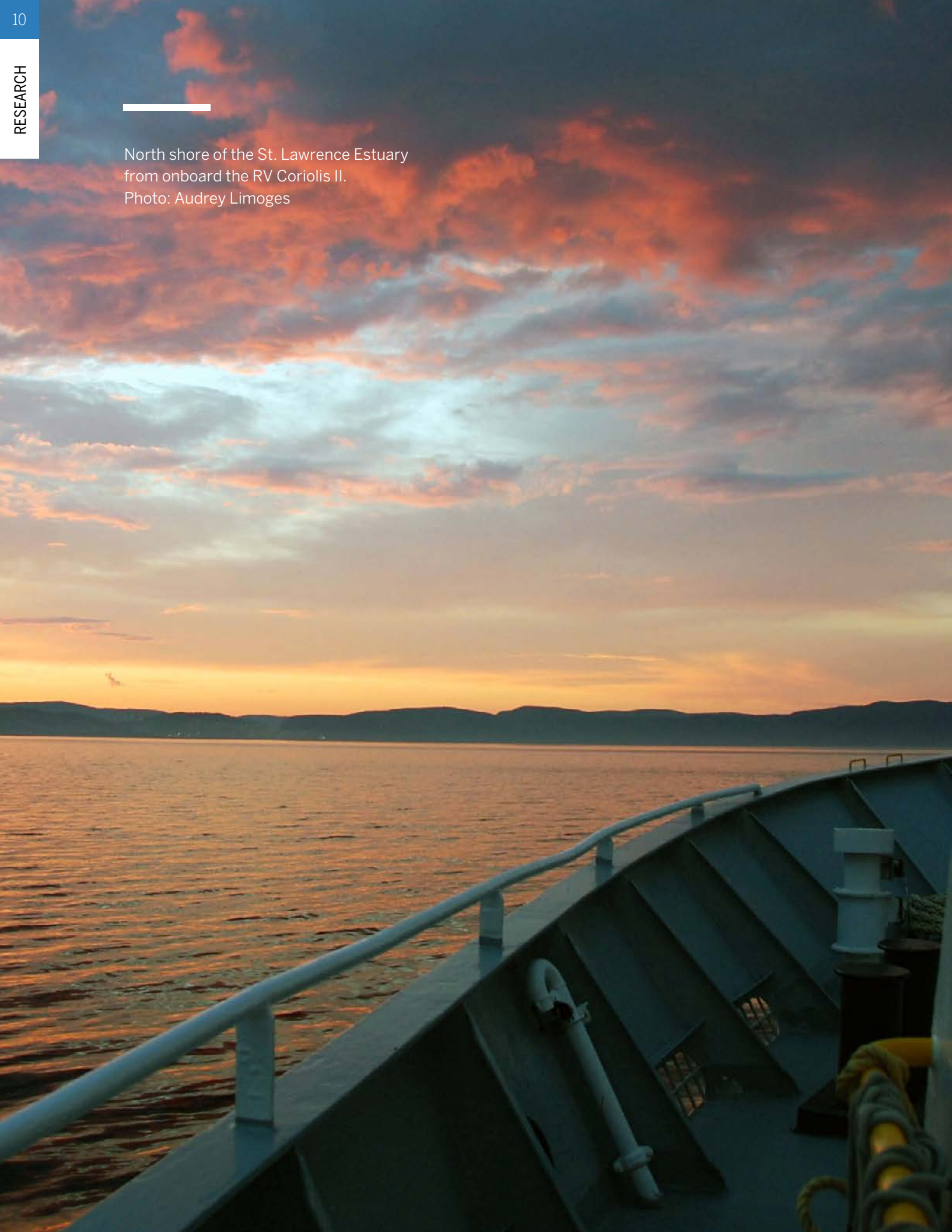
TRACER RELEASE EXPERIMENT

MEOPAR's Observation, Prediction and Response Cores were highly involved in initiatives and activities that provided continued support to the research community, decision-makers and industry professionals. All three cores were instrumental in developing a major multisectoral and multidisciplinary experiment in the Gulf of St. Lawrence: the Tracer Release Experiment (TReX). Beginning in 2020, field experiments involving tracer and drifter releases will allow measurement and modelling of oceanic dispersion and will act as a research aggregator for diverse disciplines and organizations. Réseau Québec Maritime (RQM) has also been a key collaborator in the TReX project.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Two MEOPAR programs designed to position researchers for success through long-term partnership and national collaboration debuted in 2019. The Investigator Networking Fund connected MEOPAR's researchers with government and not-for-profit sectors across multiple subjects, organizations and jurisdictions, supporting activities that encourage the formation of new research partnerships and the mobilization of research capacity. Through the Core Events Fund, MEOPAR's Response Core received financial support to organize and host a virtual National Forum on Coastal Community Resilience in September 2020.

North shore of the St. Lawrence Estuary
from onboard the RV Coriolis II.
Photo: Audrey Limoges



EXPLORING RISK-ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE IN THE ST. LAWRENCE

MEOPAR and RQM collaborate on jointly funded, interdisciplinary research

A standout achievement from 2019-20 was the growth of MEOPAR's relationship with Réseau Québec Maritime (RQM) and Quebec's ocean research community. Over the last year, this highly collaborative partnership was reinforced through an inaugural joint call for proposals focusing on issues related to the St. Lawrence system and led by investigators representing both MEOPAR and RQM. Together, the organizations committed to support this science with over \$1 million over the next two years.

"The partnership between MEOPAR and RQM comes from the necessity of increasing the collaborations and the promotion of multidisciplinary actions across our geographical, institutional and cultural frontiers," says RQM's Director, Dany Dumont. "It will enable us to develop and grow our relationship with each other and our field of study."

MEOPAR and RQM funded two proposals that combine natural and social sciences to tackle issues of risk assessment and response. The first project aims to help coastal communities better understand the changes in their environment, exploring both bio- and geo-hazards during sediment remobilization events in the Lower St. Lawrence Estuary and using a combination of natural science and the arts to communicate their work. The second focuses on Baie-Saint-Paul and the Upper St. Lawrence Estuary and its expected heightened exposure to hazards like earthquakes, strong tides and ice jams in the face of climate change.

"These are outstanding initiatives which combine complementary skills in science and social science to tackle complex issues in the St. Lawrence system," says Ron Pelot, MEOPAR's Associate Scientific Director. "The projects' respective outcomes include better understanding of the physical phenomena, of the social and environmental impacts of the stressors, and increased research capacity through data collection, model development, and student training," he says. "The engagement with multiple stakeholders will allow for better decision-making and management of the resources."



Photo: Margaret Cramm

FROM BENTHIC BIOLOGY TO BLIZZARD

A dispatch from the Investigator Networking Fund

When University of Calgary researcher Margaret Cramm headed to St. John's to collaborate with Fisheries and Oceans Canada research scientist Dr. Bárbara de Moura Neves, getting snowed in wasn't a part of her plan.

The two were teaming up as part of MEOPAR's Investigator Networking Fund, bringing U Calgary's Geomicrobiology Group and de Moura Neves together to expand on a microbial study near a methane seep in Scott Inlet, Baffin Bay. Using ROV footage collected from the CCGS Amundsen—which Cramm and de Moura Neves were aboard together—they planned to perform a benthic megafauna diversity assessment over a number of days in January that would wind up being historic ones.

“It's kind of a perfect example of how collaboration is so important and how experiences as a scientist in the field meeting people, or meeting people wherever you meet them, can lead to the bettering of both our sciences,” says Cramm. “I really believe in interdisciplinary collaboration.”

Half-way into their networking activity, the city began to prepare for a massive storm. With DFO's Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Centre offices scheduled to close because of the impending blizzard, Cramm and de Moura Neves packed up computers and screens and prepared for a day of working from home.

“I walked over to her house next morning from my Airbnb and I thought I was walking in the blizzard, but then it just got worse,” says Cramm. “We took a break in the afternoon and put on snowshoes—the trees were being pushed over by the wind—and even that wasn't the blizzard.” By evening they decided the two-foot drifts were big enough that Cramm should stay the night. The next morning, snow had nearly entirely filled the door frame. The record-breaking snowfall had left St. John's facing a state of emergency, and Cramm and de Moura Neves hunkered down together throughout it.

“We had planned the four working days to kind of get us started and I think what was really cool was, because of the extra time we didn't have to work remotely to finish it. We were sitting there with lots of time and brainstorming different ways to be looking at this data. I think that the being there the extra week kind of rooted the collaboration,” says Cramm. “Having that time dedicated to this project meant we could really sit down and plan and develop a story strategy on how we'd present. The product and vision were clearer. It's almost like, the house we were building had more glue to hold it together.”

2nd Year PGOV students, Chloe Walker
and Bailey Chisholm with Kikkert
in Kugluktuk



TOWARDS EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE

How one Early Career project is bringing people together to improve safety measures in Northern waters

Peter Kikkert knows the value of strength in numbers. The recipient of MEOPAR's Early Career Faculty funding and St. FX University's Irving Shipbuilding Chair in Arctic Policy is working to strengthen community search and rescue efforts in Nunavut's Kitikmeot region by bringing organizations and regions together to share their experiences with, and capacity for, providing emergency response both locally and regionally.

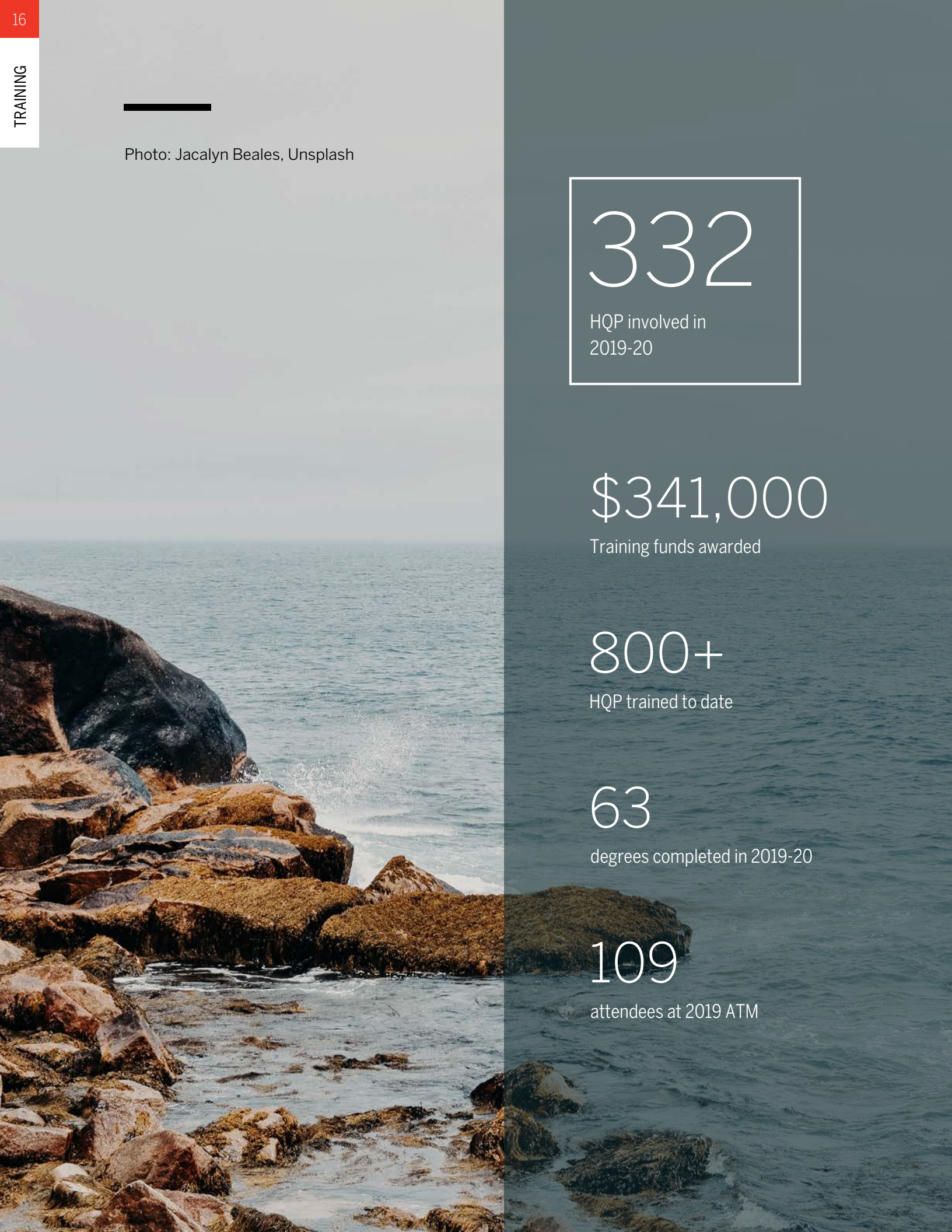
Inspired by his conversations with search and rescue practitioners and community members, Kikkert co-organized a roundtable in Kitikmeot, facilitating a discussion about best practices, lessons learned and future requirements for local search and rescue. The event brought together 39 members of the community-based organizations responsible for search and rescue in Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak and Kugaaruk, as well as representatives from federal and territorial agencies and academics. Together, they shared knowledge that will strengthen community resilience and save lives.

Within one field season, Kikkert's project (*Horizontal Capacity-Mapping to Support Capability-Based Planning and Capacity-Building for Community-Based Maritime and Coastal Search and Rescue and Emergency Response in the Kitikmeot Region of Nunavut*) has already garnered attention nationally and internationally as well as leveraged further funding. A keen interest from the Joint Task Force North (a Canadian Armed Forces regional task force dealing with disaster relief) resulted in an invitation for Kikkert to deliver a briefing to the Arctic Security Working Group, which works collaboratively on human security and safety issues in the North. He also attended the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program in 2019, participating in a session about Arctic search and rescue.





Photo: Jacalyn Beales, Unsplash



332

HQP involved in
2019-20

\$341,000

Training funds awarded

800+

HQP trained to date

63

degrees completed in 2019-20

109

attendees at 2019 ATM

HIGHLIGHTS: Training Program

Canada's capacity to observe, predict and respond to current and future marine risk depends on the academic and professional preparation of the next generation of marine researchers and professionals. MEOPAR works with its partners to provide value-added learning experiences that help prepare highly qualified personnel (HQP) to become leaders in marine research and science. The network connects HQP and researchers across Canada through MEOPAR-led programs and by enhancing opportunity with externally organized programming, ensuring that MEOPeers gain in-demand skills and experience that positions them for success.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

Aiming to empower postdoctoral fellows in marine research to take full advantage of professional development and career-building opportunities via top-up funding, the Postdoctoral Fellowship (PDF) Awards launched in 2018, garnering interest from a pool of promising candidates. The trend of strong applications continued into 2019-20, with MEOPAR awarding eight PDF awards to committed scholars across Canada from disciplines including archaeology, education, oceanography and political science.

TRAINING WORKSHOP AWARDS

MEOPAR's Training Workshop Awards provide HQP with financial support to participate in unique, value-added training opportunities that complement their academic and project-based experience, funding up to 60% of the costs for eligible highly qualified personnel to travel to and attend a training session. Fifteen trainees from six universities across Canada were granted funding that allowed them to pursue specialized training in 2019-20.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES + CAREER DEVELOPMENT

In April 2019, MEOPAR hosted the Marine Planning Process (MPP) workshop in collaboration with Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment and Dalhousie University. The workshop was designed for industry, public and not-for-profit professionals who make decisions regarding coastal and marine uses and resources, as well as those seeking a better understanding of marine planning decision-making. In June, MEOPAR's Annual Training (ATM) and Annual Scientific Meetings (ASM) were held in June in Victoria, BC. Seventy-eight HQP participated in the ATM, which featured panels on working as a marine researcher in government, industry and academia and included a full-day workshop on project management as well as sessions on research ethics, media training and work-life balance.

Photo: Nathan Dumlao, Unsplash



ALEXANDRA DAVIS' BIG PICTURE FOCUS

Meet one of 2019-20's Postdoctoral Fellowship Award recipients

Growing up in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Alexandra Davis was always fascinated by the ocean. Though she didn't see it with her own eyes until she was 12 or 13, she remembers being curious about marine science early on—"I think that stems from being raised in the desert."

A Bachelor's degree in English literature landed her in Monterey Bay, California but it was the water that kept her there for more academic work. A degree in marine science gave her the opportunity to study GIS, seafloor mapping and science diving.



"It was a really cool way of helping me create a holistic picture for how we can look at marine science from a bunch of different angles. I think of myself as an ecologist, but I love looking at the bigger picture. I love studying fish, but I really like how things work together. That for me is one of the biggest driving forces in where I seek opportunities. Can I work with people who are looking at big picture things?"

That holistic focus led her to pursue her postdoctoral fellowship with the University of Alberta's Dr. Stephanie Green, who she says is "is looking at science in a way that I'm trying to make sure I look at science in." There, Davis is leading research to develop new interactive conservation tools to inform the spatial management of marine invasive species. She's building on her past work with Indo-Pacific lionfish and expanding her framework to manage European green crab populations, an initiative her Postdoctoral Fellowship award from MEOPAR supports.

Davis is also an advocate for equity, diversity and inclusion in marine science, a passion that's led her to play an active role in programs and committees that strategize solutions and, more importantly, bring awareness to issues women and people of colour face in academic settings.

"It sprung out of a need to find other people like me when I was a graduate student. Because I've always been, one, a woman in STEM [Science Technology Engineering Mathematics], but also a visible minority in STEM and the departments I work in, I have just always felt like an outsider," she says. "It's a weird place to be in because you feel like you're representing an entire group, being the only one within your working group. So, just making it so that others who come later don't have to have that feeling of aloneness is my motivation for this."

Photo: Charles Brunette



LESSONS FROM A EUROPEAN RESEARCH STAY

From Toulouse to Bremen with the Research Internship & Visiting Fellowship program

In April 2019, MEOPAR put out an open call for its Research Internship and Visiting Fellowship funding, which enables highly qualified personnel to build national and international connections that will strengthen their research careers inside and outside of academia. Throughout the year, 12 trainees from five institutions were granted this funding—including McGill University PhD student Charles Brunette.

In January 2020, he set off on his European research stay, with stops planned at the Centre Européen de Recherche et de Formation Avancée en Calcul Scientifique's (CERFACS) Climate and Climate Change Modelling Group (GLOBC) in Toulouse, France and the Institute for Environmental Physics (IUP) in Bremen, Germany. Though his five-month trip was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Brunette built connections, attended seminars and received valuable feedback on his work during his stay.

“Just wading in that pool of researchers—especially in Toulouse, in France, it’s amazing the concentration of research centres about climate, climate modeling, climate research,” says Brunette, who studies seasonal and regional predictions of sea ice in the Arctic Ocean. “Being there was very beneficial for knowing what was going on in Europe, knowing what kind of research is being done and bringing that back here. I’m nearing the end of my PhD and moving forward, I want to stay in research, and it motivates me to continue.”

The networking piece was the main goal for Brunette—who aimed to grow his relationships with researchers in Germany and build new ones in France—but an unexpected takeaway for his professional development was the ability to react and adjust.

“This trip was sort of an extreme case of, well, you have to adapt to whatever you need. And that was obviously COVID,” he says of his quick decision to return to Montreal in March. “But it was also fun things. Two weeks into the trip, I got the invitation from MEOPAR to go to Brussels to participate in the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Forum and that was amazing. That was not in my initial plan, but I thought, there’s a new door opening, *let’s just go in and see what’s there.*”

Photo: Kim-Ly Thompson



HQP SPOTLIGHT: KIM-LY THOMPSON

The community-based researcher feels “a responsibility” towards the Gitga’at Territory

It’s been seven years since Kim-Ly Thompson first began her research in British Columbia’s Hartley Bay as an undergrad student. After working with the North Coast Cetacean Society and as a data analyst with the Gitga’at First Nation’s Oceans and Lands department, she was inspired to take her work in the region further as a master’s student and was linked up with University of Victoria’s Natalie Ban.

As an HQP on Ban’s MEOPAR-funded research project *Investigating and Informing Indigenous Marine Monitoring and Management as a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy*, she’s spent the last two years addressing a gap in monitoring by connecting Indigenous knowledge and science as well as social and ecological monitoring with goal of developing an Indigenous-led monitoring and modelling framework. Ban says, she’s been the project’s champion.

“It was really important to be doing work with the community but also understanding that I’m not a Gitga’at member, I don’t know the history—and so really who better to direct a project than Gitga’at people themselves if it has to do with their territory and their communities?” says Thompson. “It’s interesting to try to find where the skills of academic researchers can actually be of use to community while also meeting academic needs.”

“It’s their home since time immemorial, long-standing doesn’t even cut it. The place is who they are and I feel lucky to be able to offer skills that I have, and that Natalie has as well, to help leverage the knowledge that comes from that connection—in order to help meet the needs of the nation itself.”

Along with Thompson, Ban’s project has hired local high school students to assist with community interviews, as well as a Gitga’at community coordinator, who Thompson credits as the person leading the way these days. They continue to share data and findings with various community organizations—like the Oceans and Lands Department, the Health Department and schools—to help inform conversations about stewardship, rights and titles, traditional foods and well-being.

Thompson’s next steps include pursuing her PhD at Simon Fraser University, which will allow her to continue to expand her research, and connection, in the region. “It’s very much home at this point, and my second family is there,” she says. “And I feel a responsibility towards the community, as well as the territory, because I know how much the community relies on a healthy territory for everything.”

154

Partners

\$10,140,124

leveraged partnership funding
in 2019-20

Photo: Ivan Bandura, Unsplash

HIGHLIGHTS: Partners & Collaborations

The MEOPAR network collaborates with partners that span levels of government, sectors, industry and non-profit. The number and diversity of MEOPAR partners has continued to grow over the past year, and engagement levels have consistently increased. MEOPAR continues to be well-positioned to act as a broker, bringing key organizations together to generate and implement solutions to address Canada's ocean challenges. Cooperation is critical to the success of the national ocean research landscape and MEOPAR's approach continues to be focused on further developing our relationships.

NETWORK PARTNERSHIPS

One of MEOPAR's most prominent partnerships over the past year was with Réseau Québec Maritime (RQM), which resulted in a joint call for proposals to fund research projects that promote the sustainable development and protection of the St. Lawrence system and improve the well-being of coastal communities. Through the projects funded, the aim is to strengthen connections between researchers, as well as partners, organizations and communities, combining provincial funding and national expertise for mutual benefit.

Working in close cooperation with the Ocean Frontier Institute and the Ocean Tracking Network, MEOPAR played a significant role in attracting the International Project Office (IPO) of the International Marine Biosphere Research Project (IMBeR) to Canada. IMBeR promotes integrated marine research for sustainable, productive and healthy oceans for the benefit of society. The main tasks of the IPO are to assist in the planning and implementation of scientific research, serve as a channel of communication between scientists working in different countries on various aspects of global change and assist in collating information on national and regional programmes of global change research.

In 2019-20, MEOPAR attended, participated in and sponsored conferences and events across the country and abroad, including H2O – Home To Overseas Conference, Halifax's Oceans Week, Ocean Frontier Institute's annual meeting, as well as their UN Decade event, the Canadian Science Policy Conference, AtlantOS Symposium, the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Forum, the National Marine Education Association Conference, the Clean Summit 2.0, the Inuit Studies Conference and the RQM/ROBVQ/MEOPAR Grand Forum. MEOPAR also partnered with the Coastal Zone Canada Association to co-host and co-sponsor the next international conference "Iqaluit 2020 - Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit: Planning and Preparing for the Future," currently rescheduled for 2021.



Photo: Laura Dalman

CIOOS enters its next phase

The evolution of the Canadian Integrated Ocean Observing System (CIOOS) is a shining example of partnership in action. The collaborative initiative continued to bring Canadian ocean data management closer to best practices in both Europe and the United States and work towards establishing a long-term, sustainable model for the organization throughout 2019-20.

Alongside Fisheries and Oceans Canada, MEOPAR helped lead CIOOS through the completion of Phase 1, during which Regional Associations (RAs) in the Atlantic, Pacific and St. Lawrence regions established strong foundations. Over the past year, the RAs successfully completed their initial workplans and worked together on various committees and working groups to bring the organization to life, with the soft-launch of its national website in March 2020. MEOPAR offered project management guidance through membership on both the CIOOS Executive Committee and Communications Committee while the network's Observation Core offered expertise via its Ocean Data Management Community of Practice.

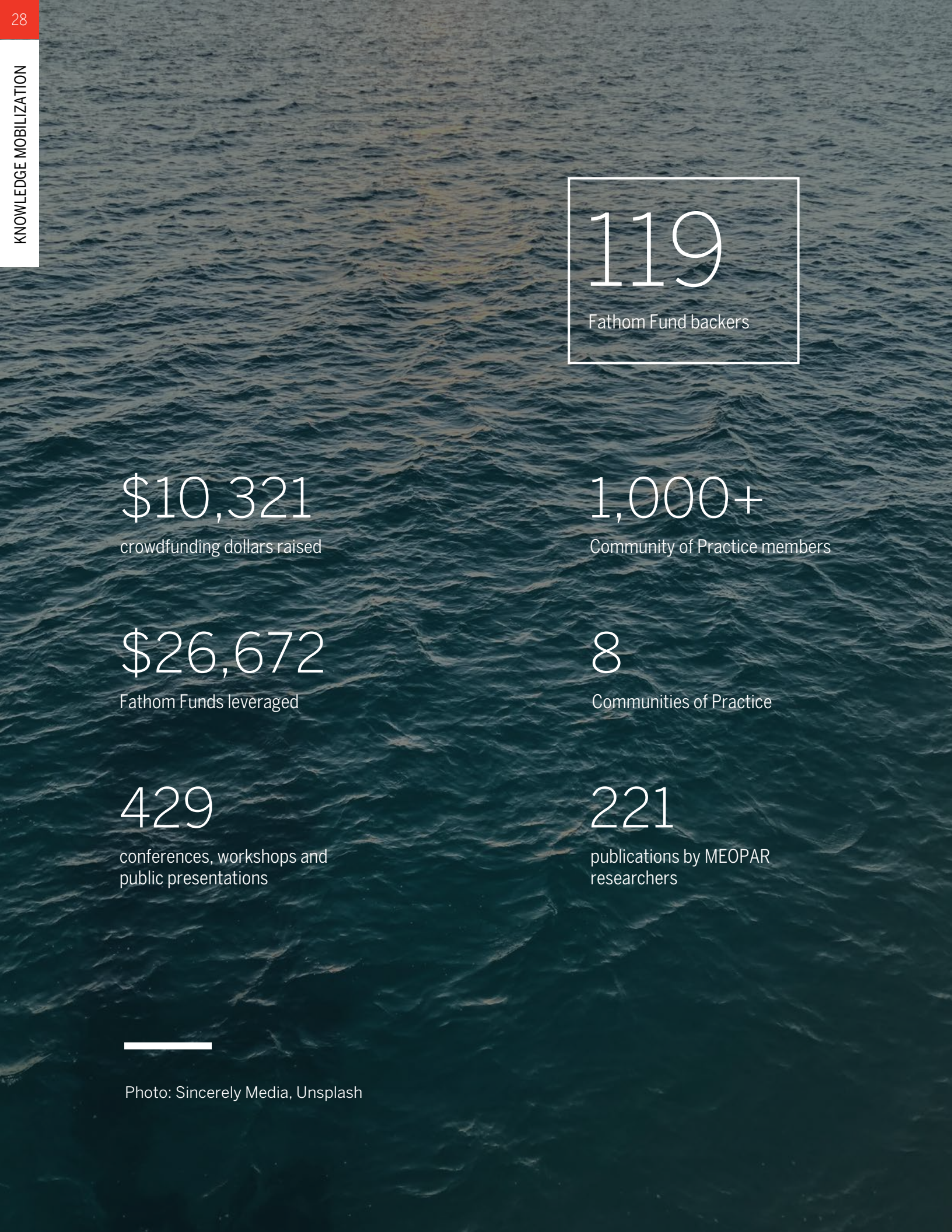
In January 2020, MEOPAR released the second request for proposals for CIOOS and sub-committee of MEOPAR's Research Management Committee (RMC) reviewed the submitted work plans, providing recommendations to both Fisheries and Oceans Canada and MEOPAR. As CIOOS navigates its second phase, MEOPAR and its RMC look forward to providing continued guidance and support to various levels of the organization and working to ensure it is set up for long-term success.

MEOPAR launches the National Research Vessel Task Team

The past year also marked the establishment of the National Research Vessel Task Team (NRVTT). Born out of MEOPAR's 2018-19 examination of the gaps and obstacles precluding marine researchers from accessing ship time to conduct experiments on Canada's offshore waters, this initiative brings together a team of Canadian and international researchers, industry and government partners to develop a vision for the future of Canada's vessel needs for offshore research.

"Through the National Research Vessel Task Team, we are working to connect individuals and organizations across Canada that operate or require access to research vessels," says Doug Wallace, NRVTT co-chair. "The goal is to analyze and communicate needs and opportunities across different regions and sectors in Canada, and build a community that can work efficiently in collaborative planning of such expensive yet vital research infrastructure."

The sector-spanning NRVTT hosted its inaugural meeting via videoconference in February 2020, discussing necessary next steps and how to take them. In March, Wallace and co-chair Doug Bancroft (CSSR-ROPOS) outlined a proposed solution to Canada's research crisis in their whitepaper *Modular Ocean Research Infrastructure (MORI): A Flexible, Scalable and Affordable Approach to Ocean-going Research in Canada and Worldwide*, which was published in the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society's bulletin. The concept advocates deploying temporary modular, portable infrastructure on industry and non-specialized vessels, in turn converting them to sophisticated and capable RVs.



119

Fathom Fund backers

\$10,321

crowdfunding dollars raised

1,000+

Community of Practice members

\$26,672

Fathom Funds leveraged

8

Communities of Practice

429

conferences, workshops and
public presentations

221

publications by MEOPAR
researchers

HIGHLIGHTS: Knowledge Mobilization

With the overarching goal of highlighting the impact that the MEOPAR network has had, and continues to have, the Communications and Knowledge Mobilization Program strives to spotlight successes, share results and foster collaborations. In 2019-20, MEOPAR continued its efforts to disseminate information to the audiences who can put it to use, including end-users, partners, decision-makers and the public.

FATHOM FUND

Aimed at finding innovative ways of connecting researchers to communities, partners and the public, the Fathom Fund launched in late 2018, using a crowdfunding component as the litmus test for identifying projects with the ability to resonate beyond academia. This program supports researchers as they campaign to raise 25% of their project costs via public donations. If that target is reached, MEOPAR's Fathom Fund contributes the remaining balance to the project's budget and then monitors its progress as it would a traditional research project. Over the last fiscal year, the program continued to grow its cohort of researchers, supporting two new projects through their crowdfunding campaigns and into the field. A third successful Fathom Fund campaign aims to begin field work in 2020. MEOPAR also explored the innovative ways that crowd involvement can positively influence scientific research, organizing a panel and discussion at the annual Canadian Science Policy Conference.

KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION FUND

July 2019 marked the launch the Knowledge Mobilization (KM) Fund, a program that supports high-impact knowledge mobilization and dissemination activities from past and current MEOPAR researchers. Seeking creative communicators, this fund gives preference to ideas that spark the imagination, aiming to reach past academic audiences in purpose-driven ways.

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

Since Cycle I, MEOPAR has contributed to the creation of eight Communities of Practice (CoPs)—independent, grassroots initiatives that are vital in mobilizing knowledge, enriching research and encouraging collaboration between academics, policymakers and community groups. Representing multiple disciplines across the network, the CoPs work to keep MEOPAR's diverse collective of researchers up to speed on new developments and relevant information gaps. The CoPs form a key component of the Network's planned legacy. This year, they thrived, with over half reporting 40 to 100 percent growth in membership.

Photo: Summer Locknick



A DEEP DIVE INTO RIP CURRENTS

Fathom Fund recipient studies the social dimensions of beach safety in PEI

It's estimated that 80% of Canada's drownings and rescues can be linked back to rip currents, but is the average beachgoer even considering the risks associated with their favourite shoreline? Curious about the social dimensions of the common hazard, University of Windsor Master's student Summer Locknick applied to MEOPAR's Fathom Fund with the aim of spending her namesake season doing research on this topic at two of Prince Edward Island's most popular tourist beaches. She hoped her findings would help inform safety strategies, resulting in less drownings long-term. Thirty-six Kickstarter backers did too, donating over \$6,000 towards her project costs and unlocking top-up funds from MEOPAR.

"I thought the Fathom Fund would be a good fit for my research project because it didn't fall into the traditional natural science and engineering projects that typically get funded," says Locknick. "It was a unique opportunity to get the community involved, since they are the ones who ultimately benefit from the research."

"It was a unique opportunity to get the community involved, since they are the ones who ultimately benefit from the research."

In partnership with Parks Canada, she administered over 500 surveys to folks at Cavendish and Brackley beaches on PEI's north coast, gathering information on beachgoer behaviour and background as well as coastal knowledge. Locknick also conducted a photo study to track conditions, beach morphology, the number of people in the water and where they chose to sit. Based on her early findings, she was able to make recommendations to Parks Canada regarding safety strategies.

Her work on the shore attracted media attention and earned Locknick the Canadian Drowning Prevention Coalition's Drowning Prevention Award in Research. She also co-authored a chapter on rip currents in *Sandy Beach Morphodynamics*, released in spring of 2020.

"Public crowdfunding from Fathom Fund allowed the general public to become more interested in my research. I believe that without it, I would not have been given the same opportunities with media, in-kind contributions and the Drowning Prevention Award," says Locknick. "Fathom Fund gave me the platform to reach a high number of people who otherwise might not have known about the study."

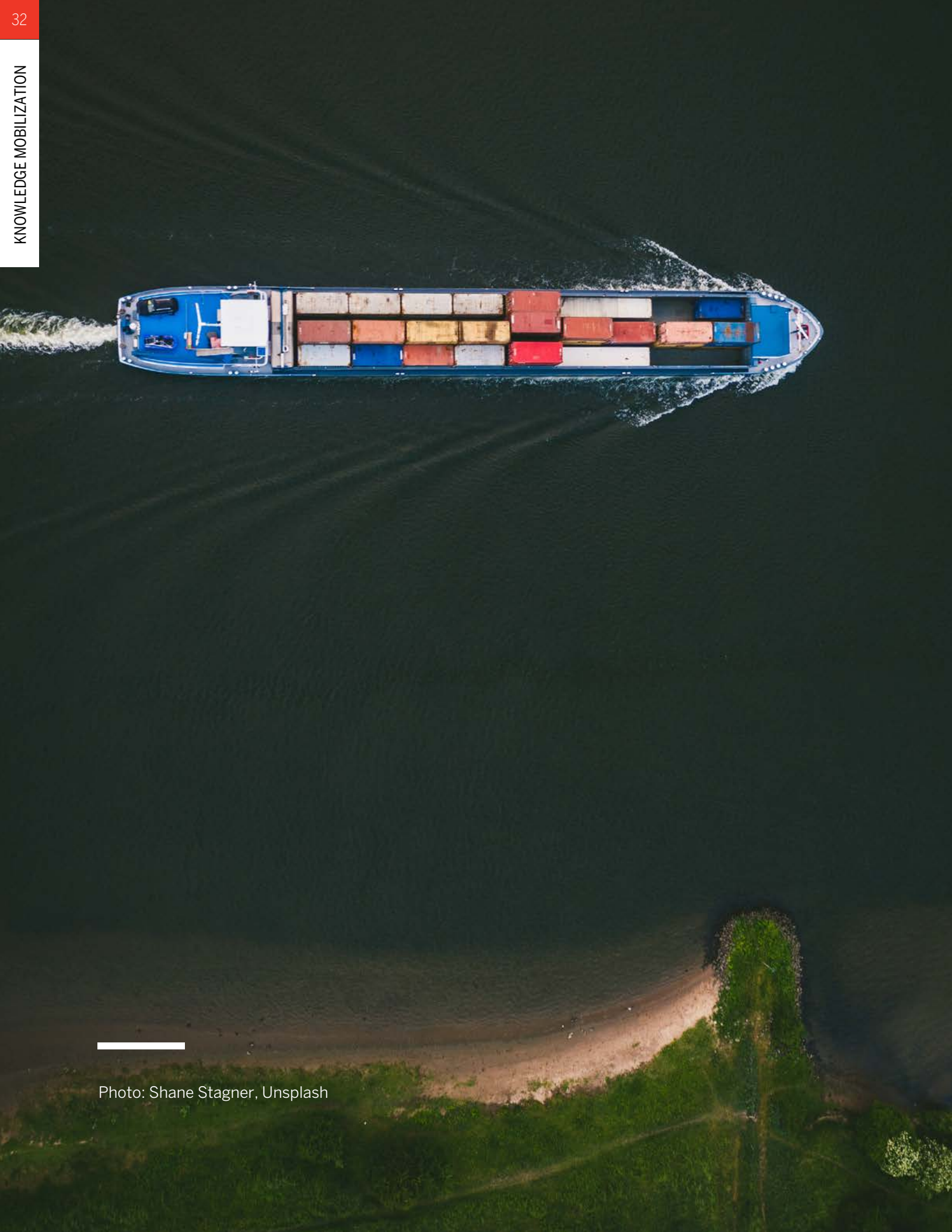


Photo: Shane Stagner, Unsplash

FROM FOOD WEBS TO WEB DESIGN

Collaborating with the community to make research results accessible

“There is so much science that gets lost somewhere, and nobody gets to know about it,” says Sara Pedro. An ecologist and postdoctoral researcher working alongside MEOPAR principal investigator Mélanie Lemire, developing ecosystem models and studying marine food webs, Pedro was one of the first applicants to the 2019-20 Knowledge Mobilization Fund call, a program targeted at creative communicators aiming to reach past academic audiences with purpose-driven dissemination projects.



Currently, she’s developing an interactive website, presenting findings on the effects of climate change, hunting and fishing on the dynamics of the Canadian Arctic’s marine ecosystem in a clear, accessible and visually appealing way, using results from Lemire’s project, *Co-developing Innovative Approaches with Indigenous Partners to Foster Coastal Resilience, Food Security and Sustainable Marine Harvests While Enhancing Community Capacity to Proactively Respond to Marine Risks*.

“We wanted to communicate findings to the community in a more understandable and simple way. It’s traditional with scientists to make a very scientific presentation with lots of graphs about what results we have—but those are not always well understood and there are problems with translation, and things that get lost in translation. This website will be a platform that will always be there.”

With the Inuit community of Qikiqtarjuaq, Nunavut, as the main partner and audience for this project, the work will not only be presented in both English and Inuktitut, but the community members will have input in the site’s development and the ways in which the information is communicated. Pedro and her team will also take into account issues like internet speed, zeroing in on easy accessibility as a key component.

While she notes that this project is most relevant to the people of Qikiqtarjuaq, the website’s benefits have potential to stretch even further. “From a researcher’s perspective, it could be useful to other coastal areas that might be going through the same issues with climate change and food security. It could help management strategies of other regions in the future.”

Network Members

- 1 ACADIA UNIVERSITY
- 2 BROCK UNIVERSITY
- 3 UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
- 4 UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
- 5 UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
- 6 DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
- 7 UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
- 8 LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY
- 9 UNIVERSITÉ DE LAVAL
- 10 UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
- 11 MCGILL UNIVERSITY
- 12 MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND
- 13 UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK
- 14 NOVA SCOTIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
- 15 UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA
- 16 UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC (À MONTRÉAL)
- 17 UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC (À RIMOUSKI)
- 18 RYERSON UNIVERSITY
- 19 SAINT MARY’S UNIVERSITY
- 20 SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
- 21 ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY
- 22 UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
- 23 UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO
- 24 UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR
- 25 UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
- 26 YORK UNIVERSITY



Kitikmeot, NT

Hartley Bay, BC

Salish Sea, BC

2019/20

FEATURED PROJECT MAP

Highlighted regions represent the research locations featured in stories throughout the Annual Report.



PROJECTS: Active Projects in 2019-20

BRIDGING THE GAP PROJECTS

1. A Multi-Stakeholder Approach for Developing Observation and Response Strategies for the Changing Coastal Arctic

DR. BRENT ELSE, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

2. Canadian Ocean Acidification Research Partnership (COARP)

DR. HELMUTH THOMAS, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

3. Improved Observation and Prediction of Sea Ice Hazards to Assist Decision-Making in Safe and Efficient Arctic Shipping and Offshore Operations

DR. ANDREA SCOTT, UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

4. Integrated Fukushima Ocean Radionuclide Monitoring (InFORM)

DR. JAY CULLEN, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

5. Marine Acoustic Disturbances: Shipping and Marine Renewable Development Across Canada, Mitigation, Management and Monitoring of Associated Noise

DR. ROSALINE CANESSA, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

6. Renewal of Integrated Coastal Acidification Program (I-CAP2)

DR. KAREN KOHFELD, SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

7. User-Driven Monitoring of Adverse Marine and Weather States, Eastern Beaufort Sea

DR. DAVID ATKINSON, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

8. Whales, Habitat and Listening Experiment (WHaLE)

DR. CHRIS TAGGART, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

CORES

9. Observation Core

DR. BRAD DEYOUNG, MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

10. Prediction Core

DR. DANY DUMONT, UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC (À RIMOUSKI)

11. Response Core

DR. STEPHANIE CHANG, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

CLEAR SEAS

12. Mapping & Managing Shipping Risks to Protected Marine Areas in Canada's Northwest Passage

DR. JACKIE DAWSON, UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

EXACTEARTH

13. Whale Watching AIS Vessel Movement Evaluation

DR. ROSALINE CANESSA, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

OCEAN NETWORKS CANADA

14. Model of Impact of Dilbit and Oil Spills in the Salish Sea (MIDOSS)

DR. SUSAN ALLEN, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

15. Oxynet: a Network to Examine Ocean Deoxygenation Trends and Impacts

DR. PHILPPE TORTELL, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

16. Spatiotemporal Dynamics of The Coastal Ocean Biogeochemical Domains of British Columbia and Southeast Alaska - Following the Migration Route of Juvenile Salmon

DR. MAYACIRA COSTA, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

OPEN CALL

17. Arctic ULINNIQ: Underwater Listening Network for Novel Investigations of Quakes

DR. MLADEN NEDIMOVIC, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

18. Baselines and Biodegradation Potential in Atlantic Canada's Deepwater Offshore Oil Prospects

DR. CASEY HUBERT, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

19. Coastal Flood Risk Governance in a Changing Climate

DR. DANIEL HENSTRA, UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

20. Comment Passe-T-On a L'action avec les Plans D'adaptation et de Résilience? Projet de Recherche en Zone Côtière et Riveraine du Québec et de l'Ontario (2018-2021)

DR. STEVE PLANTE, UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC (À RIMOUSKI)

21. Investigating and Informing Indigenous Marine Monitoring and Management as a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

DR. NATALIE BAN, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

22. Whales, Habitat and Listening Experiment II

DR. CHRIS TAGGART, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

RAPID RESPONSE

23. Investigating Mental Health and Perceptions of Residential Stability and Climate Change in New Brunswick Residents who Experienced Flooding in 2018 And 2019

DR. JULIA WOODHALL-MELNICK, UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

YEAR OF POLAR PREDICTION

24. Enhancing Arctic Ocean Monitoring and Prediction with Autonomous Sensors, Numerical Models and Social Networks

DR. PHILIPPE TORTELL, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

25. Forecasting Regional Arctic Sea Ice from A Month to Seasons (FRAMS)

DR. BRUNO TREMBLAY, MCGILL UNIVERSITY

26. Improving Visibility Forecasting in Summer Time Polar Fog

DR. RACHEL CHANG, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

27. Predicting the Future(S) of Renewable Energy in Canada's Arctic

DR. ADAM MONAHAN, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

28. Southampton Island Marine Ecosystem Project (SIMEP)

DR. C.J. MUNDY, UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

29. Shipping Resilience: Strategic Planning for Coastal Community Resilience to Marine Transportation Risk (SIREN) Marine Transportation

DR. STEPHANIE CHANG, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

30. Shipping Resilience: Strategic Planning for Coastal Community Resilience to Marine Transportation Risk (SIREN) Marine Ports

DR. STEPHANIE CHANG, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

31. Building Capacity for Difficult Conversations on Floor Risk Management in Canadian Coastal Communities

DR. DANIEL HENSTRA/ DR. EVA ANGELYN BOGDAN, UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

32. Characterisation of Storm Surge Risk in Atlantic Canada and the Eastern United States for Insurance and Coastal Stakeholders

DR. MATHIEU BOUDREAU/ DR. DAVID CAROZZA, UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC (À MONTRÉAL)

33. Coastnet: Blending Data Sources to Monitor Algal Blooms in British Columbia

DR. YVONNE COADY/DR. NICOLAS PRESTON, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

34. Community Perspectives on The Impacts of Increased Shipping and Climate Change Along the Northwest Passage in the Canadian Arctic

DR. JACKIE DAWSON /DR. NICOLIEN VAN LUIJK, UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

35. Development of the Canadian Ocean Literacy Strategy

DR. DAVID ZANDVLIET /DR. LILIA YUMAGULOVA, SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

36. Development of A Hydro-Sedimentary Model of the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence. Application to The Atlantic Halibut Spawning and Nursery Areas

DR. DANY DUMONT/ DR. CHRISTIANE DUFRESNE, UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC (À RIMOUSKI)

37. Developing Long-Term Reconstruction of Sea Level, Shoreline, and Human Settlement Change on the Northern Coast of British Columbia

DR. DANA LEPOFSKY/ DR. BRYN LETHAM, SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

38. Developing Spatially Explicit Tools to Minimize Costs and Maximize Benefits of Marine Invasive Species

DR. STEPHANIE GREEN/ DR. ALEXANDRA DAVIS, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

39. From Satellites to Social Media: Understanding and Communicating the Impacts of Climate Change in the Arctic Ocean

DR. PHILIPPE TORTEL/ DR. SARAH ROSENGARD, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

40. From Shelf-Break to Coastline: Connecting Ocean Upwelling to Biological Productivity on British Columbia's Central Coast

DR. STEPHANIE WATERMAN/ DR. HAYLEY DOSSER, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

41. Improved Canadian Arctic Sea Ice Thickness Estimates from Synthetic Aperture Radar Altimetry

DR. RANDALL SCHARIEN/ DR. VISHNU NANDAN, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

42. Improving Iceberg Models' Dynamics and Prediction Skills

**DR. PAUL G. MYERS / DR. JULIANA MARSON,
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**

43. Integrating the Ocean Environment into Benthic Habitat Mapping

**DR. CRAIG BROWN/ DR. MYRIAM LACHARITÉ, NOVA
SCOTIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

44. Sensitivity and Resilience of British Columbia's Glass Sponge Reefs to Ocean Warming and Acidification

**DR. CHRIS HARLEY/ DR. ANGELA STEVENSON,
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

45. Tracking Coastal Fish Movements in The Western Canadian Arctic to Address Community Concerns and Understand Flexibility to Ecosystem Change

**DR. NIGEL HUSSEY/ DR. HARRI PETTITT-WADE,
UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR**

FATHOM FUND

46. Democratizing Marine Plastic Pollution Science through DIY Instrumentation

**DR. MAX LIBOIRON, MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF
NEWFOUNDLAND**

47. Stand Up for a Healthy Coast—The Coastal Pollution Mapper

**DR. NOBUHIKO TOKURIKI/ DR. NATHAN
VADEBONCOEUR, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

48. Supporting Safer Coastlines: Exploring the Social Dimensions of Rip Current Hazards

**DR. CHRIS HOUSER/ SUMMER LOCKNICK,
UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR**

49. Vulnerability of the Coastal Ecosystems of Sable Island National Park Reserve Under a Changing Climate

DR. ANDREW MEDEIROS, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

CIOOS

50. Developing Phase 1 of CIOOS: The Atlantic Proto-Association

DR. MIKE SMIT, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

51. Developing Phase 1 of CIOOS: The Pacific Regional Association

DR. RICHARD DEWEY, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

EARLY CAREER FACULTY

52. Air Quality Co-Benefits of Decarbonizing Maritime Shipping For Coastal Communities

**DR. AMANDA GIANG, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

53. Co-Developing Innovative Approaches with Indigenous Partners to Foster Coastal Resilience, Food Security and Sustainable Marine Harvests While Enhancing Community Capacity to Proactively Respond to Marine Risks

DR. MÉLANIE LEMIRE, UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL

54. Drivers, Predictability and Fisheries Impacts of Ocean Temperature Extremes

DR. ERIC OLIVER, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

55. FISH DIP: Dam Impacts on Pelagic Fish Ecology in a Subarctic Estuary (Lake Melville, Labrador)

**DR. MAXIME GEOFFROY, MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF
NEWFOUNDLAND**

56. Globally Transforming the Ocean Biogeochemical Domain Using Lab-On-Chip Technology

DR. VINCENT SIEBEN, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

57. Holyrood Sub-Arctic Coastal Observatory

DR. KATLEEN ROBERT, MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

58. Horizontal Capacity-Mapping to Support Capability-Based Planning and Capacity-Building for Community-Based Maritime and Coastal Search and Rescue and Emergency Response in the Kitikmeot Region of Nunavut

DR. PETER KIKKERT, ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY

59. Hydro and Sediment Dynamics in the Skeena Estuary

DR. EVA KWOLL, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

60. The Influence of Climate-Driven Prey Shortage on Endangered Whales and Their Coexistence with Ocean-Going Industries

DR. KIMBERLEY DAVIES, UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

61. Monitoring Juvenile American Lobster (*Homarus Americanus*) to Forecast Productivity in the Growing Newfoundland Lobster Fishery

DR. ARNAULT LE BRIS, MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

62. A Physical Oceanographic Prediction Framework for Cambridge Bay, Nunavut

DR. QI ZHOU, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

63. Predicting the Future of Seagrass Meadows Along the Eastern Coast of Canada: An Innovative Functional Approach in the Context of Global Change

DR. FANNY NOISSETTE, UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC (À RIMOUSKI)

64. Predicting and Mitigating Sulfide Accumulation in Aquaculture Impacted Coastal Sediments

DR. CHRISTOPHER ALGAR, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

65. Predicting Physical & Biogeochemical Properties on the BC Central Coast

DR. STEPHANIE WATERMAN, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

66. Shipping Accident Oil Spill Consequences and Response Effectiveness in Arctic Marine Environments (iSCREAM)

DR. FLORIS GOERLANDT, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

67. URIAS: Understanding and Predicting the Effects of Increased Shipping On Arctic Seabirds & Seals

DR. KYLE ELLIOT, MCGILL UNIVERSITY

68. Vulnerability of Small-Island Freshwater Resources to Climate Change

DR. BARRET KURYLYK, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

69. CASTNet website

DR. JACKIE DAWSON, UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

70. Interactive and community co-developed website to present results on the effects of climatechange in the Canadian Arctic

DR. SARA PEDRO, UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL

71. Canadian Hazards Emergency Response and Preparedness Program

DR. RYAN REYNOLDS, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Financials

The following are extracts from the audited financial statements. Full audited financial statements are available at meopar.ca



Grant Thornton

Independent auditor's report

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To the Board of Directors of
MEOPAR Incorporated

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of MEOPAR Inc. (the "Network"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2020 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly in all material respects, the financial position of MEOPAR Inc. as at March 31, 2020, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Network in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Network's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Network or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Network's financial reporting process.

The following are extracts from the audited financial statements. Full audited financial statements are available at meopar.ca

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Network's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Network's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Network to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The logo for Grant Thornton LLP, featuring the company name in a stylized, cursive script.

Halifax, Canada
June 26, 2020

Chartered Professional Accountants

The following are extracts from the audited financial statements. Full audited financial statements are available at meopar.ca

MEOPAR Incorporated

Statements of operations and changes in net assets

Year ended March 31	2020	2019
Revenue		
Government assistance – NSERC and SSHRC	\$ 6,139,065	\$ 5,775,151
Partnership	776,131	878,547
Other	32,123	34,464
	<u>6,947,319</u>	<u>6,688,162</u>
Grants		
Research	2,855,135	3,291,378
Partnership	1,239,526	1,266,961
Joint research and development	1,403,304	601,748
	<u>5,497,965</u>	<u>5,160,087</u>
Excess revenue over grants	<u>1,449,354</u>	<u>1,528,075</u>
Expenses		
Program Expenses		
Communications and networking	112,921	228,197
Knowledge mobilization	69,122	118,780
Research programs	89,606	90,771
Training programs	474,106	333,383
	<u>745,755</u>	<u>771,131</u>
Administrative		
Operations and management	175,308	179,543
Salaries	503,827	546,408
	<u>679,135</u>	<u>725,951</u>
	<u>1,424,890</u>	<u>1,497,082</u>
Excess of revenue over expenses	<u>\$ 24,464</u>	<u>\$ 30,993</u>
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 73,091	\$ 42,098
Excess of revenue over expenses	<u>24,464</u>	<u>30,993</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 97,555</u>	<u>\$ 73,091</u>

The following are extracts from the audited financial statements. Full audited financial statements are available at meopar.ca

MEOPAR Incorporated

Statement of financial position

March 31	2020	2019
Assets		
Current		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 570,081	\$ 928,601
Receivables	27,122	61,394
Funds held in trust by Dalhousie University (Note 5)	1,285,344	2,528,250
HST receivable	4,227	12,578
Prepaid expenses	<u>4,955</u>	<u>6,895</u>
	<u>\$ 1,891,729</u>	<u>\$ 3,537,718</u>
Liabilities		
Current		
Payables and accruals	\$ 35,174	\$ 30,615
Deferred revenue (Note 3)	<u>1,759,000</u>	<u>3,434,012</u>
	<u>1,794,174</u>	<u>3,464,627</u>
Net assets		
Unrestricted net assets	<u>97,555</u>	<u>73,091</u>
	<u>\$ 1,891,729</u>	<u>\$ 3,537,718</u>

Commitments (Note 4)

On behalf of the Board



Director

The following are extracts from the audited financial statements. Full audited financial statements are available at meopar.ca

MEOPAR Incorporated Statement of cash flows

March 31	2020	2019
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		
Operating		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 24,464	\$ 30,993
Change in non-cash operating working capital		
Receivables	34,272	(18,157)
Funds held in trust by Dalhousie University	1,242,906	2,109,703
HST receivable	8,351	(8,806)
Prepaid expenses	1,940	(6,895)
Payables and accruals	4,559	(3,985)
Deferred revenue	<u>(1,675,012)</u>	<u>(2,470,199)</u>
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(358,520)	(367,346)
Cash and cash equivalents		
Beginning of year	<u>928,601</u>	<u>1,295,947</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 570,081</u>	<u>\$ 928,601</u>



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