**Ocean Literacy Working Group Report, 2023.**

1. The Working Group had been a major focus of BoFEP activities this year, following the Editorial two years ago in the Proceedings of The Nova Scotian Institute of Science. Ocean Literacy is the ongoing theme behind BoFEPs current work.

2. With reference to the first Canada-wide Coastal Zone Conference (CZC) in 1994, and specifically the output of a working group on ocean education, a paper on Ocean Literacy was presented by Peter Wells at the 2023 CZC Conference in June in Victoria, B.C. A poster was also prepared that highlighted BoFEP activities, including ocean literacy. As well, a blog about our participation in that conference was posted on the EIUI website, an example of how our working groups are working together on a common theme.

3. Ongoing discussions with Ms. Kerri McPherson in the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Education, has resulted in a proposal to design and deliver a one-day workshop on Ocean Literacy for a Professional Development day. We consider this initiative to be a pre-cursor (or beta test) for an enlarged workshop at the various faculties of Education in Nova Scotia for B.Ed. and M.Ed. students in training. As part of this contract, recommended age-specific resource material, including classroom activities and curated field trips, will be identified.

4. Our last draft of the paper by Butler and Wells, entitled "Promoting Ocean Literacy with Communities around the Bay of Fundy and its Watersheds" has been posted on the BoFEP website. It awaits final comments from BoFEP membership and others, prior to submission for publication.

5. Other ongoing WG activities:

a) We plan to participate in next years’ BoFEP-ACCESS Workshop in St. Andrews, NB.

b) We continue to interact with members of other ocean literacy groups in Canada, track international activity on this topic, and maintain a compilation of relevant literature on the topic.

c) Importantly, we seek more members for our working group, as well as welcoming comments on our activities to date.

Submitted by:

Mike Butler,

International Ocean Institute-Canada,  
Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS.