



# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

• ARCTIC OCEAN • ATLANTIC OCEAN • HIGH SEAS •



[www.oceansnorth.org](http://www.oceansnorth.org)

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2022, we pushed ourselves to deepen our partnerships with Indigenous people, coastal communities, and Canadian society. We did this because we believe that the changes necessary for a healthy planet, stable climate, and ethical relationships with traditionally marginalized communities must be grounded in the reality that people face every day.

To make our partnerships meaningful, it requires us to be able to support small, local initiatives that address long-standing priorities and help bring people together around the role an abundant ocean plays in sustaining language, culture, heritage, and wellbeing in so many places across our vast country.

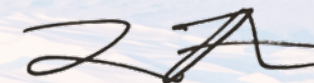
Those small projects can often snowball into something larger. Over the past year, we celebrated the signing of an MOU between the Nunatsiavut Government and Parks Canada for a feasibility study towards the creation of a new conservation area in the Torngat Fjords. To the west, in southwestern Hudson Bay and western James Bay, the Mushkegowuk Council has also signed an MOU to work towards protecting their traditional waters. And in December, the federal government committed to invest \$800 million in Indigenous-led conservation, which means there's a lot more work to be done.

As the work evolves, we've been growing too. Oceans North welcomed Nellie Taptaqut Kusugak, a former commissioner of Nunavut and prominent educator, to our board this year. We were also joined by Lucy Hargreaves, who brings more than 20 years of global experience focused on climate action and sustainability in organizations ranging from the United Nations to the tech sector. Hilu Tagoona, our former board chair, took up a position on staff as Senior Arctic Advisor and has made invaluable contributions as part of our leadership team. Finally, we've added capacity to our communications and climate teams that will help us expand both our profile and body of work.

Of course, solving complex challenges is about more than increasing the amount of resources you have to deal with a problem—it's also about innovation and developing relationships. Oceans North continues to be a space where creative things happen and new partnerships are made. In addition to supporting the development of our sibling organization in Greenland, [Oceans North Kalaallit Nunaat](#), Oceans North has been a catalyst for a number of initiatives, including [SeaBlue Canada](#), which represents seven Canadian non-government organizations advocating for healthy oceans and healthy communities, and [Friends of Land Use Planning](#), a collaboration supporting Indigenous-led land use planning in northern Canada. We are actively engaged in leading international alliances, including the [High Seas Alliance](#) and the [Deep Sea Conservation Coalition](#); Oceans North is also the only Canadian organization to be granted observer status by the [International Seabed Authority](#), where we work towards ensuring our oceans are protected from deep sea mining.

In 2023, we are continuing to set ambitious goals on ocean protection, climate action, science and stewardship because we know that our planet needs urgent help. And even though the issues we are working to address are not new, we know we need new and renewed ways of working.

To make good on our commitments, we are dedicated to harnessing the energy in Canadian society to come together and fight for our shared future.



Louie Porta  
Executive Director



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# About **OCEANS NORTH** ...



Oceans North supports marine conservation and climate action in partnership with Indigenous and coastal communities. Our work addresses the unprecedented environmental changes taking place in northern marine ecosystems and ensures that they are protected within the framework of Indigenous knowledge, rights and consultation.

Oceans North is a registered charity with offices in Winnipeg, Ottawa, and Halifax. Many of our staff members work remotely from their home communities across northern and southern Canada, as well as in Greenland.

# HOW WE WORK



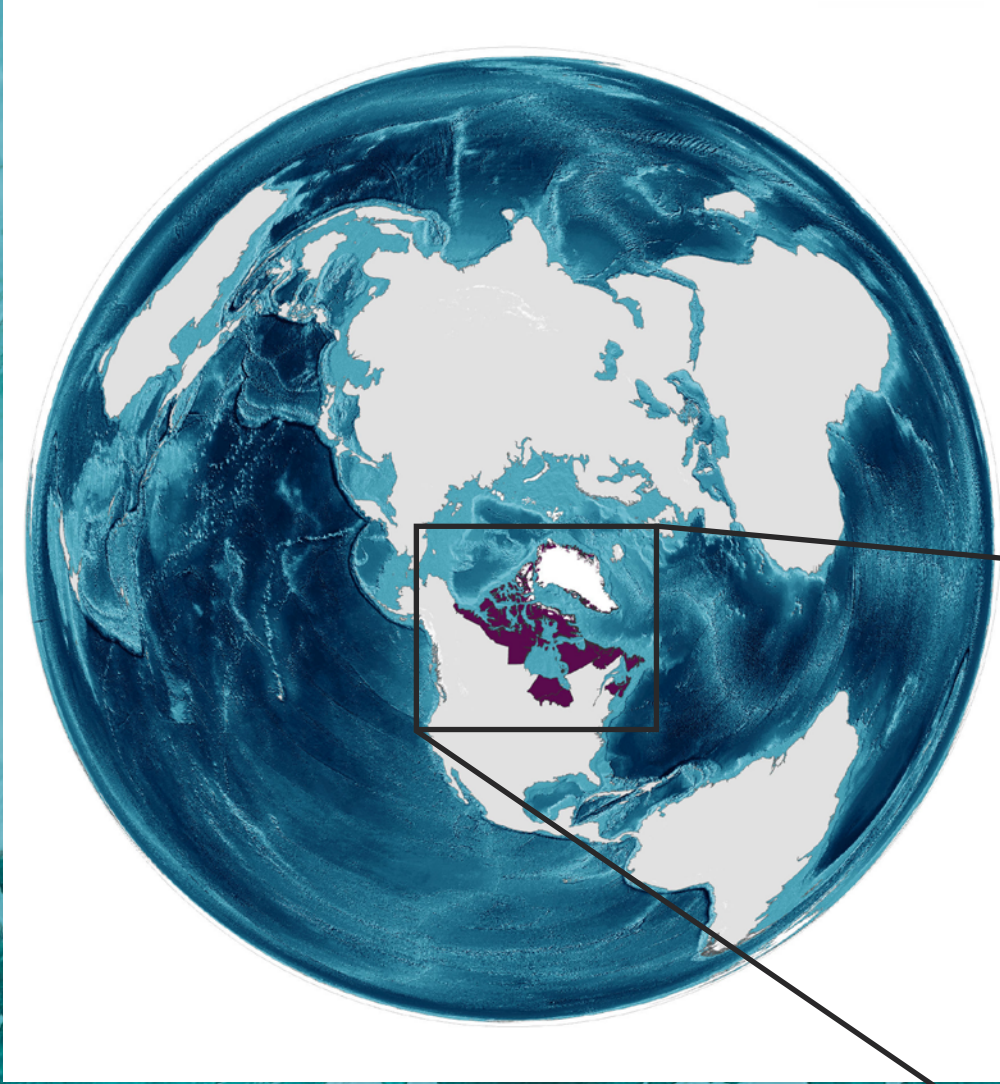
Oceans North believes in **protecting nature *for* people**, not from them. Much of Oceans North's work takes place in Indigenous territories. As a rule, we actively work to empower treaties and strengthen Indigenous institutions and communities.

Investing in **people** and **science** are the foundation of our success. We connect partners, disciplines and perspectives from around the world and pursue knowledge-driven solutions to the most pressing conservation challenges.

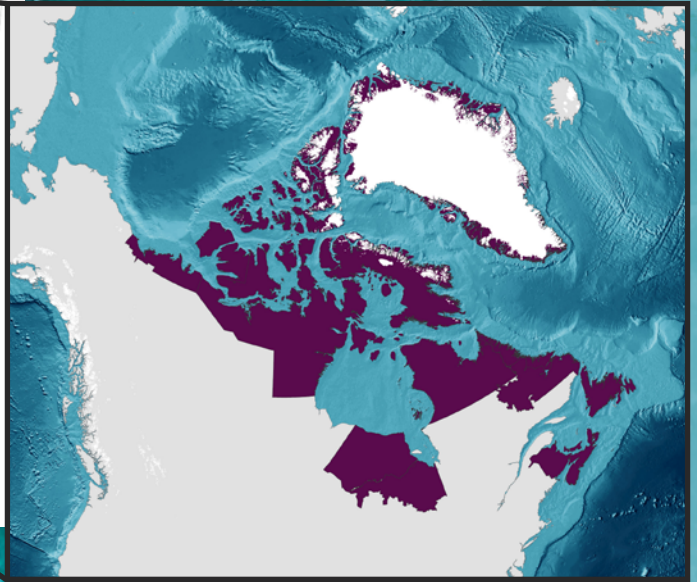
Marine conservation requires a **holistic approach**. Whether we're addressing community well-being or tackling climate change, Oceans North understands that the long-term success of our projects depends on the health of the system as a whole.



# WHERE WE WORK



*Oceans North's work takes us to the Arctic, the North Atlantic, and across international borders.*





GREENLAND

Inuvialuit  
Settlement  
Region

NORTHWEST  
TERRITORIES

NUNAVUT

CANADA

Hudson  
Bay



Nunavik

Nunatsiavut

MANITOBA

QUEBEC

ONTARIO

-  Inuit Nunangat
-  Eeyou Itschee
-  Treaty No. 9 Boundary

Canada has the longest **Arctic** coastline in the world, stretching nearly 160,000 kilometres from Baffin Bay in the east, through islands in the central Arctic Archipelago, to the Mackenzie River delta in the west. These waters connect dozens of Inuit, Dene, Cree, and Métis communities and provide habitat for most of the world's beluga whales, narwhal, bowhead whales and polar bears. Some of the greatest marine mammal and seabird migrations on the planet take place here.

In the **Arctic**, Oceans North primarily works in the four Inuit land claim regions that make up Inuit Nunangat: Nunatsiavut, Nunavik, Nunavut and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. We also work with northern First Nations groups, including the Omushkego and Eeyou Cree who live along the western and eastern coasts of James Bay.

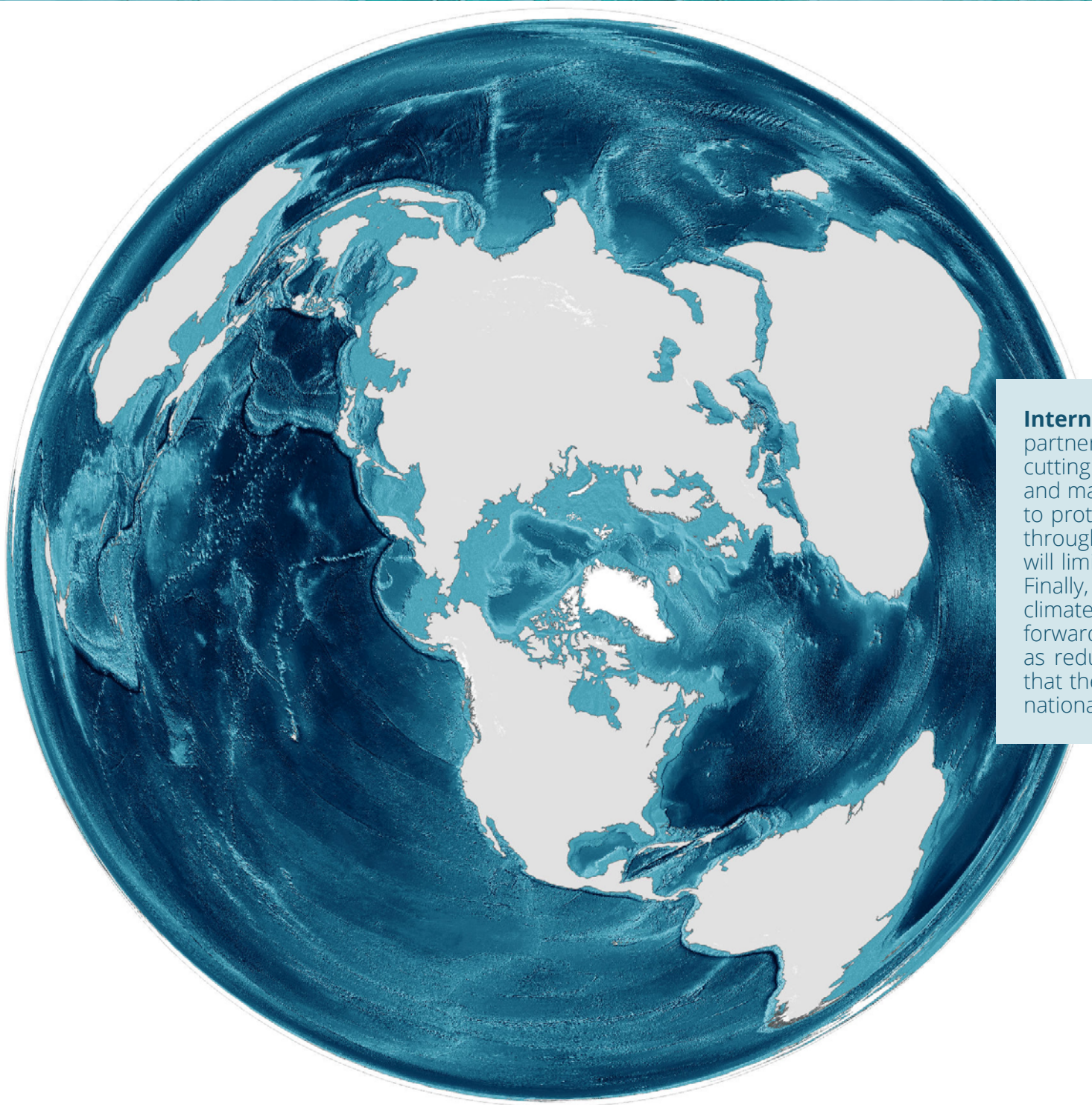


## Atlantic Ocean

The temperate **North Atlantic** Ocean that surrounds Canada's four Atlantic provinces is a mixing zone of waters and peoples. These productive waters historically sustained Indigenous communities along with large quantities of fish, marine mammals, and other resources, which in turn attracted settlers and traders. Today, the ocean continues to form an important part of coastal economies and cultures.

In the **North Atlantic**, Oceans North works to sustain and restore the abundance of the rich coastal and offshore regions which form an important part of life and work for Atlantic Canadians, and especially for Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqiyik, Innu and Inuit peoples, the area's original inhabitants.





**Internationally,** Oceans North and its partners are working in Greenland on cross-cutting conservation issues such as fisheries and marine protection. We are also working to protect the high seas and the deep seas through global treaties and agreements that will limit pressures from industrial activities. Finally, given the close connections between climate and oceans, we're helping move forward ocean-based climate solutions such as reducing vessel emissions and ensuring that the ocean is addressed in regional and national climate commitments.



# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



Over the past year, Oceans North has helped support science, build partnerships and advance marine protection across Canada's waters and beyond.  
Here are a few key moments.

For more information on all our projects and the areas we work, please visit the Oceans North [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

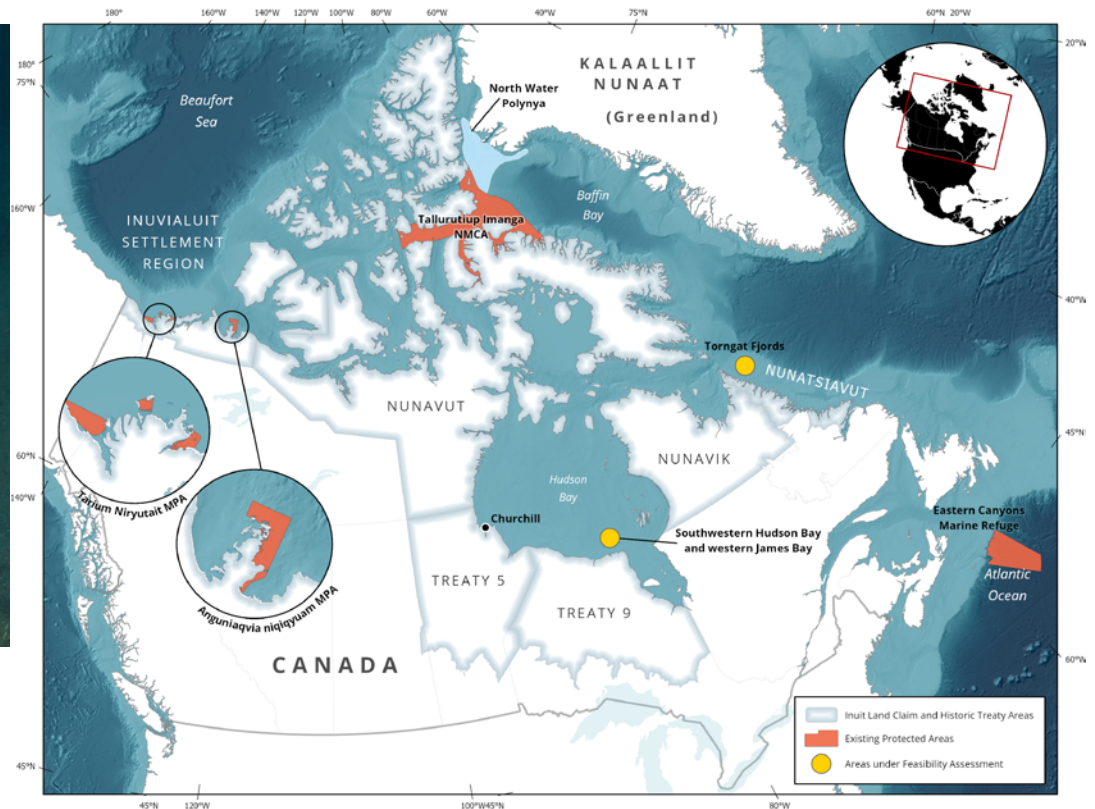


## ADVANCING MARINE PROTECTION

In February, the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Nunatsiavut Government and Parks Canada for a feasibility study for the **Torngat Fjords National Marine Conservation Area** (NMCA) was announced, and community consultations related to the feasibility assessment have begun.

Further south along the Atlantic coast, Oceans North helped secure new protection for the deep-sea ecosystems of the Eastern Canyons. The fisheries closure of the **Eastern Canyons Marine Refuge**, an area covering 43,976 kilometres off Nova Scotia, was announced in June. This closure will help protect deep-water corals, sponges and bottle-nosed whales that are threatened by climate change and biodiversity loss.

In Western Hudson Bay, Oceans North strengthened its relationship with the Kivalliq Inuit Association, Town of Churchill, and others to help advance their visions for conservation and community wellbeing in their regions. Additionally, Oceans North played a role in brokering an MOU between Parks Canada and the Mushkegowuk Council for a potential NMCA in **southwestern Hudson Bay and western James Bay**. The feasibility study has been launched.



Oceans North has also been active internationally. In partnership with Oceans North Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland), we have helped to broker important political and diplomatic discussions to advance the process towards final protection for the **North Water Polynya**.

In addition to new protected areas, Oceans North has worked to maintain and improve existing areas. In May, after years of meetings, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) recommended rejecting the Baffinland iron mine's Phase 2 expansion proposal, which would have increased industrial shipping through **Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area** (NMCA). The Minister of Northern Affairs accepted NIRB's decision the following November—ensuring that, for now, the world's largest summering population of narwhal won't come under greater threat.

In July, DFO announced \$7.46 million over four years to support co-management activities with the Inuvialuit for both the **Tarium Niryutait** and **Anguniaqvia niqiqyuam Marine Protected Areas** (MPAs) in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR). Oceans North has been advocating for this increase in funds, which will help bring tangible benefits to communities.



## SUPPORTING SCIENCE AND EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION MAKING

This summer, Oceans North supported two research expeditions that spent many weeks travelling through the eastern Arctic and Hudson Bay, gathering new information about these marine ecosystems. We partnered with the **National Geographic Society's Pristine Seas expedition** to document the need for marine conservation in Nunatsiavut, Western Hudson Bay and the James Bay and Arqvilit regions. In August, we joined our partners in the second year of the **R/V William Kennedy research expedition** to explore James Bay, one of the least-studied bodies of water in Canada.

Oceans North and our partners at the Churchill Northern Studies Centre have also expanded our **multi-year beluga-vessel interaction study** to focus on mother-calf interactions with vessels in the estuaries of Western Hudson Bay. This new focus builds on the results of the three-year study we completed between 2019-2021. The results of the research will inform the future feasibility assessment for the Western Hudson Bay NMCA.

In Nunatsiavut, Oceans North supported the **inaugural winter science program at the Torngat Mountains base camp and research station**. Staff worked with NG and the Legends of the Land guardians to collect physical and biological samples such as ice cores from deep within the Torngat fjords. It is rare and challenging to conduct research in this part of Canada in the winter months. The data will help to form an initial understanding of winter ecology in the most remote parts of the park.

Oceans North has also succeeded in pushing for **evidence-based fisheries management decisions in Atlantic Canada and beyond**. In late March, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) made the difficult decision to close the bait and commercial fisheries for herring and mackerel to protect the long-term health of these forage fish.

At the international level, the 44th meeting of the **Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization** (NAFO) concluded with an agreement to adopt a first-of-its-kind approach to fisheries management that considers the broader ecosystem. NAFO scientists will now inform fisheries managers when catches are reaching a threshold linked to overall ecosystem productivity. This work has been underway for the better part of a decade and finally received the full support of the NAFO Commission, which decides on management measures. In addition, the body agreed to new international protections for the vulnerable and long-lived Greenland shark. First proposed in 2018, the new rules fulfill outstanding advice from NAFO's scientific council to prohibit the retention of this species.

Oceans North also participated in the 23rd Special Meeting Meeting of the **International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas** (ICCAT) and successfully advocated for conservation measures for Atlantic bluefin tuna, resulting in an historic precautionary quota setting plan.



## BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

The inaugural meeting of the **2 Deserts Exchange** in October was a success. Representatives from Western Australia's Great Sandy Desert travelled to Nunatsiavut, where they met with Inuit leaders and guardians. The exchange is creating opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and knowledge sharing about best practices in Indigenous-led governance and land management.

In December, we announced a new **partnership with the Membertou First Nation to develop the first generation of zero-emission lobster vessels**. Powered by electric batteries, this type of vessel will help reduce both emissions and operation costs. It is estimated that the decarbonization of the inshore lobster fleet could displace 82 million kilograms of carbon dioxide—the equivalent of 20,000 cars—and provide new economic opportunities for Nova Scotia's boat building industry. The solutions pioneered here will also spread to other vessel types.



A large, bright orange sun or moon is positioned on the left side of the frame, set against a teal sky. Below the sky, a dark blue sea is visible, dotted with numerous icebergs of various sizes. The overall scene is serene and evocative, suggesting a vast, open environment.

# LOOKING AHEAD

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This year ended with an exciting announcement at the UN Biodiversity Conference in Montreal: **Canada will invest up to \$800 million in four Indigenous-led conservation projects across the country.** This includes funding for the Omushkego Conservation Project in western James Bay and southwestern Hudson Bay, led by the Mushkegowuk Council, as well as for protected areas in the Qikiqtani region of Nunavut.

The conference concluded with the Kunming-Montreal Agreement, which includes a commitment to protect 30 percent of the ocean by 2030—a target that could help advance ocean conservation in Canada and around the world. The agreement also commits countries to restore degraded habitats, recover depleted populations, and sustainably manage nature outside of protected areas, all of which will have a positive impact on marine biodiversity.

This puts us in an excellent position as the year begins with the Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5) in Vancouver. The meeting will offer yet another global stage for Canada to demonstrate its commitment to marine conservation through new announcements and policies.



There will also soon be another opportunity to realize a strong treaty for biodiversity in international waters. Oceans North and other members of the High Seas Alliance were at the United Nations headquarters in New York this summer, where states and NGOs alike stressed the urgency of establishing, ratifying, and implementing this treaty for the sake of the ocean and the many coastal states who have the most to lose from continued inaction. The next session will take place in early 2023.

Of course, biodiversity is just one facet of our global crisis: in order to protect the oceans, we also need to address climate change. Oceans North has added capacity this year to help ensure that Canada develops a holistic ocean-climate plan and that marine industries are given proper consideration as the country moves toward a net-zero economy.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OCEANS NORTH CONSERVATION SOCIETY | Summary financial statements\*  
For the year ended March 31, 2022 (all \$,000)

## BALANCE SHEET

	2022	2021
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$3,405	\$3,080
Accounts receivable	\$239	\$64
Prepaid expenses	\$141	\$161
Net tangible capital assets	\$171	\$194
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$3,956</b>	<b>\$3,499</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$792	\$665
Deferred Contributions	\$2,770	\$2,352
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>\$3,562</b>	<b>\$3,017</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>\$394</b>	<b>\$482</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$3,956</b>	<b>\$3,499</b>

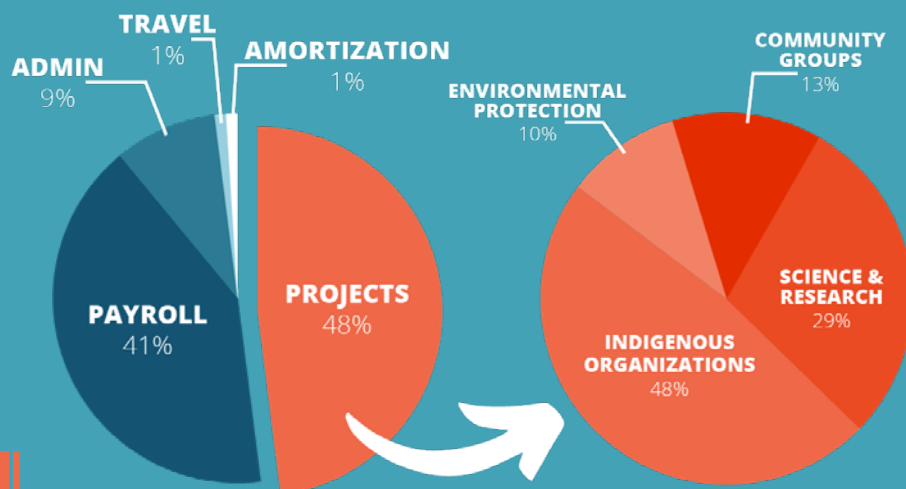
## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING MARCH 31, 2022

	2022	2021
<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>\$8,097</b>	<b>\$6,431</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administrative	\$455	\$295
Foreign exchange loss	26	68
Amortization	77	89
Payroll	3,411	2,370
Projects	3,914	3,271
Rent	189	152
Travel	72	6
Other	41	95
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$8,185</b>	<b>\$6,346</b>
<b>EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>(\$88)</b>	<b>\$85</b>
Opening net assets	\$482	\$397
Closing net assets	\$394	\$482

## 2022 EXPENSES

## 2022 SUBGRANTS



\*excerpt from audited financial statements



# FUNDERS & FUNDED PARTNERS

Our work would not be possible without the support of our partners and funders.



## FUNDERS

Becht Family Charitable Trust  
Blue Nature Alliance  
Donner Canadian Foundation  
Ducks Unlimited  
Environmental Funders Canada  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Google.org  
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation  
National Philanthropic Trust  
Oak Foundation  
Oceans5  
Pew Charitable Trust  
Private Donations  
RBC Tech For Nature  
Weston Family Foundation  
Wyss Foundation

## FUNDED PARTNERS

Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs	Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami	Ocean Conservancy
Build Films	Joint Secretariat – Inuvialuit	Parks Canada
Churchill Northern Studies Centre	Kalaallit Nunaanni Aalisartut Piniartullu Kattuffiat (KNAPK)	Sachs Harbour Hunters and Trappers Association
Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq	Kivalliq Inuit Association	Scripps Institute of Oceanography
Coral Harbour Hunters and Trappers Organization	Kurtairojuark Hunters and Trappers Association	SeaBlue Canada Partner Organizations
Dalhousie University	MITACS	Spence Bay Hunters and Trappers Association
Fisheries Joint Management Committee	Mittimatalik (Pond Inlet) HTO	Tuktoyaktuk Hunters and Trappers Association
Flow Video	Mushkegowuk Council	Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources
Hamlet of Coral Harbour	Northern Village of Inukjuak	University of Alberta
Harrison Lewis Coastal Centre	Nunatsiavut Government	University of Manitoba
Inuit Circumpolar Council - Greenland	Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated	University of Waterloo
	Olokhaktomiut Hunters and Trappers Committee	Wildlands League

