



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

- ARCTIC OCEAN
- ATLANTIC OCEAN
- HIGH SEAS



www.oceansnorth.org

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year, amid shifting local, provincial and national priorities, Oceans North has continued to ground its work in resilience, collaboration, and deep respect for our partners. While the challenges facing our ocean grow more complex, we've also been involved in more opportunities to shape solutions that both reflect community priorities and respond to high-level issues, from managing the impacts of increased Arctic shipping to ensuring the sustainability of our fisheries.

Within a dynamic political landscape, our work has remained focused and adaptable, navigating uncertainty and ensuring that conservation continues to move forward with an eye towards durable solutions. Across Inuit Nunangat, Atlantic Canada, and beyond, our efforts have reinforced the importance of listening first, ensuring that decisions about the future of marine ecosystems are informed by those who depend on them most.

We are reminded that progress is never linear or easy, but that protecting the places and things that matter to people is always the best place to start. This past year reinforced why this work matters: because it builds hope, trust, and a shared sense of responsibility. Marine conservation is not just about designating new areas for protection — it's about safeguarding the connections between people, wildlife, and the waters that sustain them. At the heart of it all, community-led stewardship continues to be the foundation for success.

Our work on climate also underscored that optimism is rooted in action. The progress made towards the development of Canada's first electric lobster fishing vessel in partnership with Membertou was more than a technical achievement; it's proof that industries can adapt, innovate, and lead the way toward a zero-emission future.

Oceans North is built on the foundation that partnership and collaboration are essential to achieving our shared goals of healthy oceans and healthy communities. This mission continues to drive my commitment to this work. Stepping into the role of Executive Director at Oceans North is both a privilege and a responsibility I embrace with gratitude. We enter this new chapter with a strong foundation, a dedicated team, and a clear vision for advancing our work across our northern oceans.

Sheena Kennedy
Executive Director

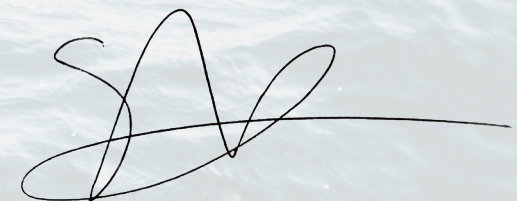
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About **OCEANS NORTH** ...

Oceans North supports marine conservation and climate action in partnership with Indigenous and coastal communities. Our work addresses the unprecedented environmental changes facing marine ecosystems and ensures they are protected within the framework of Indigenous knowledge, rights, and consultation. Our approach is rooted in collaboration, trust and community wellness.

We are a registered charity with staff located throughout Canada. Our main offices are in Ottawa, Winnipeg, and Halifax, with additional offices in Nain, Calgary, and Vancouver. Many of our staff members work remotely from their home communities across northern and southern Canada. In Greenland, we also have a sibling organization, Oceans North Kalaallit Nunaat. Oceans North is governed by a board of directors.

HOW WE WORK

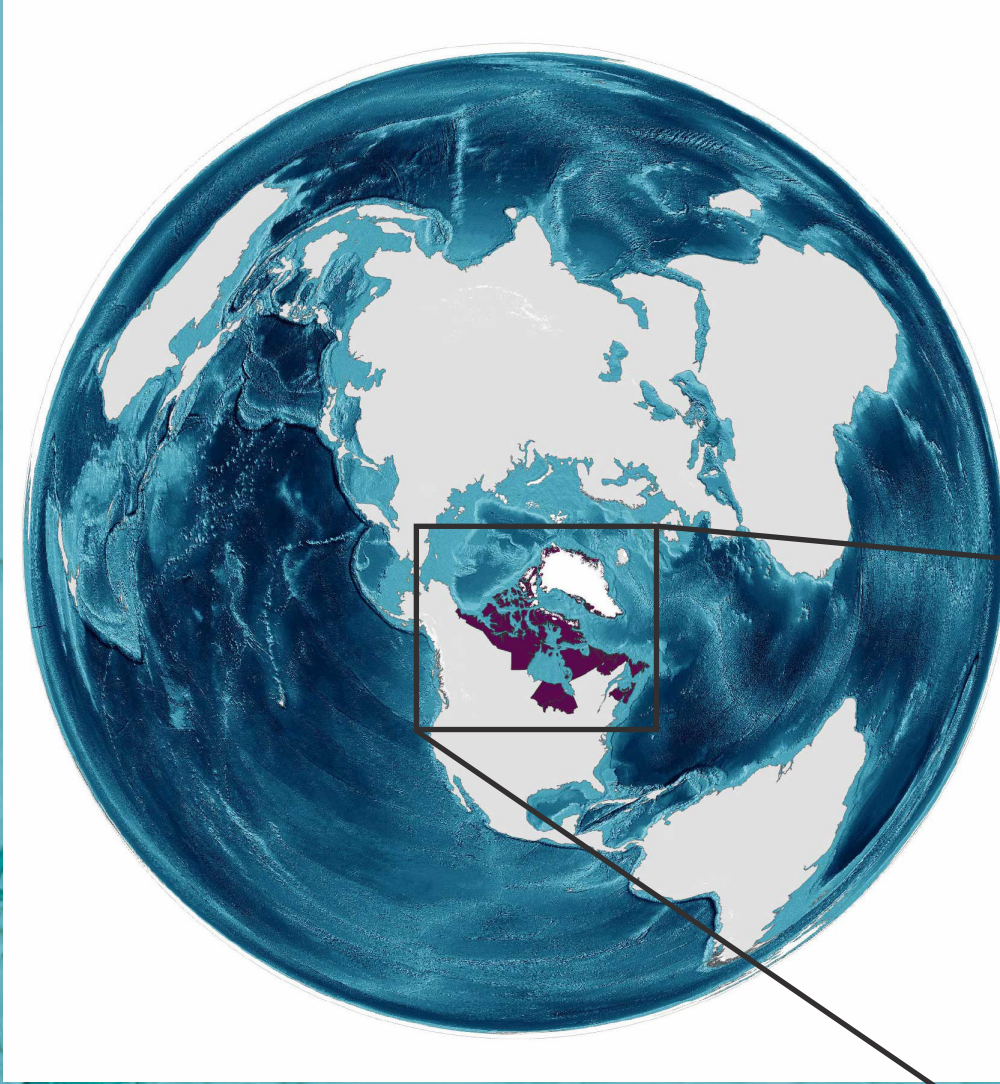
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Oceans North has extensive relationships with scientists, natural resource managers, and Indigenous organizations and communities across the North and worldwide. We work to address the urgent need for integrated solutions that ensure the long-term health of ocean ecosystems and the communities that rely on them.

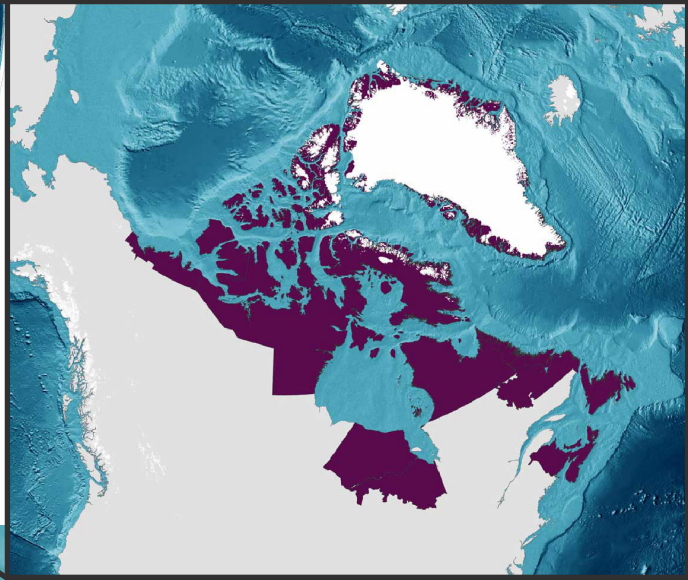
Our goal is to achieve a **healthy ocean full of diverse life** to support the wellbeing of people, communities and the environment for generations to come.



WHERE WE WORK



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





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 in the watersheds and marine waters of western Hudson Bay and James Bay, including the O mushkego Cree, Eeyou Cree and Sayisi Dene.

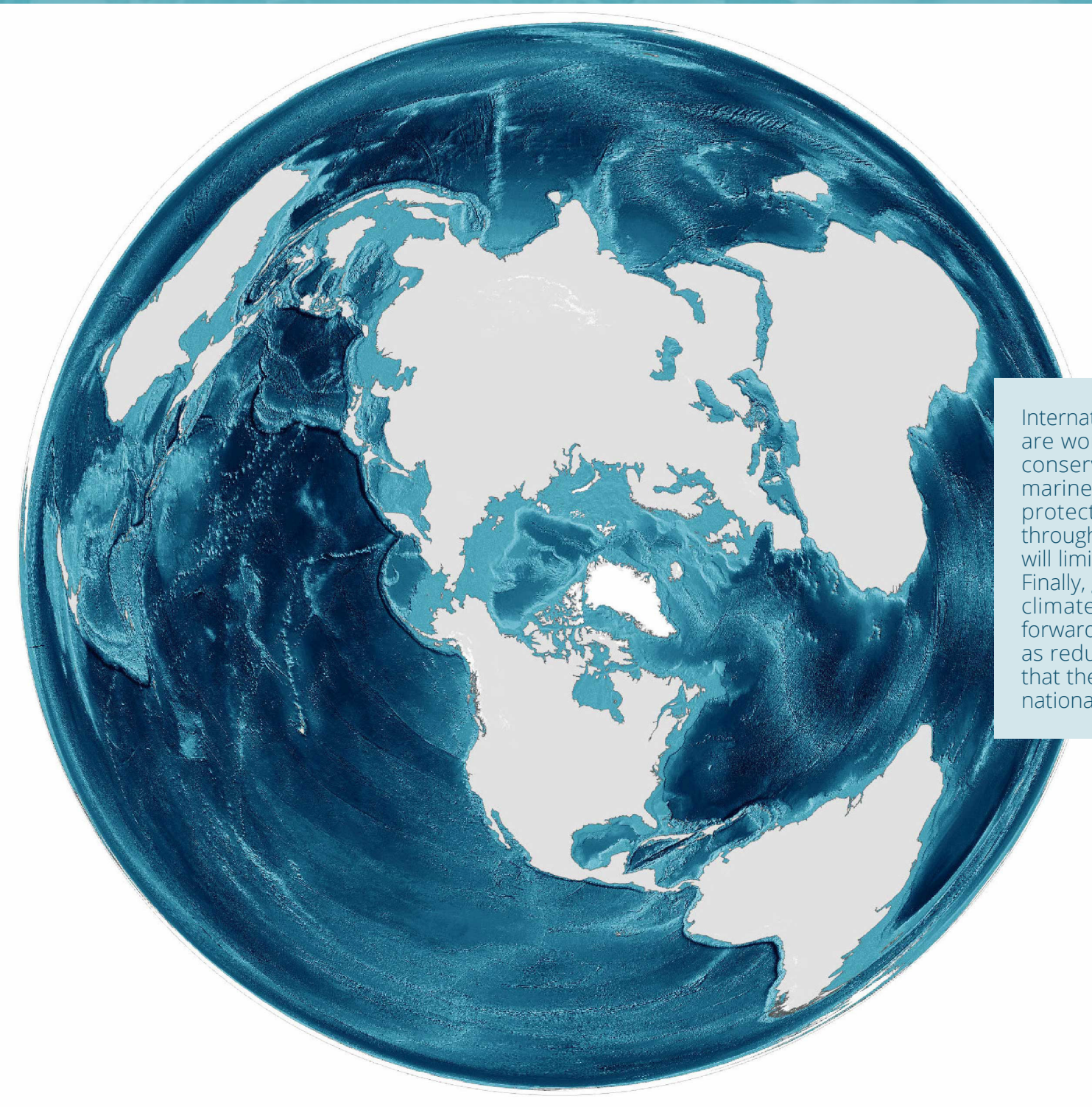
| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| | Inuit Nunangat |
| | Eeyou Itschee |
| | Treaty No. 9 Boundary |



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.



April 2024 – April 2025 **HIGHLIGHTS:**

...

Since our last annual report, Oceans North has continued to advance our core mission: strengthening the long-term health of ocean ecosystems and the communities that rely on them. Our work brings together science, partnership, and policy solutions to address both conservation and climate challenges. This includes supporting marine protected areas as well as advancing ocean-based climate action and sustainable practices across Canada's waters and beyond. Here are a few key moments and milestones.

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



FOR THE OCEAN

FISH AND FISHING

From the high seas to the Arctic, Oceans North has continued to advocate for better measures to manage and protect marine ecosystems.

These include efforts to improve fisheries management in Canada and internationally. Oceans North works with various stakeholders and governments to ensure that fisheries are rebuilt and managed so that they can meet the needs of future generations and increase ecological resilience amid a changing ocean.

In 2024, Oceans North welcomed news that Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) had completed all their rebuilding plans for stocks in the critical zone, fulfilling their requirements under the 2019 modernized Fisheries Act. Oceans North continues to ensure that fisheries management decisions align with science and Indigenous knowledge.

Oceans North also participated in a variety of international fisheries management initiatives, including meetings for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), and at the 24th Special Meeting of the

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). At ICCAT, the Canadian delegation was instrumental in securing the adoption of a management strategy evaluation (MSE) and a new management procedure for North Atlantic swordfish. Additionally, alongside our partners at Ocean Conservancy, Oceans North engaged in the implementation of the Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries Agreement (CAOFA) and to elevate Inuit voices in the ongoing work to secure protections for the Central Arctic Ocean (CAO).

PROTECTING INTERNATIONAL OCEANS

The Central Arctic faces other emerging threats as well, including deep-sea mining. In December 2024, Canada released a new [Arctic Foreign Policy](#), which supports a moratorium on commercial mining of the deep seabed in both domestic and international waters (including the CAO).

Oceans North is advocating for a broader moratorium on deep-sea mining in the high seas through various channels, including at the International Seabed Authority (ISA). In March, Oceans North staff and two hereditary Chiefs attended the ISA in Kingston, Jamaica, marking the first instance of Canadian Indigenous participation at these meetings and strengthening the engagement of Indigenous people on this issue.



ESTABLISHING MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Over the last year, important advances were also made toward establishing marine protected areas in the regions where we work.

In 2024, the Government of Canada and the Mushkegowuk Council agreed on interim protection measures and the final boundary, key steps forward on the path to formally establishing the James Bay Weeneebako NMCA.

Positive momentum continues in advancing the Torngat Fjords NCMCA through the negotiations of the establishment agreement and the related Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA).

In February 2025, the SINAA PFAgreement was officially signed by the Government of Canada, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) and The Pew Charitable Trusts, laying the groundwork for the establishment of new and enhanced protections and Inuit governance over 795,253 km² of Qikiqtani land and waters, including Sarvarjuaq, Qikiqtait, Tallurutiup Imanga, and Tuvaijuittuq.

This year has also seen advancements in the development of Indigenous-led protected areas, including in regions that Canada shares with other countries. In September 2024, during bilateral meetings held in Nuuk,

Greenland between Inuit from Greenland and Canada, participants collectively recommended advancing all three proposed protection measures for the North Water Polynya.

ADVANCING SCIENCE AND MONITORING

Oceans North continues to support a variety of science projects across the Arctic and Atlantic, including an Inuit-led [shark tracking](#) initiative in Nunatsiavut.

Underwater noise has also been a focus for the organization, from research to policy. This year, the federal government released a [draft Ocean Noise Strategy](#), which began its development in 2020. In alignment with this, Oceans North and the Scripps Institute of Oceanography are working together to expand our acoustic monitoring work, building on our existing network of community-led acoustic monitoring programs.



FOR COMMUNITIES

Communities across the Canadian Arctic and Atlantic are deeply connected to ocean ecosystems. This year, Oceans North remained engaged in various community-focused initiatives to address environmental challenges in these regions alongside those who are witnessing it firsthand.

RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS

In Manitoba, we sponsored the Churchill Storywork Project, an initiative to gather Indigenous and community knowledge about belugas from Inuit, Dene, Cree, and Metis residents of Churchill. In July 2024, Oceans North facilitated storytelling circles with 22 Indigenous residents of the Churchill area to share their knowledge with us and each other. We worked with a local advisory council,

who guided the process and helped to identify a list of interviewees. This is part of a greater effort to record the long history of co-existence between people and belugas in the Western Hudson Bay.

Oceans North was also involved in ongoing work in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) this year, such as community-led data collection and monitoring programs in Ulukhaktok and Imaryuk that are gathering important information to inform future management.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Additionally, we supported knowledge-sharing activities between communities, advancing discussions around land management and Indigenous-led conservation.



Last summer, partnering with the Tuktoyaktuk Hunters and Trappers Committee as well as the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization, we supported an exchange between harvesters in Tuktoyaktuk and Rankin Inlet. The exchange was documented to share the different ways in which their communities manage, harvest and prepare beluga whales, which are an important species throughout Inuit Nunangat. In April 2025, Oceans North staff traveled to Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk to host public screenings of the documentary and the full release is anticipated in Fall 2025.

INDIGENOUS-LED CONSERVATION

Over the past year, we supported over 80 community engagement activities organized by the Mushkegowuk Council and its partners to ensure that conservation planning in their territories, including a proposed NMCA, are informed by local priorities.



Over the last two years, Oceans North has also supported the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization (MHTO) in establishing a no-go zone for cruise ships in Eclipse Sound. This initiative, developed in collaboration with AECO, has received the support of Transport Canada through the establishment of a Notice to Mariners. In parallel, Oceans North has engaged in a pilot-program initiative with the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) and AECO to reduce unnecessary cruise ship traffic requiring border services, helping to minimize the overall footprint of vessel traffic in the region.



FOR THE CLIMATE

ZERO-EMISSION VESSELS

A healthy ocean is dependent on a healthy climate. To that end, Oceans North is working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in marine industries at both the local and international level.

As part of this work, Oceans North is helping lay the foundation for Canada's first generation of zero-emission fishing vessels and workboats. Oceans North — in partnership with Miawpukek Horizon Maritime Services, Allswater, the Marine Environmental Observation, Prediction and Response Network, and Qikiqtaaluk Corporation — [launched a study](#) into the development of the first zero-emission ocean-going research vessel. This vessel would enhance Canada's research capacity while protecting marine environments and promoting sustainability in marine sectors. In the upcoming year, Oceans North will work towards milestones like researching and developing fuel sources, designing a concept for the vessel, and engaging with industry stakeholders.

Additionally, the design for Oceans North's zero-emission lobster fishing vessel was completed in August, led by our partners at Allswater, Bluegrid and Membertou. With the feasibility assessment and design stages complete, the next step in this ongoing project is to build the boat and conduct its first commercial pilot run.

Adopting battery-electric systems for these vessels would be an important step towards modernizing Canadian fishing fleets, cutting operational costs and advancing Canada's progress towards a net-zero-by-2050 goal.

CLEAN PORTS AND GREEN SHIPPING CORRIDORS

Aside from this, Oceans North has advocated for the development of a Green Shipping Corridor Fund to support the decarbonization of Canada's shipping ports. This year, the Government of Canada contributed \$165.4 million to that fund.

Oceans North also facilitated a study and is in the process of finalizing a report to evaluate the demand for e-methanol within the bulk and cruise ship sectors. The study supports the establishment of a Pacific North-West to Alaska Green Cruise Corridor and the North Pacific Green Corridor Consortium. We are working with the Port of Vancouver to publicize this study.

Our efforts to minimize the environmental impact of shipping have taken place at the international level, as well. In September 2024, Oceans North attended meetings at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) headquarters in London, contributing to critical conversations about the reduction of shipping-related greenhouse gas emissions. At the IMO, Canada has taken an ambitious position on this goal, and Oceans North's climate-focused work supports that progress.



LOOKING AHEAD

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For nearly 15 years, Oceans North has been dedicated to supporting Indigenous and community-led conservation efforts in the Arctic and beyond. Going forward, we remain committed to working with our partners to achieve that goal.

Through our ongoing partnership with Ocean Conservancy, we will keep working to secure protections for the Central Arctic Ocean, a vulnerable region which is of vital importance to Indigenous peoples, coastal communities and the environment.

Building on our existing partnerships, we plan to expand research on the impact of ocean to new areas, deploying more hydrophones in sites across the Arctic to gather baseline data on the soundscape that will improve monitoring and help inform future management. We are also supporting research on the impact of noise on beluga in Churchill, conducted in partnership with the University of Manitoba.



Oceans North is also focused on accelerating the decarbonization of marine industries, which will continue in the next year with the development of the first zero-emission ocean-going research vessel. With the feasibility and design stages now complete, we will also begin the process of building our zero-emission lobster fishing vessel with our partners.

Alongside our conservation, science and policy work, Oceans North will remain engaged in initiatives that support long-term community stewardship. For example, over the coming months, we will work towards the construction of a harvester training center in Churchill, which will serve as a hub for knowledge sharing, skill development, and community-led conservation programs. We are also helping facilitate a cultural exchange between Inuit Guardians from Rigolet, Nunatsiavut and community members in Inukjuak, Nunavik, where participants will discuss shared priorities across their regions.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OCEANS NORTH CONSERVATION SOCIETY | Summary financial statements*
For the 12 months ending March 31, 2024 (all figures rounded to nearest \$,000)

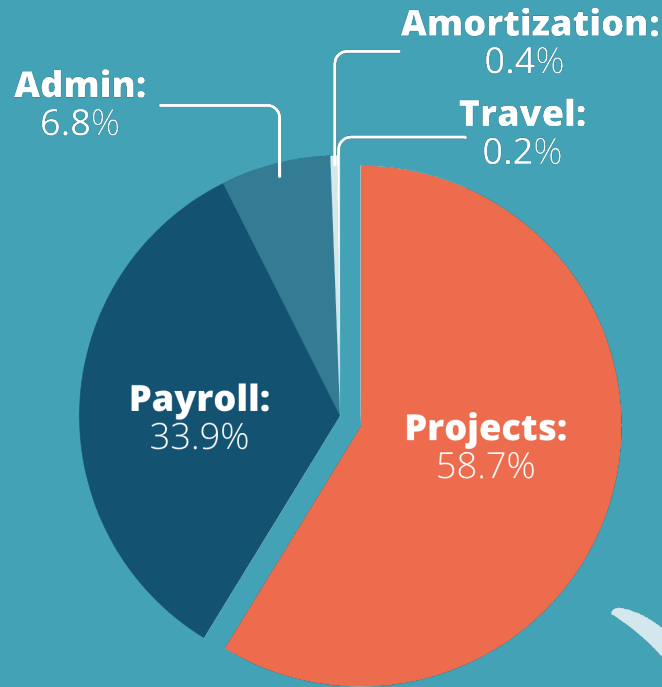
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING MARCH 31, 2024

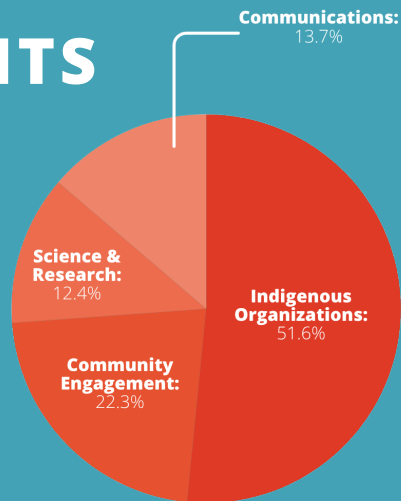
| | 2025 Board Approved Budget | 2024 Audited Actuals | 2023 Audited Actuals |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| REVENUES | \$28,522,000 | \$14,306,000 | \$9,800,000 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Administrative | \$597,000 | \$621,000 | \$563,000 |
| Foreign exchange loss | \$37,000 | \$48,000 | (\$66,000) |
| Amortization | \$80,000 | \$59,000 | \$48,000 |
| Payroll | \$6,417,000 | \$4,783,000 | \$3,949,000 |
| Projects | \$20,203,000 | \$8,297,000 | \$4,684,000 |
| Rent | \$213,000 | \$203,000 | \$175,000 |
| Travel | \$750,000 | \$26,000 | \$37,000 |
| Other | \$99,000 | \$56,000 | \$36,000 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$28,433,000 | \$14,126,000 | \$9,620,000 |
| EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENSES | \$89,000 | \$180,000 | \$180,000 |
| Opening net assets | \$754,000 | \$574,000 | \$394,000 |
| Closing net assets | \$843,000 | \$754,000 | \$574,000 |

*excerpt from audited financial statements

EXPENSES



SUBGRANTS



OCEANS NORTH CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Summary financial statements*

For the year ended March 31, 2024

(all figures rounded to nearest \$,000)

BALANCE SHEET

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Cash | \$2,848,000 | \$5,944,000 |
| Accounts receivable | \$156,000 | \$436,000 |
| Prepaid expenses | \$194,000 | \$99,000 |
| Investments | \$26,226,000 | \$13,701,000 |
| Net tangible capital assets | \$135,000 | \$163,000 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$29,559,000 | \$20,343,000 |
| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | | |
| Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities | \$1,495,000 | \$692,000 |
| Deferred Contributions | \$27,310,000 | \$19,077,000 |
| Total current liabilities | \$28,805,000 | \$19,769,000 |
| Net assets | \$754,000 | \$574,000 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | \$29,559,000 | \$20,343,000 |

*excerpt from audited financial statements

FUNDERS & FUNDED PARTNERS

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



FUNDERS

Becht Foundation
Blue Nature Alliance
ClimateWorks Foundation
Dalhousie University
Deep Sea Conservation Coalition
Donner Foundation
Environmental Funders Canada
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Google Canada
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Great Island Foundation
Hilary & Galen Weston Foundation
National Philanthropic Trust
Oak Foundation
Ocean Conservancy
OceanKind
Oceans5
Parks Canada
Pew Charitable Trusts
Private Donations
RBC Foundation
Sobrato Family Foundation
Wyss Foundation

FUNDED PARTNERS

Arup International Projects Ltd.
Bear River First Nation
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
Churchill Northern Studies Centre
David Suzuki Foundation
Ecology Action Centre
Ekaluktutiak Hunters & Trappers Organization
Fox Lake Cree Nation
Frontiers North Adventures
Kivalliq Inuit Association
MakeWay Charitable Society
Membertou Reserve Band Council
MITACS
Mushkegowuk Council
Nature Canada
Ocean Conservancy
Oceans North Kalaallit Nunaat (ONKN)
OHTC Olokhaktomiut Hunters & Trappers Committee
Putjotik Fisheries Ltd.
Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Sachs Harbour Hunters & Trappers Committee
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Sheluqun Environmental Consulting
The Pond Inlet Library & Archives Society
Tuktoyaktuk Hunters & Trappers Committee
Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources UINR
University of Alberta
University of Guelph
University of Manitoba
Vizzuality (Simbiotica S.L.)
Wildlands League
World Wildlife Fund Canada
York Factory First Nation

