

## Regional Working Groups Framework

### Canadian Ocean Literacy Coalition Overview

The Canadian Ocean Literacy Coalition (COLC) is a cluster of many diverse organizations, networks, institutions and individuals across Canada who are coming together to leverage the strengths of all members to create greater impact in advancing ocean literacy (OL) in Canada and globally. Through a full-time National Coordinator, Advisory Council, and regional working groups, the COLC is establishing the framework through which a national ocean literacy strategy will be developed.

### Canadian Ocean Literacy Strategy: Objectives

Based on the OL Development Plan<sup>1</sup> and consultation phase, there are five primary objectives for the Canadian OL Strategy, as noted below. As the COLC grows, however, these objectives may be adjusted and/or expanded.

1. Clarify Canada's existing OL landscape.
2. Identify and prioritize the gaps and barriers to Canadian OL, and create a plan to strategically address them (e.g., capacity building, community of practice development, research, policy changes, curricula enhancement, program/resource development).
3. Create a plan for establishing an OL research and monitoring program for Canada.
4. Identify strategic opportunities to foster a stronger connection with the ocean in Canada's national identity.
5. Identify strategic opportunities to engage in OL initiatives and partnerships at the international level.

### Regional Working Groups Overview & Key Responsibilities

Under the direction of the Advisory Council, the National Coordinator (and additional staff) will initially establish five regional working groups (RWG) to facilitate broader consultation and regional engagement essential to developing an effective Canadian OL Strategy. These five working groups include: **Atlantic, Arctic, Pacific, Great Lakes / St. Lawrence, and Inland Canada**. Each RWG is comprised of interested COLC members (invited and self-identified) and includes a multi-sectoral, transdisciplinary, and multi-cultural cross-section of members that is representative of, and responsive to, the regional diversity that makes each working group unique and essential to the broader national strategy. Each RWG will be supported by a paid full-time Regional Coordinator that reports to the National Coordinator. Each RWG can determine if a chair (or co-chairs) is needed to support the Regional Coordinator's efforts (i.e., providing a final review of reports/related documents, etc).

Note: Funding for the Regional Coordinator positions has not yet been secured. RWGs may be tasked with helping to raise these funds.

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<sup>1</sup> The OL Development Plan (OLDP) was created in June 2018 under the guidance of an informal multi-partner oversight committee with financial support from Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The OLDP was informed by consultations with 38 stakeholders from diverse sectors and a review of existing national and international OL (and related) frameworks. A PDF of the OLDP can be found [here](#).

### **Key Structural Elements of RWGs:**

- A RWG must be comprised of a minimum of seven individuals with a minimum of one representative from each of the seven identified sectors, including: 1) Government; 2) Academia & Research; 3) NGO & Advocacy; 4) Education & Youth; 5) Industry; 6) Cultural Heritage; and 7) Media.
- Each sector represented on the RWG needs to consult widely and identify a minimum of three other leaders from that sector to serve on a sub-committee or as expert advisors / reviewers (a minimum total of 21 people must be actively involved in the RWG efforts).
- Regional consultation efforts need to include input from a minimum of 75 stakeholders for each sector, for a minimum total of 525 regional participants (e.g., hosting multiple town halls across the region, conducting an online survey, leading participatory workshops, etc.).
- Regional Coordinators will be provided with dedicated in-kind office space from a COLC member in the region.
- Regional Coordinators will report to the National Coordinator via a monthly conference call, and more regularly (informally) as needed.
- Regional Coordinators will keep RWG documents on the COLC 'Member Hub', allowing other RWGs to share effective practices, models, approaches, etc.

### **Key Responsibilities of RWGs:**

- designing and facilitating broad and diverse regional consultations;
- completing an asset mapping exercise that identifies what organizations in the region are affecting OL, how they are affecting it (intentionally or unintentionally), and what demographic group they are affecting;
- conducting a gaps and opportunities analysis for OL in the region, as well as an analysis of the barriers and motivations to ocean-positive behaviours in the region;
- analyzing existing regional, provincial/territorial, and municipal policies, frameworks, strategies, and/or events for co-alignment and integration opportunities;
- identifying strategic opportunities regionally to foster a stronger connection with the ocean in Canada's national identity;
- providing a summary report and set of recommendations, including implementation plan(s), to the National Coordinator for **August/September 2019 (9-month period - Nov/Dec 2018 start)** to be synthesized into a national strategy; and
- reviewing and providing input to the draft Canadian Ocean Literacy Strategy.

Note that the specific responsibilities of the working groups may be adjusted as the COLC continues to grow.

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