

# Knowledge is ocean power: Increasing ocean literacy among youth in Nova Scotia

Nikki Comeau - June 8, 2015



*Haley Guest, an ocean education research associate, with Dr. Wallace (left) and Dr. Lotze. (Nick Pearce photos)*

When it comes to ocean sciences, Nova Scotia — a coastal province boasting the world’s highest tides and a growing “blue economy” — has a knowledge gap among its youth.

Three Dalhousie researchers set out to study the level of ocean literacy in Nova Scotian students and their findings offer a glimpse into provincial school curriculum and how youth in the province understand the ocean today. With ever increasing human dependence on the oceans, and concerns over climate change and human activities that threaten the health of the world’s oceans, researchers believe it’s crucial that citizens become more educated and informed about their ocean environment.

“We developed a survey and a quiz, which aimed to understand young people’s level of ocean literacy, their interest in ocean topics, activities, and careers, and the value they hold for the ocean,” explains Haley Guest, lead author of "Youth and the Sea: Ocean Literacy in Nova Scotia, Canada" and ocean education research associate with the [CERC.OCEAN lab](#) at Dal.

Guest teamed up with Doug Wallace, Canada Excellence Research Chair in Ocean Science and Technology and Heike Lotze, Canada Research Chair in Marine Renewable Resources, on the