

## Dal News

### An ocean science power couple **Drs. Worm and Lotze win Peter Benchley Ocean Award**

Regis Dudley - June 24, 2013



**Drs. Lotze and Worm receive their Benchley Ocean Award in Washington last month. (BlueFrontier / Duinsky photo)**

Like

17 people like this. [Sign Up](#) to see what your friends like.

Japanese poet Ryunosuke Satoro wrote, “Individually we are one drop. Together we are an ocean.”

Satoro’s point is hard to dispute after reading the resumés of Dal Biology faculty members [Boris Worm](#) and [Heike Lotze](#).

For 17 years, the husband and wife duo have worked in partnership to further our understanding of the world’s life-giving ocean systems. Last month, at a ceremony in Washington D.C., their accomplishments were recognized with the [Peter Benchley Ocean Award for Excellence in Science](#).

“It’s the first time we’ve won a prize as a couple,” says Dr. Lotze with a smile. “It recognizes that we work well as a team.”

“We’ve won awards individually before, but we’ve sometimes felt uneasy about that,” adds Dr. Worm. “Often our ideas come from discussions we’ve shared and it’s strange when one of us wins an award for our joint creativity.”

The couple met as graduate students at Dal’s sister institution in Kiel Germany, which was then known as the Institute for Marine Sciences. (Today it’s the GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research). Drs. Lotze and Worm exposed each other to different perspectives on research.

“Boris comes more so from basic experimental ecology and I’m interested in applied research,” explains Dr. Lotze. “I want to solve real-world problems and find solutions with my work.”