

## Science in the News!

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By Sarah Dowler

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### **Dalhousie Scientist Wins Major Award For Writing Ocean History**



Dr. Heike Lotze is a Marine Historical Ecologist, a member of a growing interdisciplinary field that studies long term ocean changes in the past and future and the history of human impact on our oceans. Dalhousie scientists Dr. Lotze and husband Dr. Boris Worm were presented with the Peter Benchley Ocean Award for Excellence in Science on May 15 in Washington, DC for their outstanding contributions to ocean conservation.

As questions about the future of our oceans loom, research into marine conservation is more important than ever.

While most ocean scientists only look back 30 to 50 years, Dalhousie scientist Dr. Heike Lotze has taken the unusual approach of looking deep into the past.

This innovative approach has earned her and fellow researcher and husband Dr. Boris Worm this year's Peter Benchley Ocean Award for Excellence in Science!

Lotze says that over the next century, as ocean temperatures and chemistry change, marine species will be

confronted with new environmental pressures that have never been seen before in human history.

Lotze's research has revealed that the same environmental conditions that contributed to mass extinctions millions of years ago are all on the rise today.

Our oceans' past might be the key to understanding our future challenges, but as Dr. Lotze found out, our oceans' history still needed to be written.

#### **Writing the History of our Oceans**

For all her contributions and recognition in ocean conservation, Dr. Heike Lotze is a scientist with a very unusual job description.