**REPORT OF THE BoFEP OCEAN LITERACY WORKJNG GROUP**

This year has been very productive, thanks to the active participation of the working group members and the collaboration of three key organizations, namely IOI-Canada, BoFEP and the NS Department of Education.

 The four major activities in 2024 were as follows:

1. A Professional Development Day (PD Day), entitled “The Ocean and Us in an Era of Climate Change” for 35 High School teachers, primarily from the HRM area, delivered on March 23rd at the Dalhousie Student Union Building. The day included six excellent presentations, classroom demonstrations, an instruction manual that included reference to extensive resource material, the apparently customary “swag bags”, and handouts of important documents including the *World Ocean Reviews* and *The Voyage of Discovery* that documents BIO’s contribution to this country’s oceanographic research. Other material was on display.

It should be noted that the planning involved in such a PD Day was extensive and time consuming and involved many experienced teachers in addition to IOI-Canada and BoFEP members and guidance from the NS Department of Education. The composition of the lecture team was also a critical component and a major contributor to the “Days” success.

2. The BoFEP/ACCESS/HMSC Conference, “Tides of Change” held at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre in Saint Andrews, NB, from June 4-7th, provided the ideal venue for an Ocean Literacy session, chaired by Peter Wells. We invited Dr. Diz Glithero, founder and Director of the Canadian Ocean Literacy Coalition, to provide the keynote address. This was followed by an OL paper describing the rationale of the previously mentioned PD Day, presented by Mike Butler on behalf of Kerri McPherson, Samantha Rebitt and Peter Wells.

3. A second PD Day focused on the ocean took place on October 19th for 35 B.Ed. students from Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax. The program benefitted from the feed-back from the first PD Day. A number of academic observers were present for this exercise. The six person lecture team again did an excellent series of presentations.

4. Sondra Eger’s (Waterloo Univ. and DFO) forthcoming book, “*The Inner Bay of Fundy Colouring and Activity Book*” was publicized at the Huntsman Conference and at the March 23 PD Day. The PD Day on October 19th provided an opportunity for Sondra and colleague to demonstrate the utility of the book to the B.Ed. students. The book will be available for purchase later this year.

The future activities of the OL Working Group include the delivery of a third PD Day at Acadia University in March 2025 for their trainee teachers. If the three PD Days to-date and on careful reflection meet expectations, particularly those of the NS Department of Education, other PD Days may be possible for the other Faculties of Education in Nova Scotia.

In conclusion, the PD days with teachers focus on the ocean, the influence of climate change, and the health of the ocean, especially the Bay of Fundy. Hence, this work contributes to BoFEP’s overall mission of sharing and communicating knowledge about the Bay and the ocean as a whole.

*Submitted by Mike Butler., Chair OL Working Group*