

Resources for Creating Lifelong Ocean Science Literacy

Authors: Kristin Uiterwyk, Urban Harbors Institute, University of Massachusetts Boston; Bob Chen, School for the Environment, University of Massachusetts Boston; Catherine Cramer, New York Hall of Science
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Abstract

Many of those working in ocean and coastal management and research possess a wealth of interesting and important knowledge that could be shared with different audiences to:

1. Promote improved management of natural resources
2. Increase collaboration among researchers and managers
3. Create a more informed general public
4. Build support for a project
5. Inspire the next generation of scientists and managers
6. Secure additional funding for research

Unfortunately, funding for outreach tools and training within a project are often an afterthought, or are lacking altogether.

For the past 4 years, a group of experts in ocean sciences, formal education, and informal education has been working together to develop outreach and education resources that improve the communication of ocean and coastal science information in a meaningful way to different types of audiences.

The group, COSEE OCEAN (Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence – Ocean Communities in Education and social Networks) is an NSF-Funded center established as part of the COSEE Network. This poster describes some of the key resources developed by COSEE OCEAN.



Best of COSEE Hands-on Activities

The collection of hands-on ocean related lessons and activities (available at http://www.cosee.net/best_activities/) is an excellent resource for those looking to bring ocean science into classrooms,



science fairs, and other similar venues. Each lesson/activity is provided in full, and a search function allows users to quickly identify lessons that might fit their specific needs (e.g., by topic, grade level, time commitment). The activities were selected from among many products developed by different COSEE centers over the program's long history, and have been field tested at several public science fairs to ensure that they are engaging and complete.

Make Your Own Video: A simple guide to communicating your research effectively

This guide provides you with step-by-step instructions on how to develop a short video about your research. Within the guide, you will learn how to “discover your story” and decide what it is you want to portray in the video; understand the components of a successful video; discover how to connect your story to the 7 Principles of Ocean Literacy; develop a storyboard to help you film, create and edit your video; and share your video. The guide is available at: <http://www.coseeocean.net/resources/videoguide/>



COSEE OCEAN Inquiry Group Report: Opportunities for Creating Lifelong Ocean Science Literacy

http://scholarworks.umb.edu/environment_pubs/1/

This report takes a hard look at the existing methods for educating the public about ocean science – largely focused on informal learning opportunities. The authors explore more than 100 traditional and non-traditional resources and outlets for ocean science education, and conclude that, despite the wealth of resources and talent engaged in ocean science education, the public is still largely unaware of the ways in which they are connected to the ocean.

Within the report is information about key changes in teaching and learning practices that may result in an increase in ocean literacy. Readers will find descriptions of emerging and underutilized opportunities to engage the public, including ideas for reaching new audiences and creating messages that will transform how people relate to the ocean. The report serves as an excellent resource for those looking for new ideas or justification for funding innovative ocean science education programs.



Graduate Students for Ocean Education (GrOE)

In an effort to increase communication, collaboration, and networking between graduate students interested in ocean science education, COSEE OCEAN started a Facebook page where users can publicize events and opportunities; share their latest research; solicit advice from peers; and share articles, videos, and other resources of potential interest to the community.



Mini-grants for seaHarmony Users

SeaHarmony (<http://www.seaharmony.org/>) is a website that, similar to online dating services, matches informal and formal educators with scientists and resource managers interested in education/outreach to enhance collaboration on research and educational projects. COSEE OCEAN is working to increase the network of seaHarmony users, and is offering small stipends to graduate students and teachers who “meet” via seaHarmony and want to collaborate.



COSEE: The Consortium for Ocean Science Exploration and Engagement

With the end of NSF funding, the former COSEE network is transitioning into a new national network of ocean scientists and educators providing educational programs, materials, and tools for linking cutting-edge ocean science with the outreach and education needed to increase ocean literacy among diverse audiences.