

# NAME

## NORTHWEST AQUATIC & MARINE EDUCATORS

**Hello and Happy Spring!**

With the shift into spring and summer, we have many great things happening across BC. As a companion to the NW Compass, which covers events across all NAME regions, the **NAME-BC Quarterly Newsletter** will focus specifically on events and opportunities that are most relevant to our members across British Columbia. It's a chance to shine a spotlight on our local community and share exciting news and events you won't want to miss. You can find more details about specific events on the [NAME-BC Chapter page](#).

Read on for updates, opportunities, and upcoming events!

### **In Review: Spotlight on Interior BC!**

#### **Making Waves Across BC: Connecting Communities and Classrooms to the Ocean**

*Submitted by Tristyn Hay, NAME-BC Chapter President*

No matter where we live, we are all connected to the ocean—and the Marine Mobile Biology Outreach Program is here to make that connection unforgettable! Led and developed by Dr. Tristyn Hay, this innovative initiative has reached over 6,000 students in 2024, bringing marine life into classrooms from Kindergarten to Grade 10 across the Okanagan and Northern BC.

In a remarkable effort to reach underserved communities, Dr. Hay and her outreach partner, Brady Wilson, went above and beyond by driving and even flying real marine animals into remote Indigenous communities. Thanks to their dedication, over 500 children in these regions had the rare opportunity to see, touch, and learn about marine life—an experience that might otherwise have been out of reach.



But the impact doesn't stop in the classroom. The program has also been making waves at community events throughout the Okanagan! From the excitement of the Okanagan's famous Salmon Week to inspiring new students at UBC Okanagan's Jumpstart Week, as well as hosting interactive sessions at Girl Guide events and more, the Marine Mobile Biology Program is a cornerstone of ocean education and engagement.

Through hands-on experiences with marine animals, participants of all ages are discovering the importance of ocean conservation. As Dr. Hay emphasizes, “You can’t conserve what you don’t know!”



Whether reaching classrooms in remote areas or lighting up community events, this program is creating a ripple effect of ocean literacy and conservation awareness across BC. Stay tuned for more exciting outreach adventures!

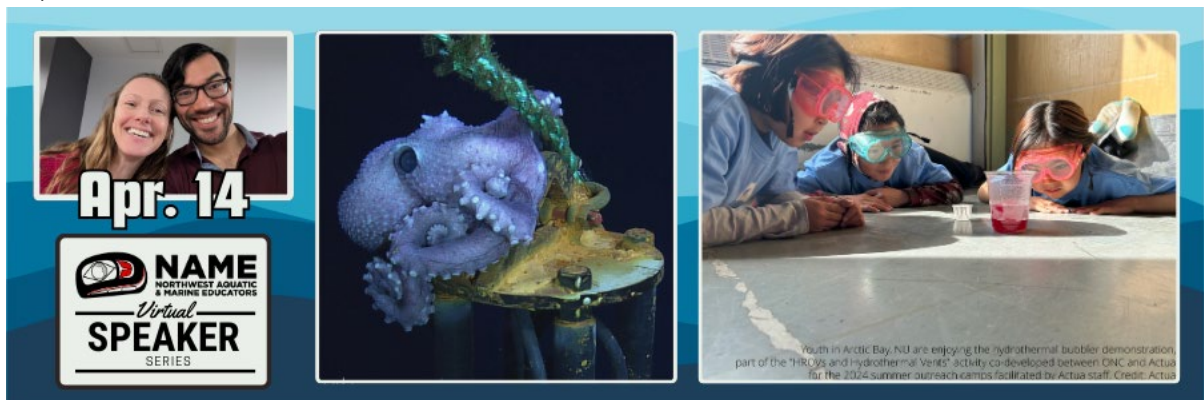
*Biography: Tristyn Hay, Ph.D. is the NAME-BC Chapter President and Lab Program Manager & Outreach Coordinator in the Biology Department, Irving K. Barber Faculty of Science, at the University of British Columbia Okanagan campus*

## Coming up soon: What’s happening this spring?

Here’s a snapshot of exciting opportunities to connect with fellow NAME members:

- **Virtual Speaker Series:** We continue to have a [great line-up of speakers](#) scheduled for this spring. Be sure to watch your inbox and social media for invitations and details. As always, [you must be a NAME member to register](#) for these sessions. If your membership is not up to date, you can [renew now](#). Members also have access to the [Speaker Archive](#) for recordings of past presentations, so don’t miss out!

**Mon. Apr. 14 (7:30pm PT): Nick Hammar & Lauren Hudson - Ocean Networks Canada 20,000 Sensors Under the Sea: Ocean Networks Canada and K-12 Education**



Join Ocean Networks Canada’s (ONC) K-12 Education team to learn about innovative ocean technology that is bringing ocean data to the surface. ONC has established an ocean-observing network featuring deep-sea, coastal, and land-based observatory infrastructures in the Pacific, Arctic, and Atlantic Oceans, as well as in Antarctica. This is helping scientists around the world learn more about the global ocean, with real-time data that is free and open to all. Dip into ONC’s free K-12 educational resources which bring ocean science into classrooms and communities, including our Ocean Sense program co-developed with Indigenous partners.

*Biography: As Youth Programs Coordinator, Nick Hammar works with the K-12 Education Coordinators to plan and deliver educational offerings using ONC data at events involving K-12 youth or K-12 educators, including in-person and virtual classroom presentations, public outreach events, and conferences. Lauren Hudson is a K-12 Education Coordinator, with learner and educator engagement as well as a deep respect for the ocean at the heart of her work.*

**Mon. May 5 (6:00pm\* PT): Regina Cozzi - St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia  
Connecting youth to the ocean through near-peer mentoring**

***\*Please note the change from the usual time, as the presenter is in Nova Scotia***



X-Oceans Outreach is a mobile program that promotes ocean literacy to youth in rural areas of Nova Scotia. The program, led by laboratory instructors of the Biology Dept. to St. Francis Xavier University, connects undergraduate and graduate students to youth in underserved school communities. Through a near-peer mentoring approach, student facilitators from diverse STEM programs provide hands-on inquiry-based activities to young learners. This presentation will focus on the program's framework and challenges for promoting ocean stewardship, facilitators' development and youths' ocean identity development through STEM. This type of framework and experiential activities can easily be adapted beyond the shores of Nova Scotia to the shores of the Northwest Pacific coastline.

*Biography: Regina Cozzi is a senior laboratory instructor and researcher in the Biology Department of St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia. She has a background in molecular biology and environmental immunotoxicology. Her passion for ocean literacy outreach started in 2012, when she realized that, even though she lived in a coastal community, most youth lacked knowledge about the ocean. She started working on a framework to bring to life the X-Oceans Outreach program bringing the department's resources to local educators and bridging the gap between researchers/scientists and rural school communities.*

Do you know someone who would like to be a presenter for our Virtual Speaker Series for Fall 2025? Please contact us at [info@pacname.org](mailto:info@pacname.org)!

- **Join us in Victoria for a Marine Education Event!**  
NAME-BC is proud to host **interactive touch tanks** and celebrate the release of **Gloria Snively's newest book**, April 26, 2-4pm at the at the East Sooke Community Hall (1397 Coppermine Road). Meet the author and illustrator, and learn about Pacific ecology! You can find more information on the NAME-BC page for the [Orca Book Launch](#). For more info about Gloria Snively's other books, visit <http://www.gloriasnively.com/>. Books sales help support NAME events and opportunities.



A sneak peak into the new book:

Sam has always dreamed about being an orca, while Crystal discovers she hopes to grow up and study orcas as a marine biologist. When the siblings head to the Pacific coast to visit their aunt and uncle, they are in for a treat! Aunt Kate is a marine biologist and has all kinds of important information to share about the Resident orca pods. An entertaining story with beautiful, whimsical, biologically accurate illustrations. Children will learn basic ecology concepts while exploring the Pacific coastline right alongside Sam and Crystal.

- **NAME Board Participation**

Watch your inboxes throughout April and May for information on the NAME 2025/2026 Board elections, with voting wrapping up by July 15.

## Looking ahead: Summer events

The vibrant energy of summer is ideal for igniting curiosity and engaging in hands-on learning. Join us as we celebrate the wonders of the sea and explore the vital connection between land and water, through experiences that strengthen our community's bonds with the natural world.

- **Ocean Week & World Ocean Day (June 1-8, 2025):**

Many communities across Canada will be organizing events to celebrate *World Ocean Day*.



**OCEAN WEEK**  
VICTORIA

- In Victoria and across southern Vancouver Island, [Ocean Week Victoria](#) will be hosting many events to celebrate our Big Blue Backyard!

- In the Lower Mainland, check out [Ocean Week Vancouver](#), newly established in 2024 as a regional hub of Ocean Week Canada.

- Across BC, you can also connect to the larger national initiative, [Ocean Week Canada](#), as well as to broader international initiatives including the [UN World Ocean Day](#) and the [World Ocean Day \(Ocean Project\)](#). Even if you are not near the ocean, these resources offer many ways to celebrate how water in your region connects you to Canada's coastlines!



- If your organization or community is planning an event, please let us know so we can share it with the network and on social media!

- **NAME 2025 Conference in Newport, Oregon (July 24-27, 2025):**  
Mark your calendars - [NAME 2025 Aquatic Science Extravaganza: Outdoor Explorations from the Forest to the Sea](#) in Newport, Oregon will offer a plethora of opportunities to explore and learn about coastal dynamics including the impacts of climate change and the connections between our fresh and saltwater communities. Watch your inbox and social media for information soon about registration... We can't wait to gather in-person with fellow NAME members to explore, learn, and connect!

### **Get Involved & Share Your News!**

We encourage you to share any BC-specific events or news with us! Send your announcements to [bc@pacname.org](mailto:bc@pacname.org), and we'll help spread the word to NAME-BC community. If you want to include your event in the bi-weekly *NWCompass* that goes out to all NAME members along the West Coast, please also CC [compass@pacname.org](mailto:compass@pacname.org).

If you have photos from BC-based events that you'd like to share in the next newsletter, please send them our way at [bc@pacname.org](mailto:bc@pacname.org). We'd love to celebrate the successes and milestones of our vibrant community.

On behalf of the NAME-BC Executive Board, we are excited to continue this journey together in 2025. Stay tuned for all the great things coming your way, and as always, don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or ideas.

Warmly,

*Karycia Mitchell*

*on behalf of the NAME-BC Executive Board*

[www.pacname.org](http://www.pacname.org)