

IMBeR IPO-Canada Annual Report

Reporting period August 2022 – March 2023

Recruitment of a new Administrative Assistant for the IPO

- IMBeR IPO-Canada was pleased to welcome Paula George as the new IMBeR Administrative Officer in Halifax in July. Her position is shared 50% with the Ocean Frontier Institute.

SSC meeting

- IMBeR held its first SSC meeting of 2022 online, with the Diana Ruiz Pino taking over the reigns as the new IMBeR Chair, in August.
- As part of a strategic planning exercise (rather than holding a second virtual meeting at the end of the year), IPO-Canada and IPO-China coordinated meetings with Diana Ruiz Pino, and the Co-Chairs of IMBeR's four Regional Programmes, four Working Groups, the Interdisciplinary Early Career Network (IMECaN) and partner projects. The aim of the meetings were for Diana to get to know more about the groups and their activities, but also to focus them on synthesis activities and their contribution to IMBeR's legacy.

International Marine Networking Connector

- IPO-Canada, together with our hosts, the Ocean Frontier Institute, and the Marine Environmental Observation, Prediction and Response (MEOPAR), organised a virtual *International Marine Networking Connector* on 22 September 2022. *Gather Town* was used to facilitate a series of 'speed-networking' sessions. Small groups of attendees with a facilitator, discussed their research interests or answered a set question to stimulate discussion. This enabled attendees to meet others working on similar topics and that could potentially lead to collaboration. The event was endorsed by the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Future Earth Assembly

- John Claydon attended the Future Earth Assembly in Paris in September 2022. The aim was to advance transdisciplinary research in support of transformations to global sustainability and to achieve its vision of a sustainable and equitable world for all. The meeting convened the portfolio of 26 IMBeR-like entities tackling transdisciplinary science (Global Research Networks addressing oceans, land, cities, water, finance, risk, and more) with the goal to forge synergies and cross-cutting initiatives. IMBeR presented a poster.

IMBeR contribution to UN Ocean Decade of Ocean Science

- UN Ocean Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development endorsement for IMBeR events in 2022-2023
 - International Networking Connector - IMBeR, MEOPAR, Ocean Frontier Institute – 22 September 2022
 - We have applied for the ClimEco8 summer school and IMBIZO7 to be endorsed by the UN Decade

Marine Data Hub

- Progress has been made with the IMBeR Marine Data Hub. A consultant has been employed by the IPO-Canada to finalise all the technical elements that will enable users to filter according to particular

categories, data formats or variables within the datasets. This [video of the Data Hub](#) provides a guided tour of the site and highlights the options available. It has a great search option that searches in real-time under category, data type, variables and the also finds specific words in the title of the dataset. This can be used on a computer or phone and will include a walk-through tutorial for easy use.

- A working group will be established to be responsible for populating the hub with datasets and moderating the hub. The launch of the Marine Data Hub with the Ocean Frontier Institute will coincide with the establishment of the working group that will coordinate this activity.
- IMBeR's [Innovation Challenge 4](#) implementation team— *To Advance and improve the use of social science data for ocean management, decision making and policy development* – have confirmed 12 case studies globally they will use to identify best practices in integrating social and natural science data in upscaling from local to global application. This will include assessing from which critical areas of human impact on the ocean these case studies emerge. This activity is envisaged as a participatory process of co-development of knowledge among a network of partners and will also identify social science data for the IMBeR-OFI Marine Data Hub.

ClimEco8 Summer School

- Preparations for the ClimEco8 Summer School are in an advanced stage. It will be held from 19 -24 June 2023, at the Mediterranean Institute for Environmental Studies in Koper, Slovenia. The theme is *Sustaining the ocean we Need for the Future We Want*.

IMBIZO7

- Planning is underway for IMBIZO7: *Transitioning towards sustainable ocean governance by 2030: Commitments and Challenges*, that will be held in Rabat, Morocco at the Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II (IAV) from 19-24 November 2023.
- The Scientific Organising Committee, consisting of the Chair (Diana Ruiz Pino), two facilitators (Carol Robinson and Alistair Hobday), the workshop co-convenors and two local sponsors have been appointed
- The Local Organising Committee will work with the IPO-Canada to ensure that the local arrangements and facilities are as needed.
- Over the next few months, these committees will meet regularly to ensure that the scientific programme of each of the workshops and the integration activities will address the IMBeR priority research areas

Future Oceans 3

- It has been confirmed with local hosts (SCOR National Committee, Colombia, and INVEMAR) that IMBeR's third Open Science Conference - Future Oceans 3 - will be held in Santa Marta, Colombia, in June 2024. The scientific committee for the conference has been appointed in January 2023. The call for session and workshop proposals will open soon.
- John represented IMBeR at the 75th *Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute*, Destin, Florida, USA, 6-11 November 2022 – Dr. John Claydon attended the '[Regional Women in Fisheries Forum](#)', hosted by the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission. Outputs from this workshop will include a regional call to action (legislative, programmatic, and financial) for gender equity and gender mainstreaming in the Western Central Atlantic. Dr. Claydon also presented *The prevalence of mislabelled grouper in the Turks and Caicos Islands: causes, effects, and potential solutions* and co-authored *Adrift in troubled waters: 'Blue Justice' for small-scale fisheries in the Turks and Caicos Islands*.

- IPO-Canada supported the Interdisciplinary Marine Early Career Network (IMECaN) to convene the [Fostering Diversity Equity and Inclusion into Interdisciplinary Marine Research](#) virtual workshop on 11 October 2022.
- IMBeR IPO-Canada collaborated with the IMBeR Human Dimension Working Group, NoCRISES, Vulnerability to Viability (V2V) to deliver the *5th Annual Conference on Sustainable Development 2022* in Dhaka, Bangladesh in October 2022. Lisa Maddison attended the meeting that brought together local and international experts from across the globe to explore the most pressing and nexus issues relating to the Sustainable Development Agenda and included a workshop with local stakeholders to address the challenges of ocean governance in Bangladesh and for the coastal community in blue economy systems in the face of climate change impacts.

Social media

- IMBeR eNews bulletins are published twice a month
- IMBeR has over 2000 Twitter followers and regularly tweets about IMBeR or IMBeR relevant events, articles, early career and student opportunities and positions available.