



CIOOS ATLANTIC
REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE
CANADIAN INTEGRATED OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

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**THE ATLANTIC REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE
CANADIAN INTEGRATED OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM**

PARTNERSHIP PROFILE:

Coastal Action

Coastal Action was established in December 1993 as a charitable organization that addresses environmental concerns in Nova Scotia. The goal of Coastal Action is to protect and restore the environment through research, education, action, and community engagement. Coastal Action is currently tackling many environmental issues that fall under the following theme areas; species at risk and biodiversity, watersheds and water quality, climate change, environmental education, and coastal and marine.

MICROPLASTICS IN THE OCEAN

Plastic pollution can easily degrade in the environment, making microplastics difficult to detect and impossible to clean-up. Current research has been focused on delving deeper into the issue of short-term and long-term effects of microplastics on wildlife and human health. In Atlantic Canada, minimal data has been collected on microplastics in aquatic and marine environments, with no studies focusing on the issue from a regional context. To fill this research gap, Coastal Action developed the Atlantic Canada Microplastic Research Project (2017-2020) to create a baseline understanding of the quantity and type of microplastics in Atlantic Canada. This research will contribute to solutions and initiatives around plastic pollution, focusing efforts on reduction and prevention strategies.

THE CANADIAN INTEGRATED OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM



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Field research

Vision

A healthy environment for future generations

Mission

To protect and restore the environment through research, education, action, and community engagement



CIOOS Atlantic was very supportive and communicative throughout the process, working out issues in a timely and thorough manner. The advice we have for other organizations pursuing data contribution to CIOOS is to be mindful of the way data is collected and to converse with the CIOOS Atlantic team early on in the process, so that transition to the platform is seamless.

- **Ariel Smith**,
Coastal & Marine Team Lead, Coastal Action

Since Coastal Action's 2017-2020 project, the organization has continued to lead microplastic research and education in Atlantic Canada. This work focuses on expanding surface water and sediment data collection sites, expanding capacity for monitoring microplastics, and working with academia to build opportunities for lab analysis in the region. For more information on this work, visit coastalaction.org.



Most work by Coastal Action falls within five core program areas: Species at Risk & Biodiversity, Watersheds & Water Quality, Climate Change, Environmental Education, and Coastal & Marine.





COASTAL ACTION AND CIOOS PARTNERSHIP

The CIOOS Atlantic ocean data platform supports the project by sharing regional microplastic data and encouraging the communication of the issue. It also supports the ongoing collection of microplastic data through comparable methods as it is in an accessible format for other stakeholders. In doing so, Coastal Action's partners and funders can publicly and more easily access data to better understand the project's results. Coastal Action is dedicated to training other organizations and researchers to conduct microplastic sampling using similar methods across the Atlantic region, and the CIOOS platform further encourages others to utilize these protocols.

