



2021 United Nations Decade
2030 of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development



WORLD
OCEAN
EXPLORER.
A VIRTUAL AQUARIUM PROJECT

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Maine Educators Dr. Bjorn Grigholm and Ms. Nell Herrmann to Present World Ocean Explorer at 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice, France

UNITED STATES – Dr. Bjorn Grigholm, Platform and Educational Developer at the World Ocean Observatory (W2O), Owner and Creative Director of Visual Solutions Lab (VSL), and External Associate



of the Climate Change Institute (CCI) at the University of Maine, along with Ms. Nell Herrmann, Educator Advisor for [World Ocean Explorer](#) (WOE) and Enrichment Teacher at Blue Hill Consolidated School, will present at the [2025 United Nations Ocean Conference](#) in Nice, France. Grigholm and Herrmann will be presenting in collaboration with the UN IOC (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) as part of their ocean literacy and ocean science communication activities.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission

Their presentation will spotlight World Ocean Explorer (worldoceanexplorer.org), a free and immersive online platform, created by the [World Ocean Observatory](http://WorldOceanObservatory.org) and Visual Solutions Lab to increase ocean literacy and interest in ocean-related fields. A virtual aquarium, Explorer is designed to be educational, interactive, and fun, using high-resolution videos, 3D models, and descriptive materials.

In his role as Platform and Educational Developer at the World Ocean Observatory, Dr. Grigholm worked closely with Founder Peter Neill and Director Trisha Badger to lead the design and development of World Ocean Explorer, engaging students ages 10 and beyond through high-quality multimedia experiences aligned with Next Generation Science Standards and Ocean Literacy principles.

Ms. Herrmann is a full-time teacher at Blue Hill Consolidated School, and has served since 2024 as the Educator Advisor to World Ocean Explorer. In her role with WOE, she has recruited teachers from Maine, Washington, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, California, Florida, and New Hampshire to use the platform in their classrooms. Herrmann has also recruited international educators from The Bahamas, Anguilla, Nigeria, Liberia, Australia, and Thailand. Herrmann notes that the feedback from educators about WOE has been universally and overwhelmingly positive.

The 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference is co-hosted by France and Costa Rica and will be held in Nice, France from June 9-13, 2025. The conference is focused on implementing Sustainable Development Goal 14, which was adopted in 2015 by all member states of the United Nations with the aim to conserve and sustainably use the oceans. This high-level event will convene global leaders, scientists, educators, and advocates. Grigholm and Herrmann's presentation of World Ocean Explorer will showcase how innovative educational tools can inspire action and foster greater understanding of the ocean's critical role in sustaining life on Earth.

World Ocean Observatory and the World Ocean Explorer virtual immersion received a UN Ocean Decade Activity endorsement for 2025. To be recognized by the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (aka The [Ocean Decade](http://OceanDecade.org)) is to be tasked to contribute toward a shared goal of achieving a healthier and a more sustainable ocean.

The World Ocean Observatory (W2O) is a non-profit organization founded in 2003 by Sedgwick resident Peter Neill, a leading advocate for ocean education and global ocean literacy. Today, Midcoast Maine resident Trisha Badger serves as W2O's Director, continuing to expand its reach and impact through initiatives like World Ocean Explorer.

Visit worldoceanexplorer.org to learn more about the Deep Sea module and other theme-based explorations within the World Ocean Explorer immersive aquarium.

For 22 years, [World Ocean Observatory](http://WorldOceanObservatory.org) (W2O) has been a leading organization advocating for the health and sustainability of the ocean through an accessible worldwide network of communication. Through education, advocacy, collaboration, public connection, and relentless communications, W2O is committed to building an expansive global community of *Citizens of the Ocean* to promote and conserve marine resources for the future of all mankind. Online at worldoceanobservatory.org.