

Strategic Plan for the Bonne Bay Marine Station

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The Bonne Bay Marine Station is developed as a partnership between Memorial University and the Gros Morne Cooperating Association. The Bonne Bay Marine Station will seek to develop a world-class, research facility with academic teaching programs directly linked to the research activity and public outreach programs built around the Bonne Bay and Gros Morne environments. The Marine Station will develop educational and research activities in the region.

The Marine Station will offer a unique integration of research, academic activity, education and public outreach. The thematic focus of the activity will be the marine environment of Bonne Bay and the terrestrial environment of neighbouring Gros Morne National Park. The public outreach at the Station will build upon research activities that will focus upon the unique marine and terrestrial environments of the region. The Station will encourage all interested researchers to make use of the facilities and to share their knowledge.

The Marine Station must offer resources in support of its primary goals, space and facility for research and accommodation for the researchers and students who will work and study at the station. Education activities should encompass a wide range of learning experiences, including, but not limited to, university courses, enrichment courses, workshops and elder hostel learning. Public space should also be made available to support the university's outreach activities with recognition that these activities must build upon the ongoing research and university teaching programs. The Bonne Bay Ocean Observatory will provide a central base for oceanographic research to be developed at the Marine Station, shared with the public locally and made generally available over the internet. Program development will also include activity from Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, in particular the Environmental Science and Environmental Studies programs.

The Marine Station will be developed to strengthen the links between the University and the community; in particular providing increased accessibility to the university, working with local and regional community groups and providing opportunities for life-long learning in response to alumni and community needs. The Marine Station will work with other sister facilities around the world to develop common programs and to share resources. Collaboration will be developed at the regional, national and international levels.

Year 1 -

In the first year, much of the effort will be directed towards completion of the physical plant, development of the primary research and teaching programs and creation of the tourism and public outreach program.

Specific goals:

- Completion of the tank facilities to enable sample collection and presentation
- Development of displays, presentations, brochures, movies for tourism
- Expand marine biology offerings for students.
- Develop procedures to encourage course development and ensure that courses offered are properly supported.
- Begin background oceanographic studies in support of broader study and deployment of the Bonne Bay Ocean Observatory.
- Prepare presentations and displays on sampling in the ocean, of both a biological and physical nature.
- Deploy Bonne Bay Ocean Observatory with preliminary display of data at the Marine Station.
- Connect the Marine Station to the Internet.

Year 2 -

The refinement and enhancement of the public outreach facilities should be the primary goal. The content should be better integrated with the ongoing research activities. More, and different, courses should be offered.

Specific goals:

- Expand the undergraduate and graduate courses, including offerings from both campuses and other universities. Courses should take place during the fall and winter, and could include marine, environmental, terrestrial, artistic, teacher training and other topics.
- Enhanced presentation of the data from the Bonne Bay Observatory, both at the Marine Station and on the internet.
- Expand and refine the public display material, with more of the research results, and more diversity of media offerings.
- Attract and hold small, specialized conferences, workshops, retreats and meetings.

Year 3 and beyond -

The expansion of the research and educational activities should follow the developments in the first two years building upon the strengths of the activity. The integration of marine and other environmental science should broaden the base of interest and provide opportunities for collaboration with Parks Canada and others in the Bonne Bay region and beyond. The expansion of environmental science and related studies at Memorial University, and elsewhere, will provide new opportunities for year-round academic programs as will the development of other types of programs, even those of a non-scientific nature that are, however, suited to being offered in the Bonne Bay setting. There should be involvement from both campuses of Memorial University and other universities on the east coast of Canada and the United States. Partnerships should be sought with other universities in the Atlantic region, the east coast of North America and elsewhere in the world. These partnerships will be built upon the resources available at the Marine Station and the programs developed through the primary partnership between Memorial University and the Gros Morne Cooperating Association.

The station should be self-sustaining with a broad mix of activity built around marine science exploration as the central core of the facility. As the Station develops, Memorial University will maintain its support for the underlying academic activity.