

FAST FACTS

Dalhousie University is a national and international centre of expertise in ocean studies, committed to active engagement in the development of marine science and technology in order to achieve sustainable development of the ocean.



More than nine billion tons of goods are loaded for ocean shipping each year.

The ocean occupies 71 per cent of the Earth's surface and is critically important to global climate and ecology.

Marine phytoplankton convert the sun's energy to food for life in the sea and in the process produce half of all the oxygen generated by plant life on earth.

More than three billion people live within 150 km of the coast—more people than inhabited the entire planet in 1950.

Aquaculture now accounts for about one-fourth of the world's annual marine harvest and is steadily increasing.

The ocean has absorbed more than a fourth of the carbon dioxide generated by human activities over the past century, mitigating the effects of human-caused climate change.

Changes in ocean circulation such as El Niño regulate regional and global climate in ways that can have profound influences on ecosystems, economies and societies.

