Pacific Marine Science Alliance

bmsc BAMFIELD MARINE SCIENCES CENTRE

University of Victoria | THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | SFU SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY | UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY | UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

April 2025-March 2026

www.bamfieldmsc.com

Andrew Hendry

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Natalie Corless



Katherine "KY" Cheng

WHEN FIVE INSTITUTIONS COME TOGETHER FOR ONE OCEAN

Canada is an ocean Nation. The Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre is Canada's western marine station where research and education are enabled by critical infrastructure for understanding, accessing and responding to changes in our ocean along Canada's Pacific coast.

Through the Pacific Marine Science Alliance, our member universities collectively steward a marine station that provides capabilities no single institution could sustain on its own: year-round access to the ocean, laboratories and seawater systems, vessels, accommodations, technical expertise, and the capacity to bring students, researchers, communities and partners together in the field. Maintaining and renewing this infrastructure is fundamental to BMSC's future impact and is a central priority of our 2024–2028 strategy.

The importance of that investment is reflected in the work taking place at BMSC. Research, experiential education, long-term ocean observation and active ecosystem restoration are increasingly interconnected. Initiatives such as the Kelp Rescue Initiative and new collaborations across Canada and internationally demonstrate how BMSC can serve as a platform for addressing some of the most consequential challenges facing coastal ecosystems.

As we look ahead, the Board's responsibility is to ensure that this remarkable asset remains resilient, relevant and capable of serving future generations. By strengthening the infrastructure that makes field-based science possible, we strengthen Canada's capacity to understand its oceans, train the next generation, and translate knowledge into meaningful action.

David H. Turpin, CM, PhD, LLD, DSc, FRSC
Board Chair, Pacific Marine Science Alliance
President Emeritus, University of Alberta
President Emeritus, University of Victoria

INSPIRING TRANSFORMATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE OCEAN

Every second breath we take is made possible by the ocean. Whether we are in my hometown of Calgary or at the BMSC, the ocean shapes all of our lives. Our vision is to inspire transformational relationships with the ocean through science. Our impact starts with learners developing practical field and research skills through immersive, hands-on experiences, and extends to researchers advancing our understanding of rapidly changing coastal ecosystems. New research capacity, including our Pacific Ecosystem Autonomous Research Laboratory (PEARL), is enabling observations of ocean weather in real time while creating new opportunities for research, innovation and training. Through programs such as our Kelp Rescue Initiative, our science moves beyond observation to active restoration—developing practical approaches to help restore and steward British Columbia's kelp forests.

What connects these efforts is a pathway from a student's first encounter with ocean science through advanced training and research, where students apply their knowledge in the field and community. BMSC makes this pathway possible by providing safe, reliable access to the ocean alongside state-of-the-art research equipment.

To our team, students, researchers, Huu-ay-aht and other Indigenous partners, PMSA Board, member universities, funders, donors, collaborators and the wider BMSC community: thank you. Your commitment and support strengthen our ability to inspire and empower the next generation of ocean scientists.

Dr. Sean Rogers
Executive Director, Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre

We would like to acknowledge that our campus is situated on the traditional territory of Huu-ay-aht First Nations. Huu-ay-aht is a Nuu-chah-nulth Nation and member of the Maa-nulth Treaty Society



Steph Green



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2024-2028

1. Revitalize the impact of our partnership.
2. Jointly develop and deliver a renewed marine science curriculum.
3. Build large scale research programs that engage the national and international marine science community.
4. Create a culture of service, collaboration, and solution oriented support in all aspects of our resources and infrastructure.
5. Build and establish a secure financial base that ensures ongoing maintenance and future development of our resources and infrastructure.
6. Continue to engage Indigenous partners in meaningful projects of reconciliation and restoration.
7. Build a meaningful and rewarding work environment and advance the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

RESEARCH & IMPACT

BMSC supports researchers from around the world that are studying marine and coastal environments and organisms at our marine station. We are also involved in improving collaborative research and student and professional mobilization through initiatives like PRISMS (Pacific Rim Institute for Sustainable Marine Systems). Additionally, through programs such as the Kelp Rescue Initiative (KRI) we are practicing active data-driven restoration efforts.

10K+

USER DAYS

More than 10,000 days of research occured at BMSC in 2025 across various disciplines.

250

RESEARCHERS

An average of 200+ profesionals come through BMSC every year to carry out their research here.

37

PUBLICATIONS

Peer reviewed publications of work done at and/or in collaboration with the BMSC.

60

RESEARCHER GROUPS

The BMSC supports researchers from diverse disciplines, from both our member universities and various national and international institutins.



Rosie Poirier

RESEARCH & IMPACT
RESTORATION

Our Kelp Rescue Initiative at the BMSC works to restore and protect kelp forests in Barkley Sound and the North Salish Sea. We develop and test science-backed solutions for coastal stewardship with Indigenous partners and collaborators

5

PUBLICATIONS

KRI contributed to five publications and one thesis in 2025 advancing kelp science and restoration, with research on restoration success, genomic insights for bull and giant kelp management and a global funding target for kelp forest protection and restoration.

1700

1,700 M² OF RESTORATION

KRI conducted fieldwork at 17 sites, including kelp outplanting across nine sites covering approximately 1,700 m². Restoration experiments tested outplanting methods, thermal priming, gametoglue, urchin-resistant design and genetic approaches.

6

MEDIA FEATURES

KRI's work reached new audiences through film, television and articles. *Silent Sanctuary*, a short documentary about KRI, screened at the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival.

13

PRESENTATIONS

KRI engaged 254 people through 13 in-person and virtual outreach events.



Rosie Poirier



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

BMSC's award-winning Field Trip program, largely supported by NSERC PromoScience, provides training and outreach to youth, university students, and early-career professionals. Field Trip groups of all ages and backgrounds receive invaluable hands-on experience with ocean and coastal science right here at our marine station.

1600

FIELD TRIP PARTICIPANTS

1600 individuals experienced hands-on learning at BMSC this year. These groups include youth and Indigenous programming, university field trips, as well as professional workshops and continuing education.

4193

USER DAYS

2025 saw more than 4000 days of experiential learning at BMSC with diverse groups.

$40K

IN BURSARIES

Around $40,000 in financial assistance bursaries, from Wendy and Leslie Rebanks Bursary and our own BMSC Field Trips bursary, were awarded to field trip groups. These bursaries help reduce financial barriers and enable more students to experience a BMSC Field Trip. We also support the Bamfield Community School's science program through various trips and activities on site, in labs, and out in the field.

IMPACT FOR STUDENTS

WHAT GROUPS ARE SAYING

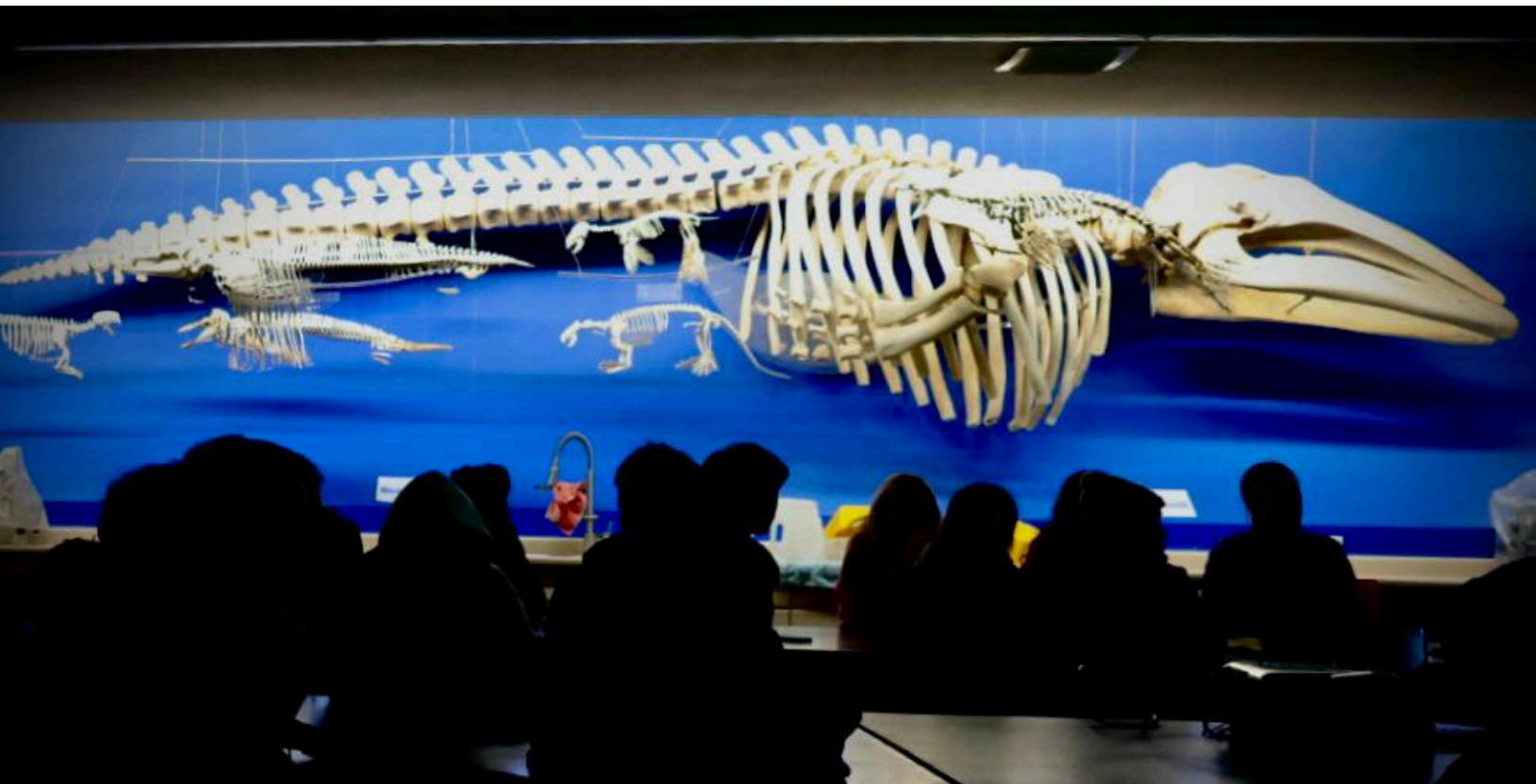
"I just want to thank the staff at BMSC for making my school's trip so incredible. From the background planning to the upfront educational staff, everything was first rate. I don't think it would be fair to single any of them out as they were all so knowledgeable, friendly, and flexible with our group. Of note, we had a special needs student with us. Your staff were exceptional allowing her to be part of the experience while meeting her needs. The kitchen staff were also super friendly and the meals they provided were first rate. They went well above expectations especially dealing with our diet restricted individuals.

Bamfield is a special place. Personally, this was my third visit and it never disappoints."

– Ian Drysdale, Jr/Sr High Science, Warburg School, Spring 2026

"A true west coast experience this past week at Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre. Such genuine passion from the marine educators here — what a privilege it was to learn from them about the world of marine science and conservation. Thank you."

– Alina Ismaguilova (Ms. I), Head Teacher, Prince of Wales Mini School, Spring 2026



UNIVERSITY FIELD COURSES

We offer 3 and 6 week immersive, accredited field courses in the Marine Sciences, including a full semester by the sea - the Fall Program in Marine Sciences. Courses offer students hands-on field work experience, build research skills and training in the ocean sciences, and provide the ability to conduct directed research projects.


Steph Green

5800

USER DAYS

Students experienced 5800 days of hands-on learning and training at BMSC, in the classrooom, laboratory, and in the field.

172

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

172 students completed courses in the 2025 fiscal year, gaining invaluable field training and research experience. Various students enrolled in multiple courses through the year.

13

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

We offered Marine Carbonate Chemistry, Experimental Climate Change Ecology, Biodiversity of Seaweeds, Marine Ecology, Place-Based Learning in Huu-ay-aht Territory, Marine Invertebrate Zoology, Crustacean Biology, Biological Oceanography and our annual 5-course fall program.

$44K

IN SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2025, we awarded $44,000 in scholarships to students through the Vancouver Foundation, reducing financial barriers to our programs for various recipients.

TRANSFORMATIVE UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

“I really enjoyed the independent projects and the field labs, getting out and actually doing science is something that regular university doesn’t do and I honestly felt very underprepared to enter the workforce but now having the experience with data collection and going through the process was invaluable.”

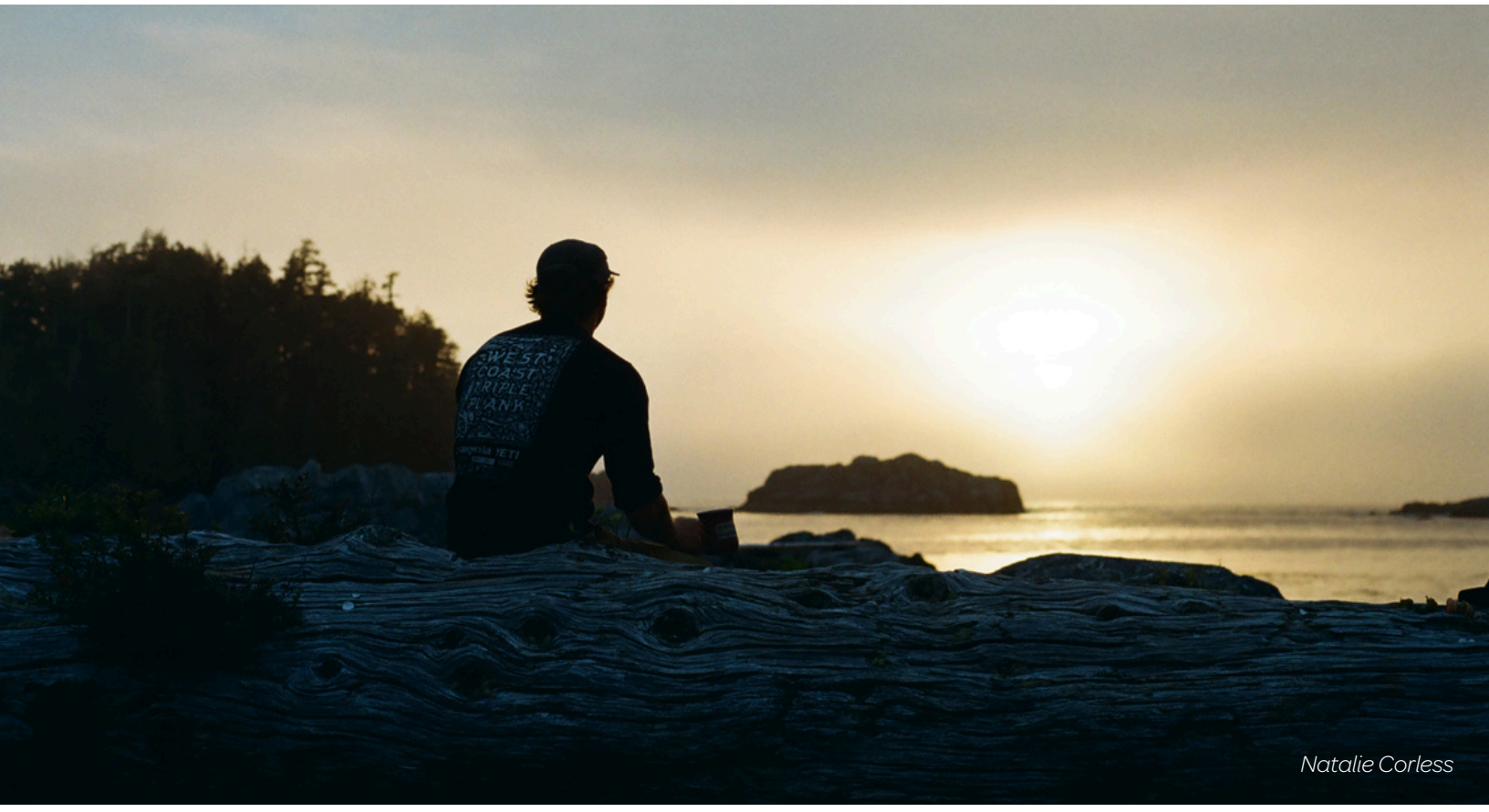
- 2025 Marine Ecology Student

“I feel like the environment of BMSC is a place that fosters the education and proliferation of young scientists. I have learned more practical biology and what it means to conduct research doing the two courses I’ve taken here then all of my university biology experience combined.”

- 2025 Experimental Climate Change Ecology Student

“My time at BMSC was amazing and I can easily say it was the highlight of my university experience.”

- 2024 Fall Program Student



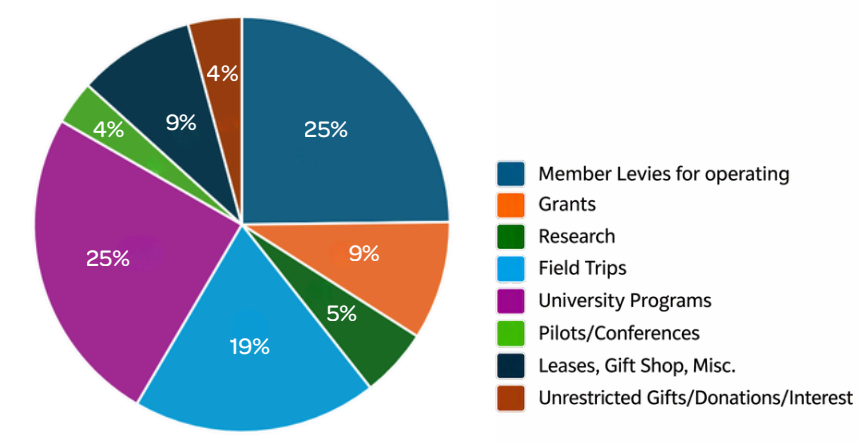
Natalie Corless

FINANCIALS

The Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre, a registered Canadian charity, runs on an annual budget of about $6 million CAD. Our revenue is generated from various sources, the majority coming from the programs we run. Our member university levies provide a valuable 25% of operation costs.

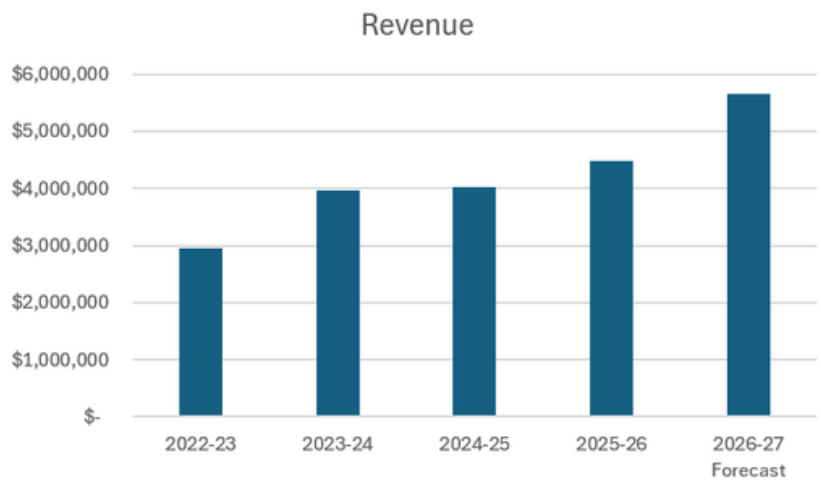
REVENUE SOURCES

Revenue sources of BMSC by average percentage. Our largest sources are member levies and university programs, followed by field trips.



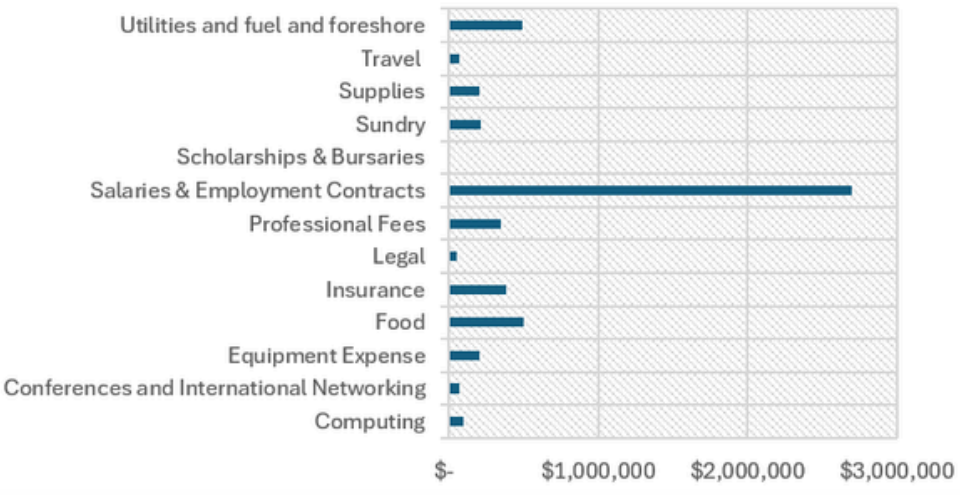
REVENUE

A snap shot at revenue of BMSC from 2022 to projected revenue in 2026 and 2027. Projections are based on proposed activity.



EXPENDITURES

This graph breaks down expenditures for operating the marine station. The highest being salaries, along with utilities, food costs, and insurance.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND VISION IN ACTION

A brief look at just a few activities, stories, and achievements from 2025 that align with our strategic priorities, and our vision of Inspiring transformational relationships with the Ocean through science.



Katherine "KY" Cheng

ENGAGING THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MARINE SCIENCE COMMUNITY

With funding support from MEOPAR (Marine Environmental Observation, Prediction and Response Network), the PRISMS initiative (The Pacific Rim Institute for Sustainable Marine Systems) transcends disciplinary boundaries in support of the development of national and international, ocean research, ocean stewardship, and a sustainable and innovative blue economy; largely through fostering collaboration and mobilization of professionals. PRISMS led to two major events in 2025.

First, this initiative fostered the signing of a statement of intent between the Pacific Marine Science Alliance (PMSA) and Océanos Institute, the formation of a new Chilean consortium in ocean research, and a Memorandum of Understanding between the two nation's science funding agencies. See the story on the PMSA website.

Second, the Canada–France–Chile Research Connections Workshop in Ocean and Mathematical Sciences was the start of key collaborations with various institutions in Canada, France, and Chile in the intersection of mathematics and ocean science. Read the story here.



Kirstynn Joseph



KRI VR HEADSETS - OUTREACH WITH IMPACT

KRI's virtual reality kelp forest experience offers an immersive way to explore an ecosystem many people may never have the opportunity to visit. In 2025, 219 people used the VR headsets across 9 outreach events, reaching a wide range of audiences through community, education and climate-focused events.

The experience supports conversations about kelp ecology, ecosystem dynamics, and the importance of restoration by helping participants visualise the scale, structure and biodiversity of a kelp forest. It provides a more tangible way to connect people with this underwater habitat and the work involved in restoring it.


Zoe Walker

TRANSFORMING MARINE SCIENCE CURRICULUM

In 2025, BMSC offered two new courses by BMSC and EMPOWER researchers that directly aligned with our strategic research plans. Both of these courses were successful, impactful, and highly celebrated by our students. The new courses were:

- Marine Carbonate Chemistry with Brent Else (UCalgary)
- Experimental Climate Change Ecology (ECCE) with Amanda Bates (UVic)

TRANSFORMING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE OCEAN... THROUGH FIELD TRIPS

One of hundreds of students who joined us in 2025, SFU Undergraduate Student Anna Kottek, recently shared her transformative experience with us through a student written blog. Anna spent the weekend at BMSC learning hands-on field skills in marine biology and had this to say about her time here:

"...this experience was way more than just a field trip to me. Being submerged in the world of marine biology in a place as special, unique and biodiverse as Bamfield reminded me of why I chose to study biology in the first place. Nothing is more impactful than hands-on learning in the real world..."

Read the full blog on our website here:





Eden Perry

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH: STUDENT-LED PUBLICATIONS

BMSC prides itself on fostering world-class research at the undergraduate level and encouraging and supporting publications from undergraduate research carried out during course-based research. Here are two student-led publications from 2025:

Rebecca Krohman, Risa Ogushi, Jillian H. Stelfox, and Catherine M. Ivy. 2025. The impact of hypoxia and heat stress on Corella inflata heart characteristics adds evidence to the functional role of heartbeat reversals, Invertebrate Biology 144(1).

Talen Rimmer, Rylan J Command, Heather J Alexander, Aaron M Eger, J P Hastey, Kieran Cox, Tao M Eastham, Effects of planting orientation and size on survival of juvenile Pacific geoducks Panopea generosa, North American Journal of Aquaculture, Volume 87, Issue 4, October 2025, Pages 272–281.

BMSC IS A REGISTERED CHARITY

Did you know that The Bamfield Marine Science Centre is a registered Canadian charity?

Beyond bursaries for students, many projects and initiatives at BMSC have been supported by donors. Additionally, the maintenance and upgrades of crucial infrastructure, which is the literal foundation for experiential learning and modern research, can be realized through philanthropic support. Please consider making a contribution today.

To learn more about BMSC and its programs – or to make a donation – use the QR code to go to our LinkTree, which can direct you to our website, social media, donation page, and latest news and events.

THANK YOU



Kirstynn Joseph

Pacific Marine Science Alliance

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