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**DISCOVER THE OCEAN.
UNDERSTAND THE PLANET.**

e-Newsletter | January 2017

Annual Survey

Do you use ONC's data or services for your research? Please take a few minutes to complete our [annual survey](#).

ONC is required by our funders to compile annual facility use information so your input is **very important** to ensure ONC continues to improve services and support to the global research community!

Thank you in advance for completing this [survey](#) by **28 February 2017**.

Federal funding secures ONC as a world leader in ocean science and technology

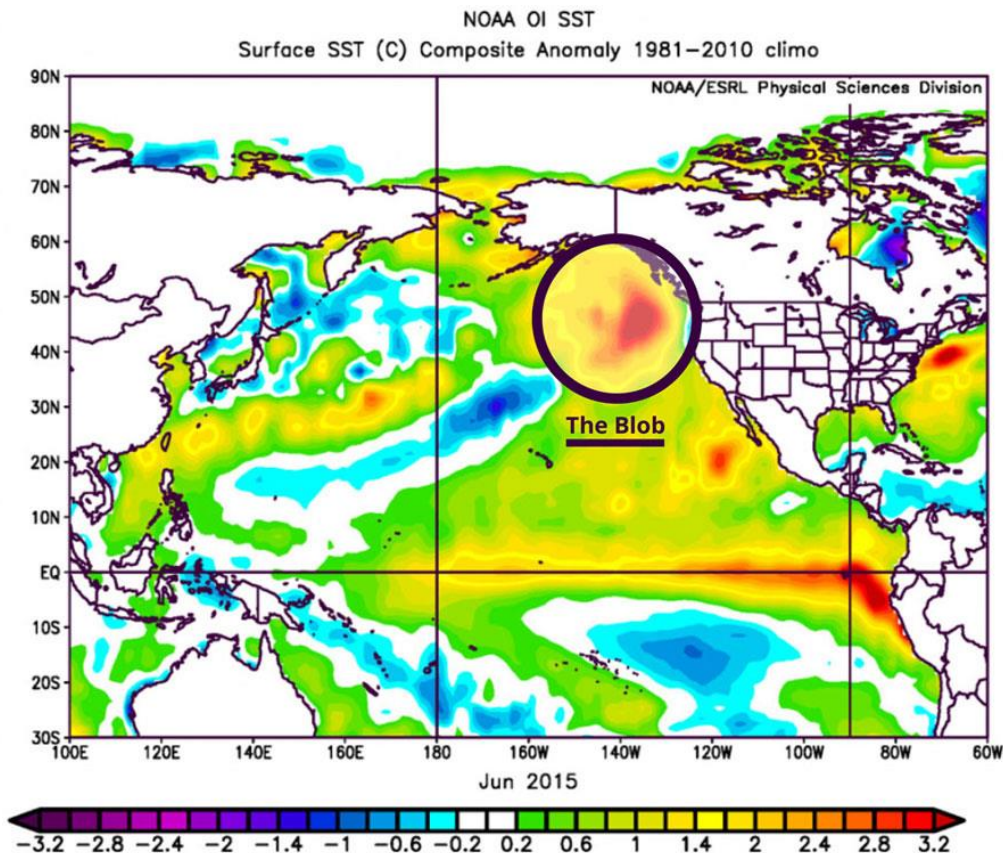


Community observatories along the British Columbia coast, earthquake early warning sensors in the deep sea, and the first 24/7 subsea instrument platform in the Arctic—these recent accomplishments are among many that have made the University of

Victoria's Ocean Networks Canada (ONC) the world-leading ocean science facility it is today.

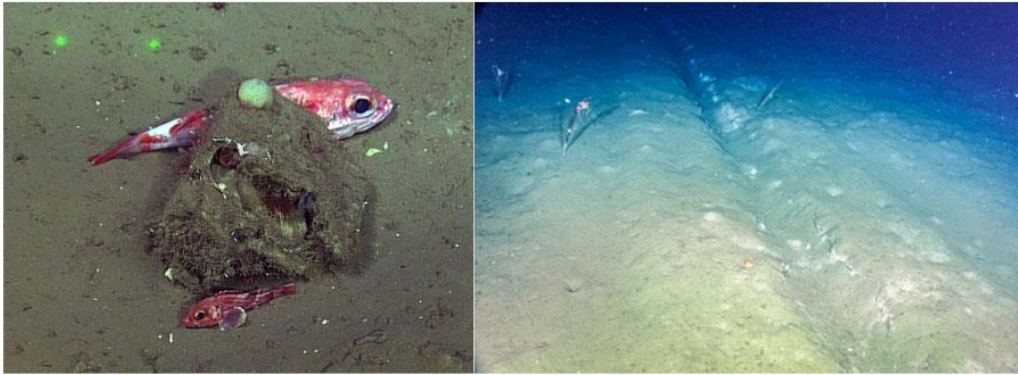
Now, a five-year, \$46.6 million investment from the Canadian government—through the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)—will ensure that ONC continues to lead the world in ocean observatory science and technology. [Read more](#)

The warm Blob chills out



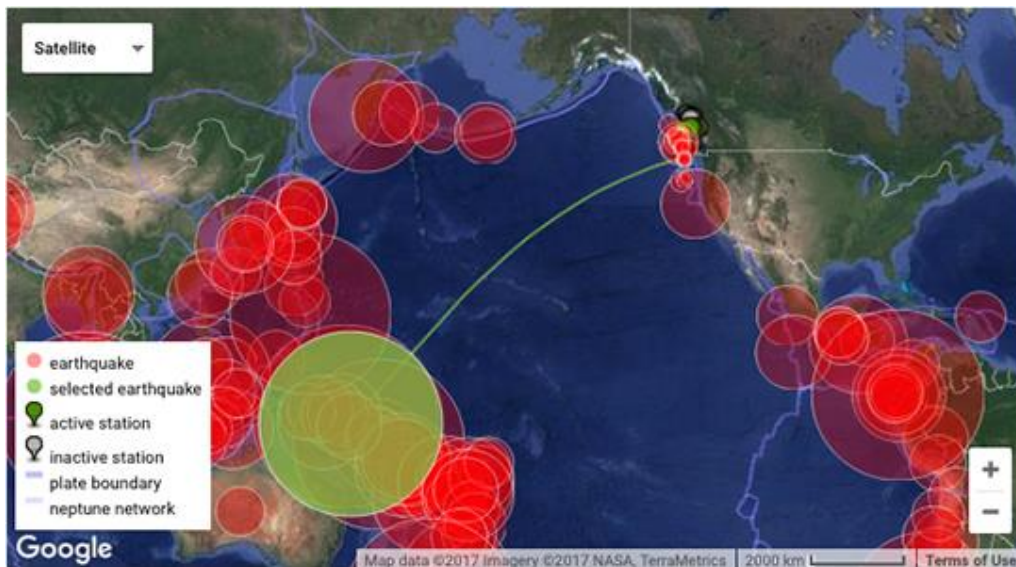
2017 began with an icy snap: in early January, British Columbia experienced the first really cold weather in several years. Starting in late 2013, wind and weather patterns over the northeast Pacific shifted, evolving into what has become known as the warm Blob. The surface temperatures of this massive region of the northeast Pacific Ocean climbed as much as three degrees Celcius above the seasonal average. [Read more](#)

The cumulative effects of bottom trawling and low oxygen on marine life



In November 2016, ONC scientists co-authored a [publication in *Deep-Sea Research II*](#) on the effects of deep-sea bottom trawling on seafloor marine life, already stressed by the naturally low oxygen waters of the north Pacific. This is the first study to measure the effects on fauna living on the soft-sediment seabed of Vancouver Island's continental shelf and slope. Previous scientific research has focused on by-catch (species accidentally caught in the fishing net), particularly in areas where deep-water coral and sponge reefs occur. [Read more](#)

Are earthquakes on the rise?



With media coverage of the recent earthquakes in Italy (M6.6), New Zealand (M7.8), Japan (M6.9), and Papua New Guinea (M7.9), you might be wondering whether earthquake activity is increasing. Long-term earthquake statistics in the last 12 months indicate that it was an average year: there were no earthquakes of M8.0 or higher (one M8.0+ is the annual average) and 19 with M7.0 - 7.9 (17 is the annual average). These statistics show that earthquake activity is not increasing. [Read more](#)

United States and Canada unite to protect the Arctic



On 20 December, President Obama and Prime Minister Trudeau issued a [United States-Canada Joint Arctic Leaders' Statement](#) to launch actions ensuring a strong, sustainable, and viable Arctic economy and ecosystem. Actions include low-impact shipping, science-based management of marine resources, and freedom from the future risks of offshore oil and gas activity. Together, these actions set the stage for deeper partnerships with other Arctic nations, including through the Arctic Council. [Read more](#)

Federal funds support UVic's ocean and climate hub



Photo credit: CTV Vancouver Island

The Government of Canada and the University of Victoria invested \$7 million for infrastructure renovation and renewal of the former [Queenswood property](#) in Saanich to create a new ocean and climate hub.

The property will house interdisciplinary, collaborative office and research space for the University's world-leading ocean and climate change research and associated technology development. The 30,000-sq-ft Queenswood building, formerly a residence of the Sisters of St. Ann, will require significant seismic upgrades. In 2018, ONC will be the first occupant. [Read more](#)

Conferences and Workshops

ONC staff, users, and students are presenting at the following conferences:

- 14-16 February, [Oceanology International](#), San Diego, California
- 24-26 February, [Pacific Ecology and Evolution Conference](#), Bamfield, British Columbia
- 14-15 March, [#BCTech Summit](#), Vancouver, British Columbia
- 22-23 March, Fisheries & Oceans Canada's State of the Pacific Ocean Meeting, Sidney, British Columbia
- 3-5 April, [Offshore Geophysical Monitoring of Cascadia for Early Warning and Hazards Research](#), Seattle, Washington
- 6-8 April, [Vancouver Island Emergency Preparedness Conference](#), Ucluelet, British Columbia

ONC Student Award Program

Need travel support to present your research results? ONC has [funds to support student and post-doc presentations](#) at national and international symposia related to research using ONC data.



Richard Dewey, CMOS Tour Speaker

Dr. Richard Dewey, ONC's Associate Director of Science Services, will be a tour speaker for the [Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society \(CMOS\)](#), presenting across Canada in February and March on the topic of *Recent Pacific Anomalies: Oscillations, El Nino, and the Blob*. See the [tour schedule](#).

Congratulations to Martha Crago

Dr. Martha Crago, ONC Board member, will be the next Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) at McGill University. Her term begins on 1 July 2017. Congratulations, Dr. Crago! [Read more](#)

In The News

[Big science receives \\$328-million boost from Ottawa, Globe and Mail](#)

[Kate Moran interview, Roundhouse Radio: Evenings with Kirk Lapointe](#)

[Research on earthquakes, tsunamis and climate change to benefit from federal investment of \\$46.6 million to Ocean Networks Canada, Canadian Underwriter Magazine](#)

[November's Arctic ice cover dips to new monthly low, NunatsiaqOnline](#)

[Feds boost plan to relocate UVic's Ocean Networks Canada, Times Colonist](#)

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P.O. Box 1700 STN CSC, Victoria, BC, Canada, V8W 2Y2 | 1.250.472.5400

Ocean Networks Canada is a not-for-profit society established by the University of Victoria, BC Canada.

Ocean Networks Canada | info@oceannetworks.ca | ONC | 2300 McKenzie Ave. Suite 160 |
Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2, Canada

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