

Gold Award 2017-2018 Recipient – Alexander Desiré-Tesar

Alexander Desiré-Tesar graduated from the University of King's College with a B.A. (Hons.) in Contemporary Studies and History in 2012. Prior to joining the Master of Marine Management (MMM) program, Alexander worked as a journalist and editor with *The Walrus*, a Canadian general-interest publication based in Toronto. Having always been curious about science and the ocean and wanting to make a positive impact on management policy, he sought to merge his communications experience with an interdisciplinary understanding of the marine space.

In his graduate research, Alexander studied how and why ocean and aquatic researchers communicate their results with the public. Over the summer of 2018, he worked with the Dalhousie-based Ocean Tracking Network (OTN), an organization that aims to combine oceanographic data with understanding of marine animals' movements and survival in order to inform management. Through surveys and interviews with OTN-affiliated researchers, Alexander gained a better understanding of the barriers that exist between scientists, the media, and the public, and how this network of relationships might be improved. This project was supervised by Dr. Claudio Aporta, the director of the Marine Affairs Program. A copy of Alexander's graduate project, "Rules of Engagement: How and why are ocean and aquatic scientists communicating with the public?" is available on [DalSpace](#).

Since completing the MMM program, Alexander has presented his research (along with fellow MMM classmate Curtis Martin) as part of the School of Information Management's public lecture series. Their lecture was entitled "[Scientists Talking to the Public: A One-Way Conversation? Exploring Engagement Strategies in Science Communication](#)." Alexander is now working with Oceans North as a communications specialist. [Oceans North](#) is an organization that works to create community-based marine conservation initiatives.



Alexander (right) being presented with the Gold Award by Claudio Aporta, Director of MAP.