

# OCEAN AS PEDAGOGY: FOSTERING RECONCILIATION THROUGH A CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE CANADIAN PERSPECTIVE ON OCEAN LITERACY

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## Ocean Literacy (OL)

- Western socio-ecological concept
- Aims at fostering a sustainable use of the seas
- Current common definition<sup>1</sup>:  
“An understanding of the ocean’s influence on you and your influence on the ocean”

## A decolonized version of OL

- Localized approaches that account for regional and cultural differences
- Inclusive of Indigenous OLs
- Because knowledge is socially, culturally, historically mediated
- To advance decolonization of knowledge and education

## OL is about:

- Knowledge, understanding, behavioural changes
  - Teaching and learning
- Whose knowledge?  
Whose teaching?<sup>2</sup>

DECOLONIZATION<sup>4</sup>

RECONCILIATION PEDAGOGY<sup>3</sup>

Western scientific knowledge

Indigenous knowledge (systems)

Western scientific knowledge

equal

Indigenous knowledge (systems)

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## FOOTNOTES & REFERENCES

Background photo: CCO Public Domain. Retrieved from <https://pxhere.com/en/photo/841080>

<sup>1</sup> Ocean Literacy Network. (2015). *Ocean literacy framework*. Retrieved from [http://oceanliteracy.wp2.coexploration.org/?page\\_id=47](http://oceanliteracy.wp2.coexploration.org/?page_id=47)

<sup>2</sup> Just like research, teaching is always already political; teaching and learning do not happen in a politically neutral space.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> An education that disrupts the “culture of silence” so that the marginalized can look critically at the world; a liberation struggle towards social justice. See Freire, P. (1970). *Pedagogy of the oppressed*. New York: Herder and Herder.

<sup>4</sup> A long-term process involving the bureaucratic, cultural, linguistic and psychological divesting of colonial power. See Smith, L. T. (2012). *Decolonizing methodologies* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). London: Zed Books.