

# USING WATER RESPONSIBLY - SUPPORT PACKAGE



## Connecting with OCEARCH

What do you picture when you think of a scientist? Someone in a white lab coat adding mysterious liquids to a beaker? How about someone living on a ship in the middle of the ocean fishing for sharks to tag and release? Research like this helps us learn about where these ocean predators travel and why their numbers are declining. That is what scientists at OCEARCH do to help us better understand these fascinating and important species at the top of the marine food chain.

Green Schools NS is very happy to partner with OCEARCH and to offer Nova Scotia schools a chance to connect with scientists on the OCEARCH research vessel. We can connect with these active scientists through the website, social media and virtual visits using video conference tools. There are also many educational resources available for use in the classroom, all based on real-time data from tagged sharks. Connecting with OCEARCH is particularly relevant to those studying marine ecosystems, the food chain, mapping, endangered species and Oceans 11 classes.

## Action Plan

**Step 1-** Familiarize yourself with OCEARCH. Check out their [website](#) where you can find the Global Shark Tracker that will show you the last known location of tagged sharks. Download the Global Shark Tracker application for [Apple](#) or [Android](#). Ask your School Engagement Officer for a copy of the OCEARCH Shark Tracker Guide for Teachers.

**Step 2-** Track a shark! Pick your favourite shark and track them all using social media. When a tagged shark's dorsal fin surfaces for at least 90 seconds the tag will 'ping', sending the shark's location back to OCEARCH. You will be notified each time a shark 'pings' if you follow their social media sites or keep a keen eye on the Global Shark Tracker. You can find out which sharks hang out off Nova Scotia's coast. Here are some examples of sharks you can follow on Twitter:

[@RockStarLydia](#)

[@PeggytheShark](#)

[@Shark\\_Katharine](#)

[@MaryLeeShark](#)

[@SharkBetsy](#)

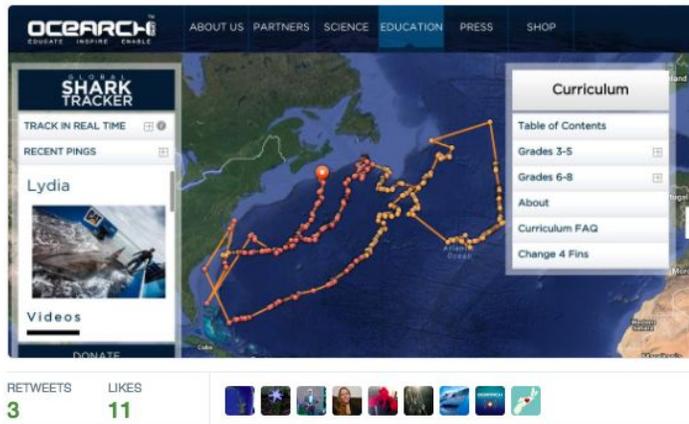
You can also follow [OCEARCH](#) on Facebook to see which sharks are popping up and where.





**Green Schools NS**  
@GreenSchools\_NS

#Green #Schools #novascotia follow @RockStarLydia and use @OCEARCH great #educational resources too!  
oceanarch.org/profile/lydia/...



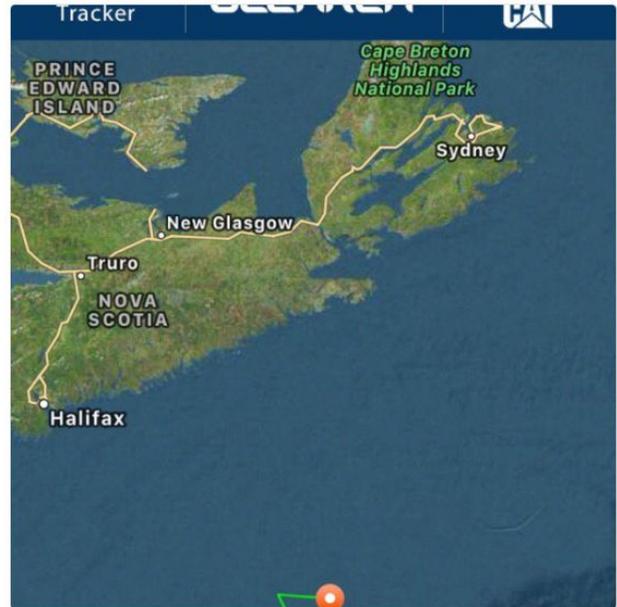
[https://twitter.com/GreenSchools\\_NS/status/796010287564521473/photo/1](https://twitter.com/GreenSchools_NS/status/796010287564521473/photo/1)



**Lydia Shark**  
@RockStarLydia

Following

Hey grey seals... I've got Sable Island in my sights! 🌊⚡😊 [bit.ly/RSLTrack](https://bit.ly/RSLTrack) @OCEARCH @ChrisOCEARCH



RETWEETS 30 LIKES 66

<https://twitter.com/RockStarLydia/status/795987834419060737>

**Step 3-** Watch the documentary [Sharkwater](#), also available on Netflix. This is an important documentary that shows why sharks are so vital to the planet and how they are being killed for their fins in many parts of the world.

*"You're underwater and you see the thing you were taught your whole life to fear and it doesn't want to hurt you and it's the most beautiful thing you've ever seen, and your whole world changes."* ~Rob Stewart, Producer of Sharkwater

Rob Stewart's work documenting sharks and shark finning is unprecedented. He passed away in February 2017 due to complications while diving.

**Step 4-** Use the OCEARCH K-8 [STEM Educational Curriculum](#) to integrate shark tracking data into your lesson plans. Topics include fractions, conservation, pollution, predators and prey, animal anatomy, mapping, graphing, marine ecosystems, food webs and many more. These resources also highlight new shark research. Did you know [hammerhead sharks save energy](#) by swimming on their sides? You can also watch videos about how OCEARCH catches and tags sharks, such as this video of [tagging Lydia](#).

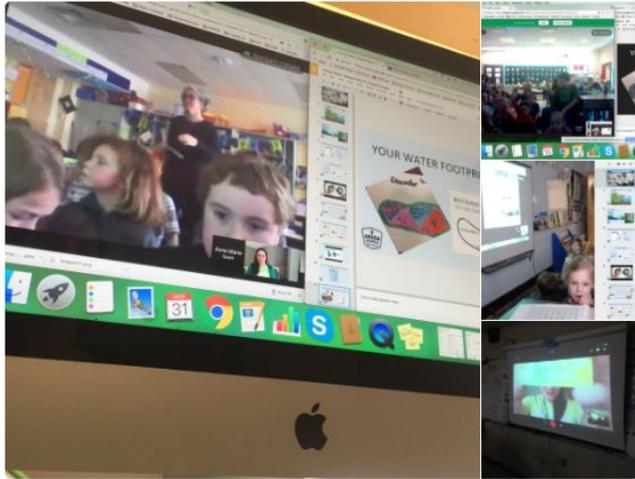
**Step 5-** Schedule a Skype session. Using virtual technology an OCEARCH researcher can 'visit' your class to talk about their research and answer questions from your students. Virtual visits are available anytime! Keep an eye on OCEARCH's social media pages to find out when they are on an expedition for a chance to speak to a researcher while at sea. They also hold webinar style teacher workshops periodically. Contact [education@OCEARCH.org](mailto:education@OCEARCH.org) to find out more or to sign up for their listserv newsletter. You can also contact your Green Schools NS Engagement Officer for a virtual engagement on Overfishing. Using these technology pathways is a best practice for wasting less energy and being energy efficient!





**Green Schools NS**  
@GreenSchools\_NS

Green Schools #NovaScotia Engagement Officers continue to #WasteLess #energy & rock it with #energyefficiency virtual #school engagements!



RETWEET 1 LIKES 2

[https://twitter.com/GreenSchools\\_NS/status/852633032666304512](https://twitter.com/GreenSchools_NS/status/852633032666304512)

OCEARCH Retweeted



**RJWE Science Lab** @bradilredmon · 24m  
#RJWE K-2 students have been counting down the days to Skype with @ChrisOCEARCH about sharks! @OCEARCH #rjwekidsfirst



2 10

<https://twitter.com/bradilredmon/status/831225236293050368>

## Resources

- [Green Schools NS Overfishing Slideshow](#)
- [Green Schools NS Ocean Plastics Support Package](#)
- [Green Schools NS Overfishing Slideshow](#)

- [OCEARCH in the news](#)
- [National Geographic Shark Family Tree](#)
- [National Geographic Great White Sharks for kids](#)

### **Videos**

- [OCEARCH videos](#)
- [TEDx video- Chris Fischer of OCEARCH](#)
- [TEDx video from Rob Stewart \(Sharkwater\)](#)
- [Other videos featuring Rob Stewart](#)
- [BBC Planet Earth Great White Shark](#)

### **Dates**

- [Endangered Species Day](#)
- [World Oceans Day](#)
- [Shark Week](#)

