

Wendy Watson -Wright

Dr. Wendy Watson-Wright is the Chief Executive Officer of the Ocean Frontier Institute (OFI). Headquartered at Dalhousie University, the OFI is an interdisciplinary transnational research institute whose aim is the safe and sustainable development of the ocean frontier, with an initial focus on the North Atlantic and Canadian Arctic gateway. From 2010 to 2015, Dr. Watson-Wright led the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) in Paris as its Executive Secretary and Assistant Director General. The IOC is the competent international organization for marine scientific research in the United Nations. Prior to that she held various positions within Fisheries and Oceans Canada, including eight years as Assistant Deputy Minister, Science.



Dr. Watson-Wright has been on several boards and panels including the Council of Canadian Academies' Expert Panel on Ocean Science, the Strategic Advisory Board for the European Union's Joint Programming Initiative on Ocean (JPI Oceans) and the Scientific Advisory Board of the Wendy Schmidt Ocean Health X-Prize. An ardent supporter of ocean literacy, she was a keynote presenter at the first Conference on Ocean Literacy in Europe in Bruges, 2012. Dr. Watson-Wright is a Killam scholar, and holds a Ph.D. in Physiology from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.