



## IMPAC5 Youth and Young Professionals - Coastal Connections

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Are you aged 18 – 35 and passionate about ocean conservation and Marine Protected Areas?

Would you like to participate in networking, team building and intergenerational knowledge exchange with your peers and experienced MPA practitioners?

If so, please apply to join the cohort of international youth and young professionals who will make “Coastal Connections” at the Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5).

Ocean Wise, a global conservation organization headquartered in Vancouver, is leading IMPAC5's Coastal Connections program, with the financial support of the Government of Canada. The program will connect and empower youth to meaningfully participate and contribute to the discussions and outcomes at IMPAC5 and beyond.

Applications will be reviewed by a committee of IMPAC5 host organizations representing Ocean Wise, Parks Canada, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

IMPAC5 wants to ensure that the voices of a diverse group of younger people are clearly heard at the Congress. Apply below!

### Overview

IMPAC5 will take place in Vancouver, Canada, from 3-9 February 2023. IMPAC5 is an opportunity for those in, and aspiring to be in, the marine conservation field to exchange knowledge, experience, and best practices to strengthen the conservation of marine biodiversity and to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the ocean.

One of the three cross-cutting streams of the IMPAC5 program is “The Voice of Young Professionals”. Youth and Indigenous perspectives and participation will be a part of all the discussions at IMPAC5. Our goal is to significantly increase the number of young professional participants from what has been typical at similar international events in the past and to set an example for the future. To achieve this, Congress attendees will include a diverse cohort of young professionals working towards or in careers in marine conservation, with the goal of ensuring that young leaders from all nations, Indigenous groups and other backgrounds will be heard and enriched at IMPAC5.

At IMPAC5 we are committed to diversity, equity and inclusion. When we each bring our unique perspectives – in a spirit of collaboration and interconnectedness – progress and innovation will result.

By valuing differences and extending respect to others, we can truly work together to protect the global ocean.

Recognizing the important roles that Indigenous Peoples have modeled in living in harmony with nature, IMPAC5 embraces the need to include Indigenous perspectives, voices and knowledge from around the world; to learn from their diverse cultural practices, knowledge and ways of knowing; and to honor Indigenous rights and responsibilities.

Indigenous young people from northern and/or remote communities are strongly encouraged to apply and will be welcomed as key players in discussions at the Congress.

### **The Opportunity: The IMPAC5 Youth and Young Professionals Coastal Connections**

To help ensure the success of the Young Professionals Stream at IMPAC5, a Coastal Connections program of three "connections" is being launched. The first connection has unlimited registration, the other two are limited by the capacity of the facilities and resources.

Connection #1: A series of three virtual sessions leading up to IMPAC5 that will introduce you to your peers and provide an overview of IMPAC5's history, goals and agenda. Open to all Youth and/or Young Professional Congress registrants.

Connection #2: A two-day, in-person, team-building and networking event to be held at an offsite venue approximately two hours from Vancouver. Capacity is limited by the facility size. Further details on the venue will be published shortly. There will be a \$200 fee to cover transportation, accommodation and meals. A limited number of travel bursaries is available to offset this fee. Please indicate on your application if you wish to be considered for a bursary.

Connection #3: An intergenerational knowledge exchange/mentoring program during IMPAC5 that includes a networking breakfast and an evening networking event. Capacity is limited by the number of mentors available.

**Note:** To participate in any of these connections as a non-indigenous applicant, you **MUST** be registered to attend IMPAC5 in person. This opportunity does not include support for registration for, or travel to, in the core IMPAC5 Congress, for which you must register separately. Youth are encouraged to use relevant means to seek financial support to attend the core Congress and the Young Professionals Coastal Connections – e.g. from their educational institution, employer, environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGO), philanthropic organizations, ocean-sector businesses, etc.

A suggested sponsorship letter is attached in the application form, that you may wish to use or adapt to solicit financial support for yourself.

### **Participation Criteria**

For Connections 1, 2 and 3, you must be:

1. registered to attend IMPAC5;
2. 18-35 years of age at the start of the Congress;
3. proficient in English and/or French.

For Connections 2, you must *also*:

1. be able to arrive in Vancouver January 30, 2023 to participate in the two-day team-building and networking event on January 31 and Feb 1, 2023.
2. pay a nominal fee for accommodation and meals, unless you receive an IMPAC5 Travel Bursary for this activity.

There are no additional fees for participation in 1 or 3.

### **How to Apply for the IMPAC5 Youth and Young Professionals Coastal Connections**

1. Complete the required fields in the [Application Form](#)
2. Submit your CV, highlighting your experience in marine conservation.
3. Submit your [Application Form](#)

### **Responsibilities and Expectations**

Youth selected to participate in Connection 1 are expected to:

- Participate in the three 90-minute virtual sessions (hosted in December and January).
- Participate in Congress activities, including welcome events and Youth Pavilion activities.
- Engage in networking activities to share their IMPAC5 learning and build connections within their home communities after the Congress.

Youth selected to participate in Connection 2 are expected to:

- Participate in the three 90-minute virtual sessions (hosted in December and January).
- Participate in the two-day, in-person networking and team building program from January 31 – Feb 1, 2023 at the location approximately two hours from Vancouver.
- Participate in the intergenerational knowledge exchange program at IMPAC5.
- Participate in Congress activities, including welcome events and Youth Pavilion activities.
- Engage in networking activities to share their IMPAC5 learning and build connections within their home communities after the Congress.

Youth selected to participate in Connection 3 are expected to:

- Participate in the three 90-minute virtual sessions (hosted in December and January) and a supplementary session providing details of the intergenerational knowledge exchange program.
- Participate in Congress activities, including welcome events and Youth Pavilion activities.
- Participate in the intergenerational knowledge exchange program at IMPAC5.
- Engage in networking activities to share their IMPAC5 learning and build connections within their home communities after the Congress.

### **IMPAC5 Travel Bursaries**

IMPAC5 is pleased to offer a limited number of complementary places in Connection 2:

- Local travel and accommodation from Vancouver to the two-day, in-person, team building and networking event and return to Vancouver.
- Meals on Jan 31 and Feb 1 and accommodation the night of Jan 31.

Please indicate on your application form if you wish to be considered for a bursary.

**Deadline to Apply:** The call for applications closes on **Monday, November 21 at 11:59 pm PST.**

Please submit your application via Microsoft Forms

**Successful applicants will be notified by email in late November 2022 and provided with instructions for participation in their Connections.**

**If you are selected for Connection 2, you will be provided with additional registration instructions and also notified if you have been awarded a Travel Bursary.**