

## Photo galleries in global marine education

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Oceans are the vital element of planet Earth and humankind. Anything which is important to us is related to oceans, from air breathing, water drinking and using, food, entertainment. It comes from or can be shipped by the ocean. No matter how far from the shore people live, oceans affect their everyday lives.

Today, researchers from universities and research institutions are expected to provide more than just scientific results, which very often are not “understandable” for general public. Such a new situation has led to a dialogue between science, and society. However, it is a difficult path and both the scientists and public must learn how to communicate, especially since raising awareness and developing a culture that values scientific endeavor must come from all scientists, people in general, schools, parents and young learners.

Therefore, the Sopot Science Association, together with the Today We Have and the Sea for Society project team created a gallery of marine related photographs made by researchers from the Institute of Oceanology Polish Academy of Sciences. These photographs had been made during their research cruises in the Baltic Sea and the Arctic.

From over 70 photographs a total of 33 were selected and printed in 50x70 cm size. Each of the photos got its title and a short story. Then we organized a number of public exhibitions, from a pedestrian area in the sea resort of Sopot, through a Ministry of Environment in Warsaw. We had official openings of the exhibitions with authors invited, which provided a great platform for discussions.