



IDUM to Host Weeklong NATO Course on Sea-Dumped Chemical Weapons in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

International Dialogue on Underwater Munitions (IDUM) will host the “Young Scientist Summer School on Sea-Dumped Chemical Weapons”, from 27 June to 1 July 2016 at Nova Scotia Community College, Dartmouth Waterfront Campus.

The course, to be held under the auspices of NATO’s Science for Peace and Security program, will provide an overview on the global dumping of chemical weapons in national and international waters from the 1920s to the 1970s, when governments finally ceased such practices because of their environmental impact.

IDUM will stage the course in collaboration with an international consortium of partner organizations including the Institute of Oceanology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Sopot; the Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Kaliningrad; Aarhus University, Roskilde, Denmark; the Thunen Institute of Fisheries Ecology, Cuxhaven, Germany; VERIFIN, the University of Helsinki, Finland; the Environment Protection Agency of Lithuania, Vilnius; and Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia. Our associated partners are the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) and University of Georgia, USA.

The course will include use of underwater vehicles for survey techniques to detect and map underwater weapons, and remote operated underwater vehicles for intrusive and non-intrusive investigations and monitoring of chemical releases from underwater munitions. This is an excellent opportunity for students from Atlantic Canada and First Nations to learn more about the impact on our declining fish stocks and how to protect them from future depletion. In our CHEMSEA Program we have found tumours, extra fish diseases and stress on their livers and kidneys in cod fish in and around munitions sites. We also found that the chemical releases are impacting on the juvenile cod ability to reproduce, which in many cases is mistaken for over fishing.

Students who wish to attend summer school should be interested in marine science and protection of the seas and ocean. To apply, please request a registration form from Ms Diana Pyrikova at diana.pyrikova@gmail.com and return the completed form with a brief background on yourself. Applicants who are employed in the environmental services industry and wish to attend will be considered on a case-by case basis depending on available places.

IDUM's mission is to promote the creation of an internationally binding treaty on all classes of underwater munitions (chemical, biological, radiological, and conventional) and to promote clean-up of the world’s ocean. To learn more about IDUM and the challenge of sea-dumped weapons, please visit our website at www.underwatermunitions.org Media inquiries, should be directed to: Terrance P. Long, email address tplong@eastlink.ca or mobile 1-902-577-9439.