

## **Don't Miss Keynote Speaker Hannah McDonald at the Lake Huron Forever One Water Gathering**

The One Water Gathering, an international conference bringing professionals and partners from both sides of Lake Huron together, will be held Friday, June 17 and Saturday, June 18 in Alpena, Michigan. The conference will feature a keynote address by Hannah McDonald of the Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland, Maine.

An Alpena native, Hannah MacDonald, first fell in love with water through her experiences as a volunteer at Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Her connection with the sanctuary in Alpena grew after she attended Ocean for Life, a sanctuary high school program focused on how we are all interconnected to the ocean. She pursued her bachelor's at Michigan State University where she studied marine ecosystem management. Hannah went on to work at the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries headquarters on their live ocean exploration programs and virtual reality videos before attending the University of Rhode Island for her master's in environmental science and management. While in grad school, Hannah worked for Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and has just started a full-time position with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland, ME. Hannah's connection to water is rooted in the Great Lakes and embodies the idea that everything is interconnected.

During McDonald's keynote address, called Sense of Place Leads to Interconnectedness, you will be guided through the journey of how educational programs, local involvement, and mentorship with Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary has led to a career of marine conservation and resource management. Learn about the importance of environmental education programs, volunteer and internship opportunities, and how they have impacted a local student's life path.

Other speakers at the One Water Gathering include: Stuart Reid, Community Foundation Grey Bruce; Tracy D'Augustino, Michigan State University Extension; Stephanie Gandulla, NOAA Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary; Spencer High, Querkus Creative; Amanda Weinert, Niigaandiwon Education Department of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians; Erinn Lawrie, Lake Huron Coastal Centre; Joseph LaVigne, Huron Endurance and Resources Project; Jeff Graham, GSS Engineering; Heather Huffstutler, Huron Pines; Hannah Mico, River Network; and Dani Lindamood, Water Watchers.

[Learn more about the One Water Gathering and register today.](#)

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**Julia Butch**

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