



The Lancer

The Lancer is an unmanned boat, prepared by Kaitlyn Dow and other students at Waterford CT High School (Connecticut, United States), under the guidance of science teacher Mike O’Conner.

May 2016
The Lancer was deployed near the shelfedge south of Martha’s Vineyard

Oct 2016
Méabh took the Lancer to the Annual European Marine Educators Conference in Belfast, where they met with Dick Balwin, the Belfast Maine founder of Educational Passages.

Apr 2017
The Lancer was refitted with a new sail, paint, and batteries and, on 22 April, deployed from the Marine Institute’s research vessel *RV Celtic Explorer*.

Sept 2016
Mike and the team reached out to many contacts on the coast of Ireland to warn them of Lancers approach. She was recovered on the 17th of September 2016 by Méabh Ní Ghionnáin (8 years old) in Conamara, County

Feb 2017
The Lancer sailboat was repaired by Ciaran Oliver and James Rattigan from Port of Galway Sea Scouts.

Aug 2017
After traveling another 6500+ kilometres, the Lancer was headed towards the south coast of England. Within just a half day sail from Plymouth, the boat went silent for a few days, and everyone feared the worst. But then, on the morning of Aug 4th, she reported from a field of anchored boats at the mouth of River Yealms near the small port of Newton Ferries!

The Next Adventure...
Activity was quiet for a couple years as the boat remained with a local school. But, in 2021, new connections were made with folks at the National Marine Aquarium and Ocean Conservation Trust, and Project O.C.N. began to take shape.

In November 2022 Lancer will begin its next adventure, updated with new GPS equipment and Sea Surface Temperature monitoring equipment. It will be taken to Tenerife where it will be deployed into the Easterly trade-winds, en-course for the Americas, providing project participants with a live climate linked dataset.