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The Centre: It's Impact on Ocean Science—Past, Present and Future

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The Centre (NATO Undersea Research Centre) was formed in 1959, in response to the (then) clear Soviet Union expansion of submarine operations and consequent threat to the NATO Alliance. It began as an experiment to provide a "water leveling" of ASW capability to the Nations of the Alliance. The combination of multi-national staff, on site for 3-5 years for the most part; together with the resident staff, has made this "experiment" an incredible success. The contributions to this success come in two parts: Specific work and scientific progress on site at the Centre and equally importantly, continued international collaboration upon return to one's Nation. The primary purpose of this presentation is to provide some "data" to illustrate both the impact of the Centre on Ocean Science and it's role within the Alliance. Given the rather specific circumstances that lead to the creation of the Centre, the question should be (and is) asked: "Should the experiment end?" The simple answer is: "NO!" The Centre is poised to have an even more critical international role in the future: The knowledge and stewardship of vital marine resources.