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**Shallow water environmental acoustics at NURC/SACLANTCEN**

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The Centre has a long tradition of studying shallow water acoustics. The research has been experimental and theoretical, the latter effort often involving either using or developing models. Examples include innovations such as the concept of the optimum frequency of an acoustic channel, first measured and then precisely explained with modeling, to, for a recent example, the utilization of ocean ambient noise based on its special properties. Consequently, the Centre has continued to remain at the leading-edge for a half century. The common goals at the Centre that provided the impetus for the progression of research are presented. Then a brief historical review of a selection of the contributions the Centre has made in shallow water acoustics is given.