

The pandemic and ensuing lockdown of Simon Fraser University (SFU) campuses from March 2020 – August 2021 challenged Science staff and faculty to find alternate delivery methods for teaching and community outreach and to find solutions for maintaining research excellence. The faculty's efforts to provide an engaging virtual platform for these activities were met with increased attendance at many of our virtual public events, higher enrolments for students (4% in 2020 and 6.6% in 2021) and safe and continuous access to research facilities.

### **COVID RESEARCH**

Caroline Colijn, Canada 150 Research Chair in Mathematics for Evolution, Infection and Public Health continued to make outstanding contributions to our understanding and handling of the COVID-19 pandemic across B.C. and Canada. In addition to leading SFU's MAGPIE (Mathematics, Genomics & Prediction in Infection and Evolution) research group, she co-founded the B.C. COVID-19 Modelling Group, co-leads the Canadian Network for Modelling Infectious Diseases and sits on the national Variants of Concern Scientific Advisory Council and the Office of the Chief Science Advisor's Expert Panel on COVID-19. Her research, leadership and willingness to

## **MARINE CONSERVATION**

Biological Sciences Professor Nick Dulvy continues to make headlines around the world for his efforts to conserve marine species. Along with his work as the past co-chair of the International Union for Conservation of Nature Shark Specialist Group, he continually draws attention to the plight of endangered species of sharks and rays. His publications are amongst the most cited world-wide by Clarivate Analytics and his analysis highlights the need for urgent conservation action across the globe.

PhD student Rhiannon Moore, along with Biological Sciences Professor Leah Bendell recently discovered microplastics in the gastrointestinal tracts of five species of arctic fish that are prey to beluga whales. The author's previous research that has shown beluga stomachs contain microplastics demonstrates how improperly discarded plastics can infiltrate marine ecosystems through air, water, sediment and ultimately the food chain.

## **NATURAL HAZARDS**

Earth Scientist Jessica Pilarczyk discovered geologic evidence that unusually large earthquakes and tsunamis from the Tohoku region are likely traceable to a previously unconsidered plate boundary 50 km east of Tohoku. The discovery will provide better informed seismic hazard maps for Japan and hopefully minimize further events from this plate boundary like the 2011 Tohoku event that triggered the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster.

## **EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

The Faculty of Science has taken the first steps in developing a fairer, more welcoming culture for students, staff and faculty with the appointment of an Associate Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (0 (e)20sfJ0 -1.lpf an Assiarcnd TJ0 -1.3 Td(Inelhes of -20 (erlPr3 Td(s.1 (at)10 (ely the f)20 (ood c)10 (hain.)TJ0.680.065