

2019 CCUBC Career Achievement Award

Dr. Verena Tunnicliffe, FRSC

University of Victoria, Victoria, BC

[Nomination letter for Dr. Verena Tunnicliffe submitted by Dr. Barbara Hawkins, University of Victoria \(PDF\)](#)

Verena Tunnicliffe completed a BSc at McMaster University, and saw the ocean for the first time working on the mudflats of Bay of Fundy. Her PhD program at Yale University focussed on wave impacts on coral reefs. An appointment at the University of Victoria in 1982 focussed work on BC fjords and coast with students working on local ecosystem structure and effects of hypoxia. For a decade, she helped to make the “Ocean On-line” a reality as Director of the subsea observatory, VENUS, where a long-term program examines the impact of climate change on ocean communities. Using manned and remotely operated vehicles, she was closely involved in the discoveries of hydrothermal vents offshore where her research helped establish Canada’s first MPA, the Endeavour Hot Vents Marine Protected Area. She works with interdisciplinary teams exploring hot vent systems around the Pacific Ocean to examine the roles of geological and geochemical processes on biogeography and evolution of vent communities. The lab examines a wide range of adaptations that emerge in this extreme habitat. Current research focusses on deep ocean conservation, including environmental management of emergent deep-sea mining threats. She holds a Canada Research Chair in Deep Oceans, and has received several awards for her work.

