

SOLUTION BRIEF

SPOT GLOBAL PHONE AND SPOT GEN 3™
NOVA SCOTIA SEA SCHOOL



Nova Scotia Sea School Doesn't Set Sail without SPOT

THE BACKSTORY

Since 1994, the **Nova Scotia Sea School (NSSS)** has offered challenging, real life adventure training programs to thousands of youth from Nova Scotia and across Canada. The unique training programs range from sailing adventures, wooden boat-building courses, outdoor adventures, wilderness programs, and team-building programs that build skills, confidence, environmental stewardship, teamwork and respect.



Heather Kelday, Executive Director of the NSSS who has been with the organization for almost ten years, explains that the primary target of NSSS is to reach out to a diverse mix of Nova Scotia youth spanning socio economic backgrounds and to prioritize “at risk youth or marginalized youth wherever possible. The programs help youth take command of boats, and through that experience, take better control of their lives. In all of its programs, safety and communications are of paramount importance to the NSSS. “We follow best practices,” says Kelday. “Many of our staff are trained in wilderness first aid. That’s where I first learned about **SPOT**.”

“THE BOAT BECOMES A VESSEL FOR LIFE TRAINING” IN SMALL QUARTERS, THEY COOK, SLEEP AND HAVE TO LEARN TO LIVE TOGETHER. THEY LEARN LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND PERSONAL SKILLS, RESILIENCY AND TEAM BUILDING.”

— HEATHER KELDAY

BEST PRACTICES IN SAFETY AND COMMUNICATIONS

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Two specialized fully trained instructors are on each sailing trip. Classified as a coastal voyage, the boats are not allowed more than 2 nautical miles offshore out, so if an emergency occurs a rescue could potentially take place within 2 hours. Essential communications gear which includes **SPOT GPS Satellite Messengers** and **SPOT Global Phones** is part of the NSSS Emergency Action

SPOT GEN3

SPOT GEN3 Messenger is a leading edge satellite tracking technology that offers:

- **S.O.S.:** With the push of a button, GEOS International Emergency Response Coordination Center provides your GPS coordinates and information to local response teams
- **Check In:** Let family and friends know you're ok when you're out of cell phone range. Send a pre-programmed text message with GPS coordinates or an email with a link to Google Maps™ to your contacts with your location
- **Help/SPOT Assist:** Alert your personal contacts that you need help in non-life-threatening situations.
- **Unlimited Tracking:** Users can pre-set **SPOT GEN3** to send tracks at the speed of their adventures with options to send every 5, 10, 30, or 60 minutes. Motion Activated to maximize battery life.
- **Longer battery life:** Approximately twice as long as previous **SPOT** devices with new power options including 4 AAA Energizer® Ultimate Lithium 8x batteries (L92), 4 AAA Energizer® NiMH rechargeable batteries (NH12) or Line Power with a 5v USB connection.



Plan, reviewed annually by the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre for Atlantic Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard and Halifax Search and Rescue.

“Our instructors take on a lot of responsibility, so we have a robust emergency action and risk management plan,” says Kelday. “We use a fair amount of redundancies and communication tools. All of our staff are trained in communications. One staff member carries **SPOT** in their PFD (personal flotation device) at all times. Staff also perform daily check-ins so we know where they have anchored for the night.”

SPOT FOR WILDERNESS AND SAILING ADVENTURES

For sailing adventures, the NSSS operates two wooden sail boats, each 30 feet long. Up to 11 teenagers travel on each boat. Sailing trips can range from under a day to as long as 21 days, and travel coastal routes between Halifax and Lunenburg. For its wilderness programs, NSSS offers camping excursions to locations including West Ironbound Island, located near La Have, Nova Scotia. The Island is about five miles from Fort Point and is home to a historic lighthouse dating back to 1855. No one lives permanently on Ironbound Island so it’s an ideal location for developing wilderness survival skills. **SPOT** devices are used as back-up communications given the “patchy cell reception”.

Youth participants are not allowed to bring any technology on the trips, only instructors and team leaders are equipped with satellite devices. “They learn navigation skills using traditional tools,” Kelday says. “GPS devices aren’t used for actual navigation during the trips but are carried for safety and back-up” Kelday explains that after each adventure, **SPOT** tracking is used to generate maps showing GPS waypoints along the route of each adventure, to promote the trip.

Kelday says that within the adventure education field, the NSSS program is very unique in that it takes a local approach. “We spend time working with local youth who learn sailing skills as well as life skills. They become connected with the places they visit and develop a long term relationship with the places they’ve been.” For more information on the Nova Scotia Sea School visit www.seaschool.org.

Globalstar Canada Satellite Co. is a distributor of **SPOT** satellite devices and a proud sponsor of the Nova Scotia Sea School.



SPOT ALSO PROVIDES LOCATION TRACKING FOR TEAMS AT HEADQUARTERS, AS WELL AS CHECK-IN, EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT FOR STAFF.

SPOT GLOBAL PHONE

SPOT GLOBAL PHONE is a portable, easy-to-use data-capable satellite phone that gives users two-way voice and data connectivity even when they are out of range of cell coverage.

- Voice and data capabilities
- Clear voice quality and superior CDMA digital satellite quality
- Automatic system select: Turn up the satellite antenna, and the phone will automatically seek out the satellite network
- Intuitive display: four-line, 8-character display shows battery level, voicemail status, short messages received and satellite signal quality
- Long-life battery: 3.75 hours talk time, 19 hours standby time
- 911 emergency service access



THOUSANDS OF RESCUES MADE COUNTLESS LIVES TOUCHED

For more information on **SPOT** devices, visit: FindMeSPOT.com

SPOT products are distributed in Canada by Globalstar Canada Satellite Co., a company that offers satellite voice and data services to commercial and recreational users in more than 120 countries around the world. For more information, visit www.globalstar.ca.