



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
Transformative Ocean Science

24-27 March 2026
Venice, Italy



DAY I - March 24

Venue:
CNR-ISMAR Headquarters, Arsenale di Venezia

13:30 *Lunch*

14:30 **Introduction to the Symposium**

M. Sprovieri, Institute of Marine Sciences (CNR-ISMAR), Italy

14:45 **The Role of Science in the European Age of Ocean Pact**

J. Morrison, Director, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

15:00 **Questions and Discussions**

15:30 **Musing on the Future Ocean Science: a European perspective**

S. Speich, École Normale Supérieure (ENS-PSL)/Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique (LMD), France

16:15 *Break*

16:45 **A Global View on Future Ocean Science**

M. Leinen, Scripps Institution of Oceanography/University of California San Diego, USA

17:30 **Introduction to the Working Groups**

E. Gissi (CNR-ISMAR), Italy

17:45 **Working Groups - Session 1.1**

19:15 End of the first day

20:00 *Welcome Reception (light buffet)*

DAY II - March 25

Venue:
CNR-ISMAR Headquarters, Arsenale di Venezia

08:45 **Wrap-up from working groups session 1.1 and open discussion**

09:30 **The Role of AI in Marine Science**

A. Bracco, School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA, and Centro Euro Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici, Italy

10:15 **Transdisciplinarity and Ethics in Ocean Research and Innovation**

M. Kaiser, Centre for the Study of the Sciences and Humanities (SVT), University of Bergen, Norway

S. Granum Carson, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway

11:00 *Break*

11:30 **Working Groups - Session 2.1**

12:45 **Foresight frameworks for the ocean economy: Exploring possible trajectories to 2050**

C. Jolly, Lead OECD Ocean Economy Programme, France



13:30 *Lunch*

- 14:30 **Systemic challenges to support R&I in the age of the Ocean Act**
M. Bjerregaard Walsh, Board Member, EU Mission Ocean and Waters, Belgium
- 15:00 **The future of marine science graduate education and training in Europe**
D. Brophy, Atlantic Technological University (ATU), Ireland
- 15:30 **Marine science education**
E. Copejans, European Marine Science Educators, Belgium
- 16:00 **Working Groups - Session 2.2**

17:15 *Break*

- 17:45 **Wrap-up from working groups sessions 2.1.-2.2. and open discussion**
- 19:00 End of the second day

DAY III - March 26



Venue:
CNR-ISMAR Headquarters, Arsenale di Venezia

- 08:45 **Observing the Ocean from Space**
P. Bontempi, School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island, USA
- 09:30 **Observing and Exploring the Deep Sea**
M. Visbeck, OceanQuest, Saudi Arabia
- 10:00 **Mission Neptune: A Bold and Visionary Approach to Ocean Science**
J.M. Daniel, IFREMER, France

10:15 *Break*

- 10:45 **Marine Biodiversity and Genetic Resources: from Exploration to Biotech**
C. Bowler, Institut de Biologie de l'École Normale Supérieure (IBENS), France
- 11:30 **Working Groups - Session 3.1**

13:00 *Lunch*

- 14:00 **Wrap-up from working groups session 3.1 and open discussion**

15:15 *Break*

- 15:45. **The Three Ages of the Ocean in Western Culture**
R. Serrão Santos, Institute OKEANOS, University of the Azores, Portugal
- 16:15 **Wrap-up from the Symposium and open discussion**
[with slido session on key take-aways]
- 18:00 End of the third day



Transformative Ocean Science: Reflections and Recommendations

DAY IV - March 27

Venue:
La Sala degli Squadratori dell'Arsenale di Venezia

8:30 *Registration*

9:30 **Welcome and Opening remarks**

Mario Sprovieri

Director of the Institute of Marine Sciences of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR-ISMAR)

9:35 **Institutional Greetings**

Rear Admiral Domenico Guglielmi

Italian Navy, Institute for Maritime Military Studies (Venice), Commander, Italy

Prof. Andrea Lenzi

President of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR), Italy

Gianluigi Consoli

Director General for Internationalisation and Communication, Ministry of University and Research (MUR), Italy

10:00 **Chromosomes, Nerves, Cell Division: Fundamental Discoveries In Biology At Marine Stations. What Next?**

Tim Hunt - Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2001– followed by Q&A

10:45 **Contribution of the Mission Ocean&Waters to the Ocean R&I Strategy**

Pascal Lamy - Chair of the Board for the European Union's Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030

11:00 **From the European Mission Starfish to the European Ocean Act**

Geneviève Pons - President and DG of Europe Jacques Delors, Brussels

11:10 *Break*

11:30 **Highlights and Key Takeaways from the Symposium**

Elena Gissi and **Giuseppe Suaria** - CNR-ISMAR, Italy

12:15 **Questions & discussion** (Moderated Discussion with audience interaction via Slido)

13:00 *Light lunch*

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

14:00 **Roundtable 1 - Stakeholders perspectives: Transformative Ocean Science**

Contributions to the Ocean R&I Strategy:

Jean-François Doussin – Deputy Director, Institut National des Sciences de l'Univers (CNRS-INSU), France

Anna Rindorf – Director, National Institute of Aquatic Resources (AQUA-DTU), Denmark

Aris Karageorgis – Director and President, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR), Greece

Bjørn Egil Asbjørnslett – Director, NTNU Ocean and Coast, NTNU, Norway

Adrian Stanica – Director, GeoEcoMar, Romania

Baris Salihoglu – Director, Middle East Technical University, Turkey



Transformative Ocean Science: Reflections and Recommendations

Emma Huertas – Deputy Director, Institute of Marine Science of Andalusia (ICMAN)
Spanish Research Council, Spain

Rosa Fugueroa – Director, Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO), Spain

15:00 Questions & discussion

15:15. **Roundtable 2 - Stakeholders perspectives: Transformative Ocean Science
Contributions to the Ocean R&I Strategy:**

Sheila Heymans – Executive Director of the European Marine Board

Adam Soule – Director, Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute, NOAA, USA

Florence Coronet – Vice President, EurOcean (TBC)

Simonetta Fraschetti – Secretary General, EuroMarine Association

Peter Haugan – Chair JPI Oceans

Alan Deidun – SEA-EU Rector's Delegate at UM and Malta's Ocean Ambassador

15:45 Questions & discussion

16:00 *Break*

16:30 **Roundtable 3 - From the Ocean Pact to the Ocean R&I Strategy and the Ocean Act**

James Morrison – Director, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European
Commission

Delilah Al Khudhairi – Director, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), European
Commission

Katja Matthes – Director, GEOMAR, Germany

John Siddorn – CEO, National Oceanography Centre, UK

François Houllier – CEO, IFREMER, France

Francesco Petracchini – Director, Department of Earth System Sciences and
Environmental Technologies (CNR), Italy

17:15 Questions & discussion

17:30 **Conclusion and Closing Remarks**





INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
Transformative Ocean Science

A creative and inclusive forum bringing together science and policy to shape the future of Europe ocean research and innovation.



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2021 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
2030 for Sustainable Development