



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic  
Commission

# Ocean Literacy: past, present, and future

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Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

# Ocean Literacy

- \* Ocean Literacy means understanding the ocean's influence on you and your influence on the ocean.
- \* An ocean literate person is able to:
  - \* Understand the importance of the ocean to humankind
  - \* Can communicate about the ocean in a meaningful way
  - \* Is able to make informed and responsible decisions regarding the ocean and its resources



# Ocean Literacy

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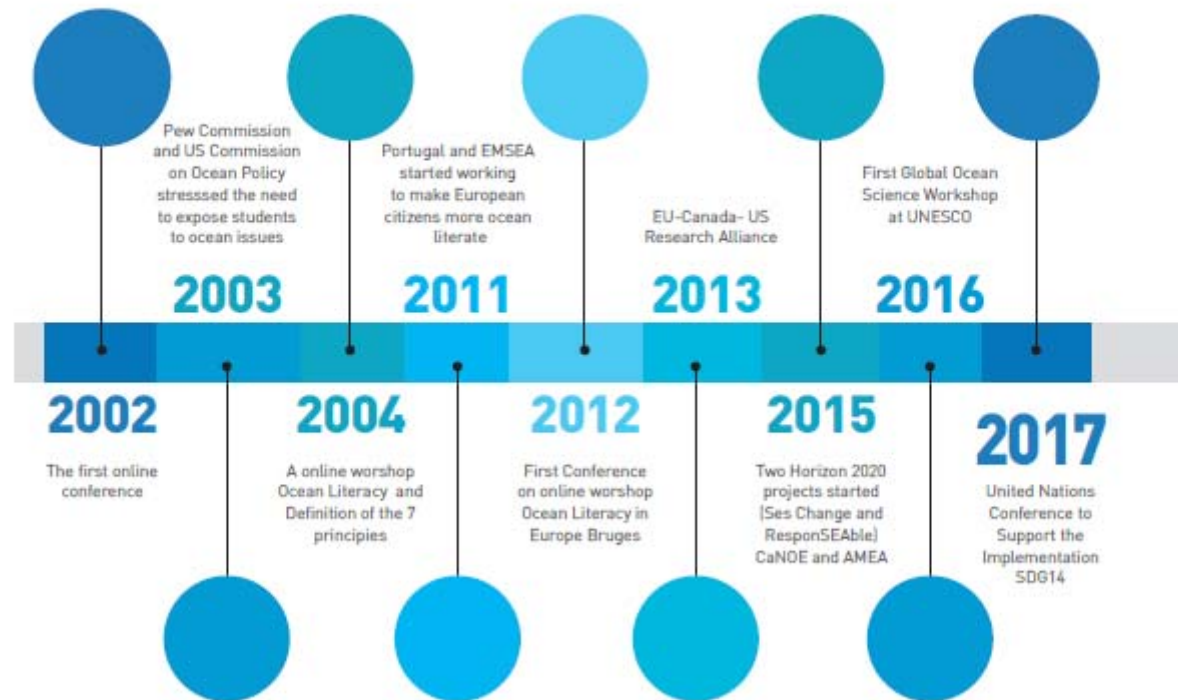
## The essential principles of Ocean Literacy

1. The Earth has one big ocean with many features
2. The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of the Earth
3. The ocean is a major influence on weather and climate
4. The ocean makes the Earth habitable
5. The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems
6. The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected
7. The ocean is largely unexplored



# History of ocean literacy

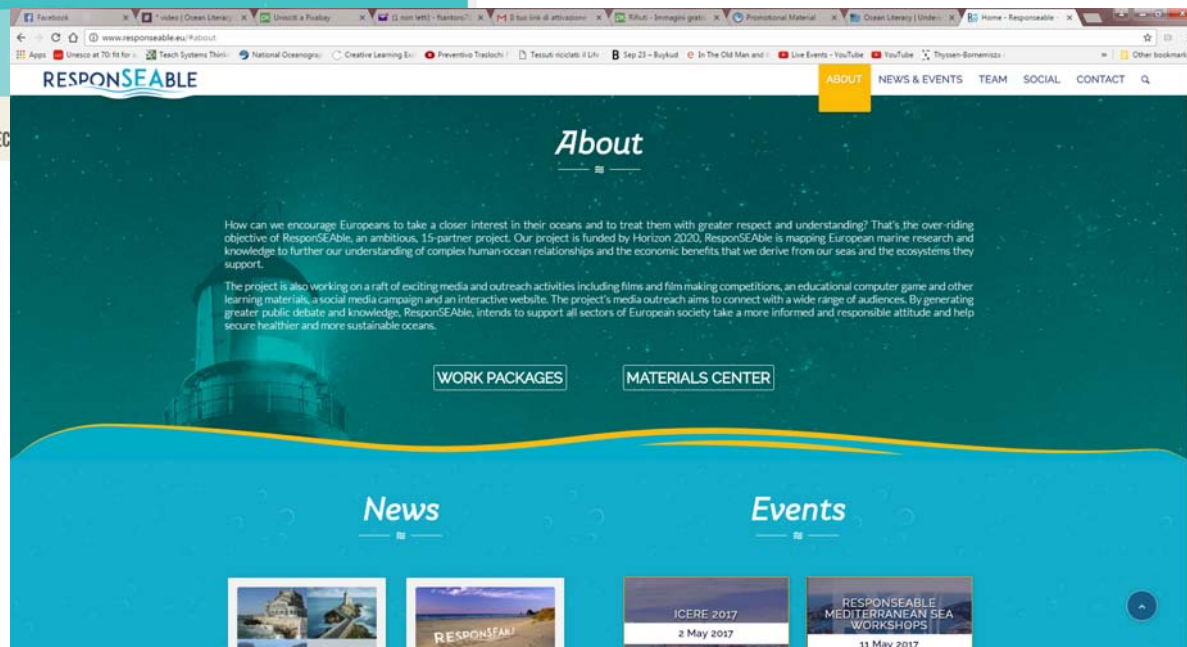
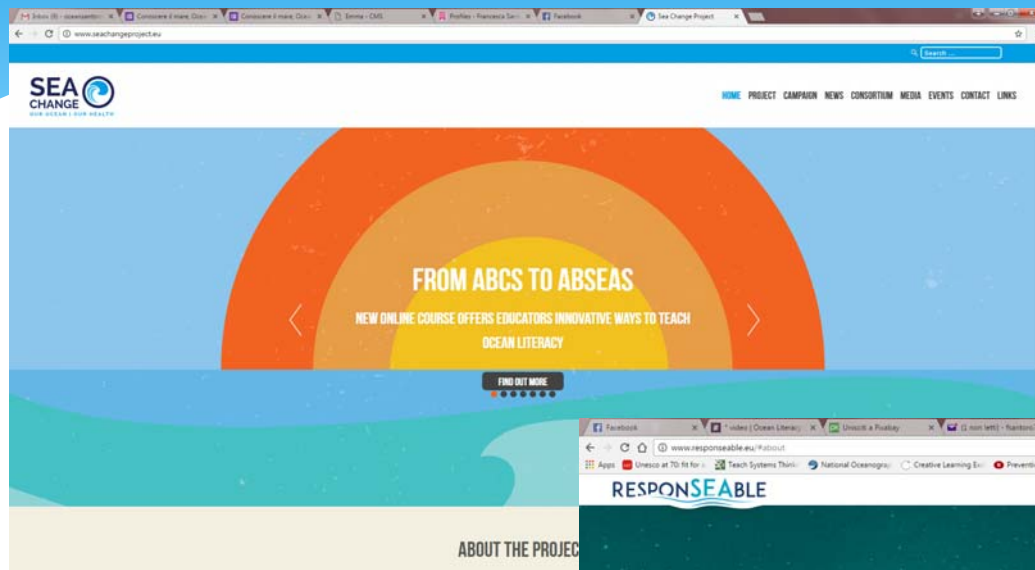
## History of Ocean Literacy



# Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance



# Sea Change & ResponSEAbLe



# Some outputs



## COURSE From ABC to ABSeas: Ocean Literacy for all

COURSE INFO

Francesca Santoro 8 Nov '16 5 Weeks Free Certified

Virtual Classroom

TRANSLATION

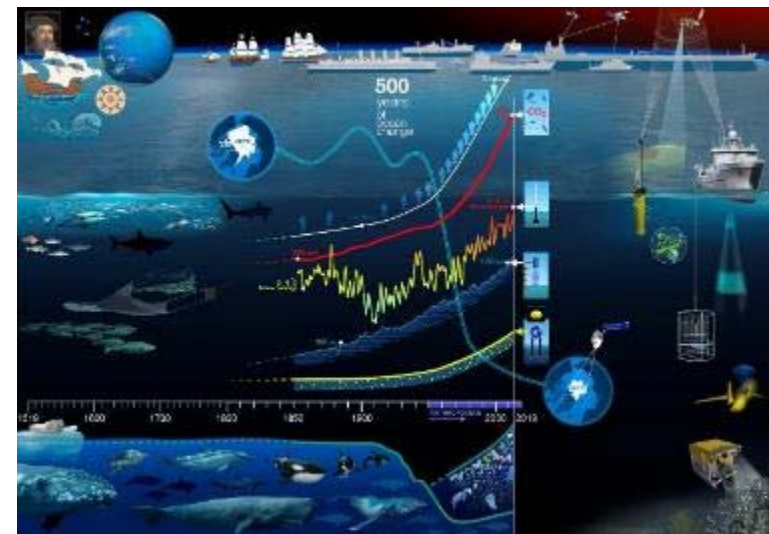
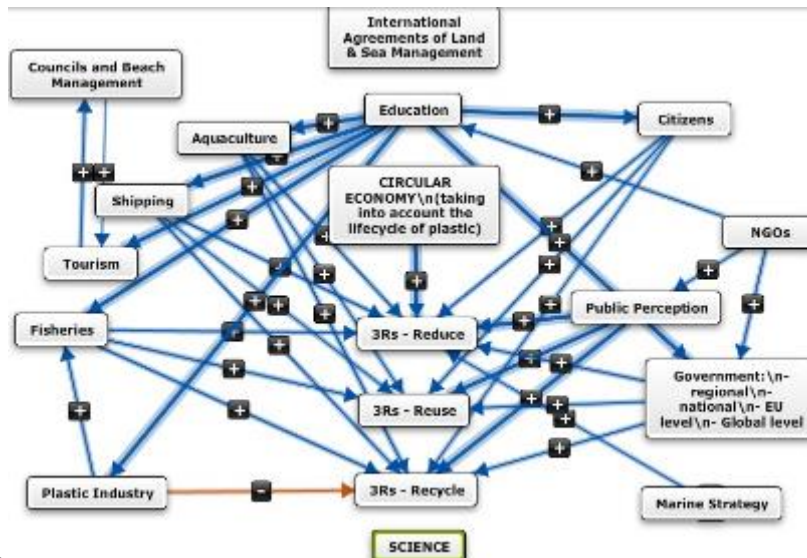
### COURSE OVERVIEW

This first *Ocean Literacy MOOC* aims to sensitise and enable teachers and students to incorporate **ocean literacy into educational programmes**.

Education in its broader understanding (in both formal and informal settings) serves as a high potential channel to reach young citizens. As a lack of sufficient 'Ocean Literacy' has been identified in many countries, this clearly presents a barrier for citizens to engage in ocean responsible behaviour or consider ocean-related careers.

To overcome this, it is recommended to develop education to provide the capacity to **understand environmental issues**, to **participate in decision-making processes** and to **bring about changes in behaviour**.

Ocean Literacy can be seen as a way of incorporating scientific literacy in practice in **education**, whereby scientific literacy not only refers to a person's knowledge of science but also to his or her ability to **use this knowledge in making socially responsible decisions**.



# European Marine Science Educators Association (EMSEA)



The screenshot shows the homepage of the European Marine Science Educators Association (EMSEA) website. The browser's address bar displays "www.emsea.eu". The website features a dark blue header with the EMSEA logo, which includes a globe and the text "EMSEA EUROPEAN MARINE SCIENCE EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "Home", "about EMSEA", "Conferences", and "Marine education". The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features a large image of a jellyfish with the caption "(c) Fiona Crouch" and a text block for the "EMSEA16-conference in Belfast, 4 - 7 October 2016" at Titanic Belfast, Northern Ireland's centre of excellence for ocean literacy. It states "Conference registration is open" and includes a link "Take me to the conference website" above a small image of a conference room. The right column contains a "facebook" widget with a "Latest Tweets" section. The tweets include: "#MOOC on #OceanLiteracy for secondary school teachers organised by @SeaChange\_EU. Nov 7- Dec 5. https://t.co/L7aJaXd4D", "Many of our waste products contaminate the sea as visible litter, chemicals & pharmaceuticals. https://t.co/aDP6fdC7H4", and "Book the dates! #EMSEA17 october 7- 10 in Malta! Make sure to join us."





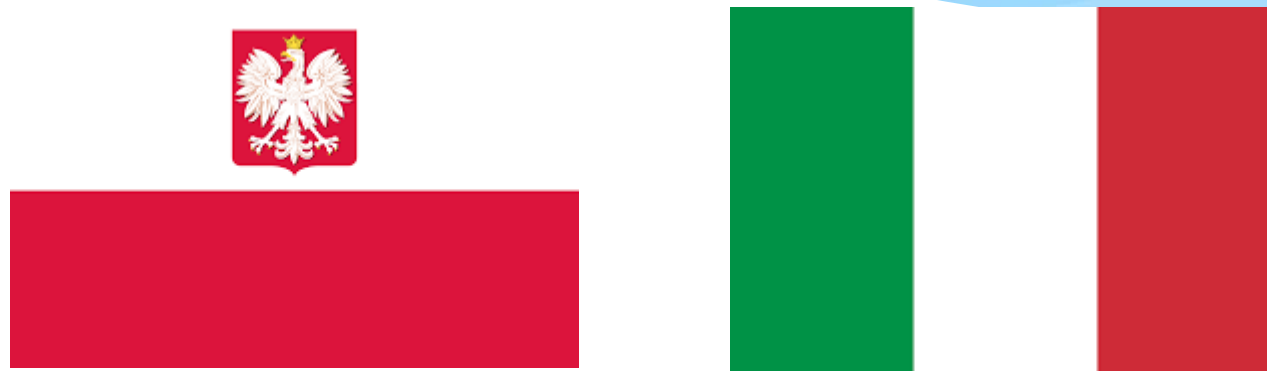
# Adapting OL principles to the Med

## *What makes the Mare Nostrum special?*

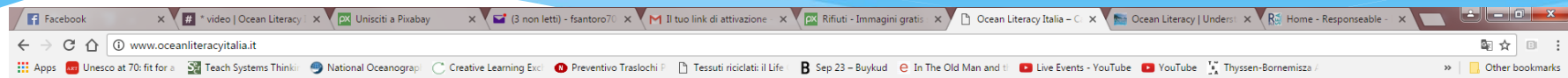
- The Mediterranean Sea is not only considered the cradle of civilization, but it has also great environmental, social and economic importance
- Hot spot for biodiversity
- Mediterranean brand
- First world tourist destination



# Creation of national networks for OL



# Ocean Literacy Italia



## Ocean Literacy Italia

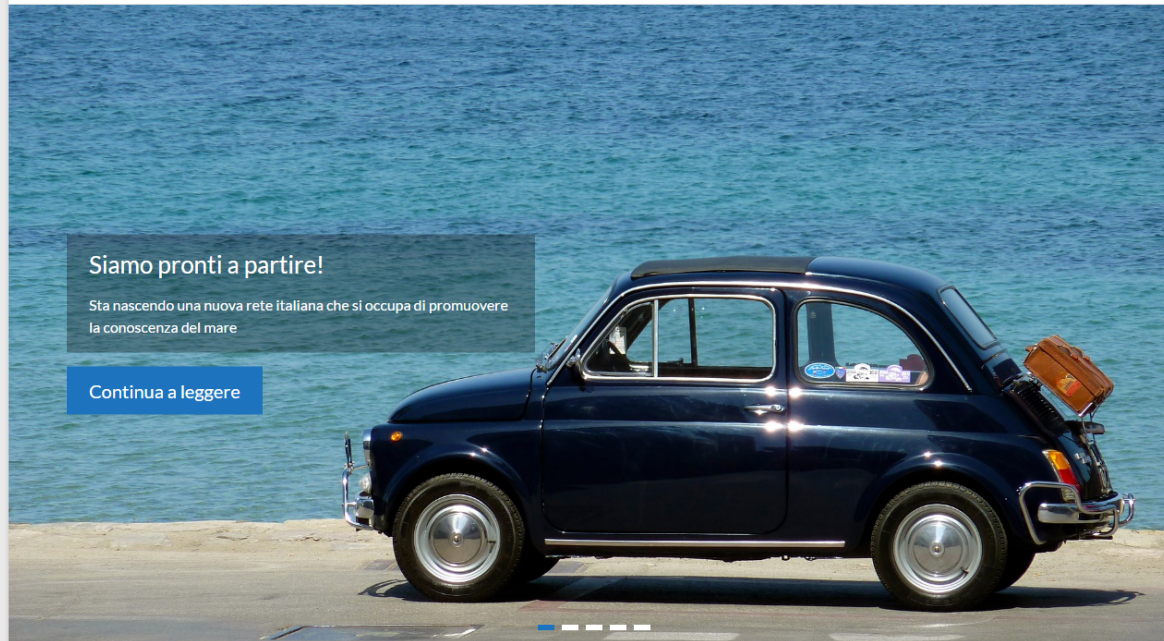
Capire come il mare influenza la nostra esistenza e come noi influenziamo l'esistenza del mare

[Obiettivi](#) [Cosa significa Ocean Literacy](#) [I Sette Principi](#) [Chi siamo](#) [Contatti](#)

Siamo pronti a partire!

Sto nascendo una nuova rete italiana che si occupa di promuovere la conoscenza del mare

[Continua a leggere](#)




World Ocean Day

# National Educational Programme

HOME | ABOUT US | PUBLICATIONS | CONTACT US

ENGLISH GAEILGE

A<sup>-</sup> A A<sup>+</sup>




AREAS OF ACTIVITY | INFRASTRUCTURE & FACILITIES | RESEARCH & FUNDING | DATA SERVICES | IRELAND'S MARINE RESOURCE | NEWS & EVENTS

Home / Areas of Activity / Education & Outreach

**Education & Outreach**

- Education & Outreach Overview
- Explorers Education Programme
- Sea for Society / Blue Society


## Explorers Education Programme



### Explorers Education Programme Overview

The Explorers Education Programme provides fun lesson plans, resources and activities for primary school teachers to inspire their student's interest and knowledge in our ocean, marine environment, species and seashores.

The Explorers Education Programme is supported by the Marine Institute, and is funded under the Marine Research Programme by the Irish Government.



[Explorer Explorers Mission Statement And Goals](#)

The Explorers Education Programme™ aims to build on Ireland's marine and maritime heritage by increasing awareness of the value, opportunities and social benefits of our ocean wealth and identity.



# International push for OL



THE  
**OCEAN**  
**CONFERENCE**  
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, 5-9 JUNE 2017

# SDG14 implementation



HOME ABOUT PROGRAMME CALL FOR ACTION PREP PROCESS SDG 14 VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS DOCUMENTATION STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

**Ocean Literacy for all: a global strategy to raise the awareness for the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of our ocean.**

by UNESCO (United Nations entity)

DESCRIPTION SDG 14 TARGETS COVERED DELIVERABLES RESOURCES MOBILIZED

Most of us live our lives unaware of how our day-to-day actions impact on the health of the ocean, or how the health of the ocean impacts on our own daily lives. Ocean literacy is defined as an understanding of the oceans influence on you and your influence on the ocean.

The focus of the Ocean Literacy for ALL initiative is to develop a global partnership to raise the awareness on the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of our ocean and its resources and to build an improved public knowledge base across the worlds population regarding our global ocean.

Building on existing national, regional, and international ocean education initiatives, such as those conducted by the Trans-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance, the International Consortium for Ocean Science Exploration and Engagement (COSEE), and the European and Asian Association of Marine Science Educators, this initiative aims at developing a plan to foster ocean awareness and ocean literacy education in all segments of society.

## Ocean Literacy for All : Sustaining SDG 14 Goals Through Ocean Science Education and Ocean Literacy

June 6  
5 - 6:30 PM  
ROOM CRA

The focus of the *Ocean Literacy for ALL* Side Event is to further develop a global partnership to raise awareness on conservation and sustainable use of our ocean and its resources to bring about positive change in peoples' attitudes about our global ocean.



# Call for Action

13. We call on all stakeholders to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development by taking, inter alia, the following actions on an urgent basis, including by building on existing institutions and partnerships:

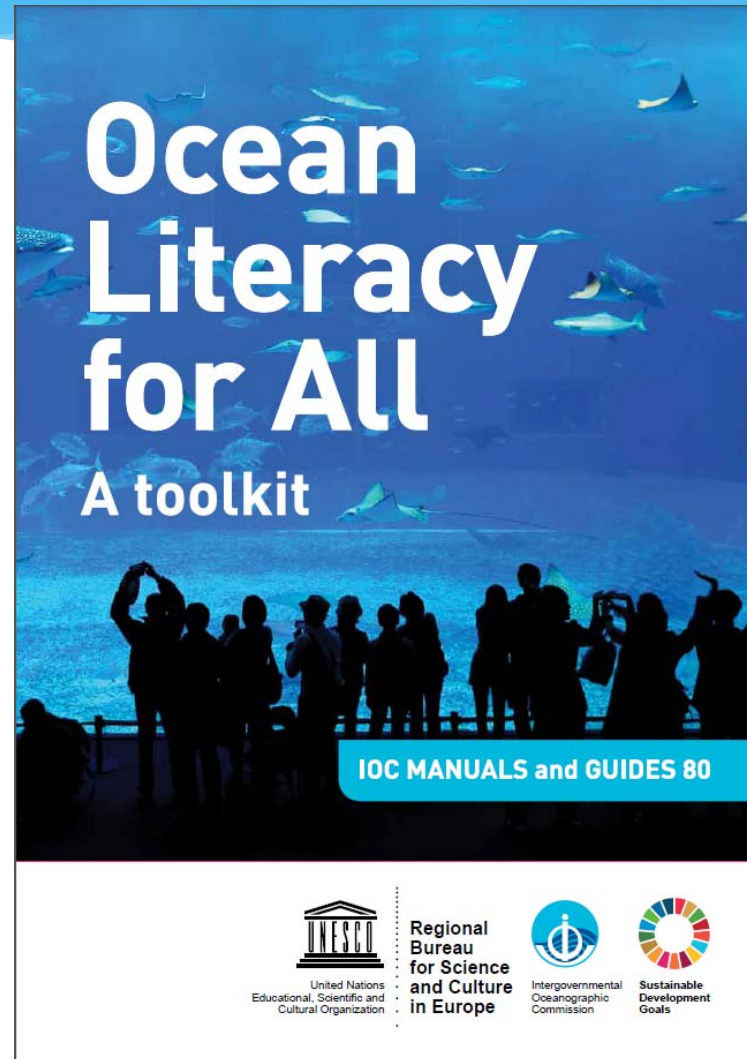
...

(e) Support plans to foster ocean-related education, for example as part of education curricula, ***to promote ocean literacy and a culture of conservation, restoration and sustainable use of our ocean***

...



# Ocean Literacy for All - toolkit







Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

# Ocean Literacy Portal

Enter the Portal

What is Ocean Literacy?

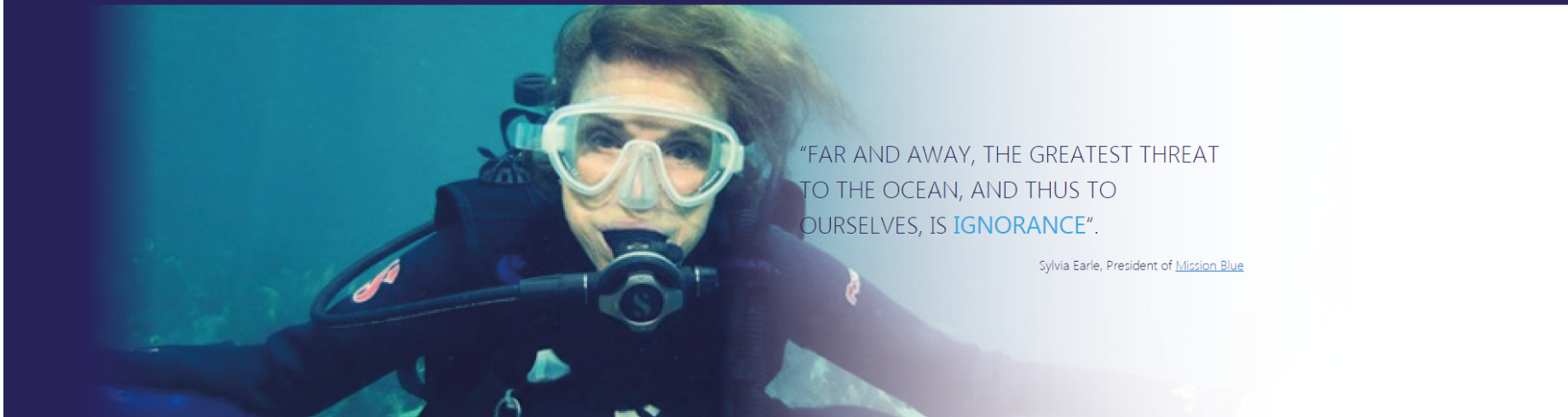
Pause video



# Welcome to the Ocean Literacy Portal

Sharing the World's Ocean Knowledge

[HOME](#) [RESOURCES](#) [ABOUT](#) [NEWS](#) [EVENTS](#) [JOIN](#)



“FAR AND AWAY, THE GREATEST THREAT  
TO THE OCEAN, AND THUS TO  
OURSELVES, IS **IGNORANCE**”.

Sylvia Earle, President of [Mission Blue](#)

I am looking  
for...

Resources

about...

Ocean Plastics

Search the portal

## Find resources for

Students



Scientists



Policy Makers



Educators



Media



Private Sector



## International Ocean Literacy Conference



The international conference will be hosted by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe with the financial support of the Swedish Ministry of the Environment and Energy. It will be honoured by the presence of Gesine Meissner, Member of the European Parliament; Peter Thomson, UN Special Envoy for the Ocean; Barbara Degani, Vice-Minister of the Environment and Protection of Land and Sea of Italy; Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO; and, Francesca von Habsburg, Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary.

The conference will discuss topics covered by the UNESCO Ocean Literacy for All voluntary commitment to the June 2017 UN Ocean Conference; develop an Ocean Literacy for All road map for the next 3 years, in preparation for the next UN Ocean Conference; and, debate ways and means by which the Ocean Literacy for All initiative will best support the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 14 and develop in tune with the proposed International Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) - the ocean we need for the future, a voluntary commitment by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

### Participating countries

- ▶ Austria
- ▶ Bangladesh
- ▶ Belgium
- ▶ Brazil
- ▶ Canada
- ▶ Colombia
- ▶ Costa Rica
- ▶ Cuba
- ▶ Democratic Republic of the Congo
- ▶ Egypt
- ▶ Fiji
- ▶ France
- ▶ Germany
- ▶ India
- ▶ Italy
- ▶ Jamaica
- ▶ Japan
- ▶ Maldives
- ▶ Mexico
- ▶ Morocco
- ▶ Nigeria
- ▶ Norway
- ▶ Peru
- ▶ Philippines
- ▶ Portugal
- ▶ Qatar
- ▶ Senegal
- ▶ Spain
- ▶ South Africa
- ▶ Sweden
- ▶ Switzerland
- ▶ Tunisia
- ▶ United Kingdom
- ▶ USA



# What are the current needs?



# What are the current needs?



# European Parliament support to ocean literacy



**OCEAN LITERACY  
FOR ALL** THE WAY FORWARD AFTER  
THE MALTESE DECLARATION

26 APRIL 2017 / 9:00-12:00 H  
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT / ASP 501

JOAO AGUIAR MACHADO DIRECTOR GENERAL DG MARE  
FRANCESCA SANTORO PROGRAMME SPECIALIST, INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION, UNESCO

GESINE MEISSNER PRESIDENT OF THE INTERGROUP  
RICARDO SERRAO SANTOS VICE-CHAIR FOR MARINE KNOWLEDGE

[WWW.SEARICA.EU](http://WWW.SEARICA.EU)

ORGANISED WITH THE SUPPORT OF CPMR – SECRETARIAT  
OF THE INTERGROUP  
FOR REGISTRATION AND ACCESS BADGE PLEASE CONTACT  
[LUCAS.BOSSE@CPM.DG](mailto:LUCAS.BOSSE@CPM.DG) / +88 (0) 2 99 95 46 81

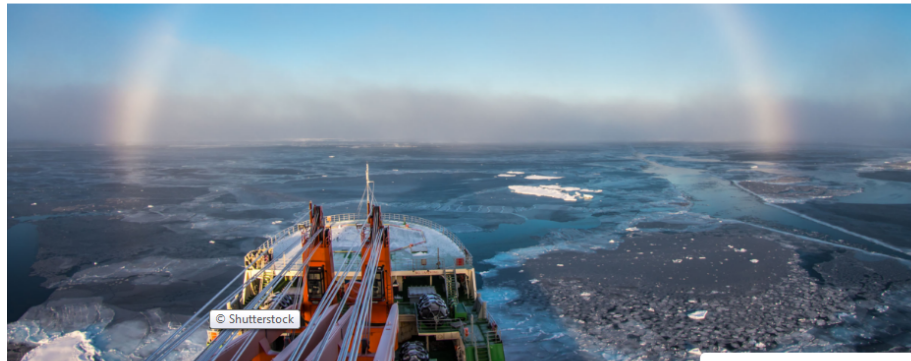


EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
INTERGROUP  
Seas, Rivers, Islands  
Coastal Areas



# Processes

## United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)



The United Nations has proclaimed a Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) to gather ocean stakeholders worldwide behind a common framework that will ensure ocean science can fully support countries in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 14 on the ocean.

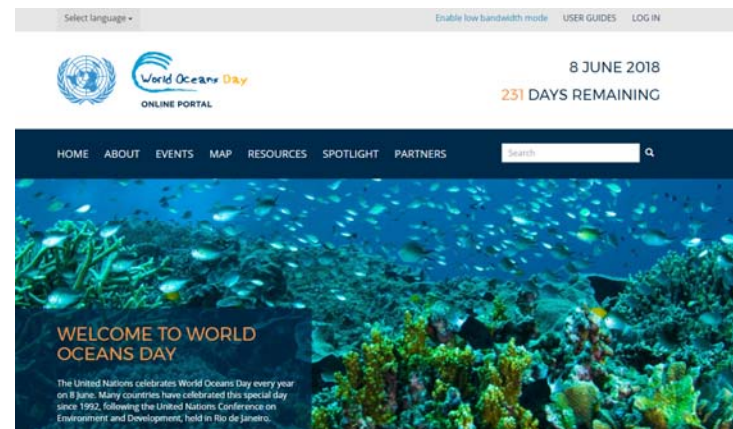


# Capacity Development Strategy





# World Oceans Day



Many Thanks  
f.santoro@unesco.org

