

HEALTHY OCEANS, SEAS, COSTAL AND INLAND WATERS

Chair of dedicated board: Pascal Lamy

The importance of healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters

Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters are vital for our societies and the future of our planet. They are the lungs of our planet, producing half of the oxygen we breathe. They are a source of healthy food, contributing 16% of the animal protein we eat. They are the planet's largest carbon sink and have absorbed 26% of anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. They are home to the richest biodiversity on our planet. They are the source of all life on Earth and our planet's life-support system. They supply freshwater, renewable energy and provide benefits associated with our well-being, cultural values, tourism, trade, and transport.

Aims of missions in this area

A mission in the area of healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters will be a powerful tool to raise awareness of their importance among citizens and help develop solutions on a range of issues.

These include

- systemic solutions for the prevention, reduction, mitigation and removal of marine pollution including plastics
- transition to a circular and blue economy
- adaption to and mitigation of pollution and climate change in the ocean
- sustainable use and management of ocean resources
- development of new materials including biodegradable plastic substitutes, new feed and food
- urban, coastal and maritime spatial planning
- ocean governance
- **ocean economics applied to maritime activities**

Preparing for the UN decade of ocean science (EMSO ERIC initiative)

1. Cooperation for a sustainable development of oceans; Main actors:

- a) UN Ocean decade
- b) EMB
- c) EuroGOOS
- d) DOOS
- e) JPI Oceans
- f) OECD
- g) EMODnet
- h) COPERNICUS
- i) Marine BON
- j) IOBIS

2. Ocean health and biodiversity:

to stress the importance of ocean observation and research application in mapping and protecting marine ecosystems, in evaluating also the impacts of the different stressors and their reduction/mitigation to ensure the preservation of the ocean ecosystem. There is a strong linkage with the UN SDGs

No 1Poverty; 7 Affordable and Clean Energy; 13 Climate Action; 14 Life Below Water.

- a) NOC
- b) LifeWatch ERIC
- c) EMBRC ERIC

3. RIs:

- a) EMSO ERIC
- b) EUROARGO ERIC
- c) EMBRC ERIC
- d) LifeWatch ERIC
- ??Others??

4. Blue economy:

- a) World Ocean Council
- b) BLUEMED
- c) EuroFleets
- d) ISPRA

5. Hazards, natural and anthropogenic:

- a) JAMSTEC
- b) ACTRIS
- c) EPOS
- d) NOC

6. Climate change:

- a) INGV
- b) ICOS ERIC
- c) EUROARGO ERIC