EU Mission: “Restore our Ocean and Waters”

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Opportunities for collaboration & synergies

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What is the Mission to Restore our Ocean and Waters

The Mission is a collective endeavor to achieve shared goals.

The Mission is a hub of connectivity, cooperation and collaboration.

The Mission is a bridge for communities, stakeholders and researchers to co-create, co-design and co-implement projects and actions.

The Mission is a joint commitment to restore our Ocean and our Waters.
Objectives & Targets

Protect & Restore Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems & Biodiversity
- Protect at least 30% of EU’s sea area by 2030
- Restore 25,000 km of rivers
- Contribute to marine nature restoration targets

Prevent & Eliminate Pollution
- Reduce plastic litter at sea by at least 50%
- Reduce microplastics entering environment by at least 30%
- Reduce nutrient losses and chemical pesticides by at least 50%

Carbon-Neutral and Circular Sustainable Blue Economy
- Net zero maritime emissions
- Zero carbon aquaculture
- Low carbon multi-purpose use of marine space
Enablers
Two cross-cutting enablers to facilitate objectives

Digital Ocean Knowledge System

Public Engagement & Mobilisation

- Digital Twin Ocean
- Digital Infrastructure Service
- Data Analytics
- Citizen Science & Literacy
- Participation & Democracy
- Stewardship & Volunteering
• Are sites which pilot, demonstrate, test and upscale Mission relevant Research & Innovation activities

• Act as hubs and platforms for transformative innovations

• Integrate existing and new knowledge, local enterprise, citizen engagement, youth involvement and public outreach

• Develop and deploy technological, social, business and governance innovations
Arctic & Atlantic sea basin

Already existing:
- All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance
- Atlantic Action Plan 2.0
- OSPAR
- Copernicus global
- NWS79
- IBI ocean monitoring and forecasting centres

Danube river basin

Already existing:
- Macroregional strategy for the Danube river basin
- International Commission for the Protection of the Danube river
Mediterranean sea basin

Already existing:
- Union for Mediterranean
- BlueMed initiative
- UNEP-MAP
- PRIMA
- Western Med sea-basin strategy
- Copernicus Black-Sea and Med Sea Ocean monitoring and forecasting centres

Prevent & Eliminate Pollution

InNoPlastic
NETTAG
MAELSTROM
oceanets
CLAIM
AQUA-LIT
GoJelly
Baltic & North sea basin

Already existing:
• HELCOM82
• BANOS Baltic and North Sea Co-operation
• EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
• Copernicus, Arctic and Baltic ocean Monitoring and forecasting centre
Case study – Oyster aquaculture

An example of ONE local initiative endorsing the charter

Gary Kett, PhD. Zoology
Pacific oyster *Crassostrea gigas* health and pathogen development in a changing marine environment

Provides a wide range of ecosystem services
- Reduces eutrophication
- Sequesters carbon
- Boosts biodiversity

Image: noraeurope.eu
Pacific oyster (*C. gigas*) Blue Economy in Ireland

- > 10,000 tonnes annually
- > €45 Million euro annually
- > 1,000 people directly employed
- Cultural heritage preservation
- Offers valuable resource for bioeconomy
- Nature-based solutions for food security and coastal protection
Stakeholders of Irish shellfish aquaculture

To boost the sustainability, growth and cohesion of the local low-trophic aquaculture sector:

• A **holistic, systems-thinking approach** is used to bring together all actors within the sector.

• In-person meetings, workshops, symposia are designed to **open dialogue, share knowledge and explore solutions**.

• Challenges, **obstacles and issues are explored and addressed**.

• Horizon-scanning explores **synergies, best-practices and opportunities** in international systems.

• Innovative solutions are **co-designed, co-implemented and co-owned**!
The All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance (AANChOR)

• An inclusive All-Atlantic community of stakeholders
• Science Diplomacy built upon Galway and Belém statements
• 6 Ambitious long-term Joint Pilot Actions
  • All-Atlantic Ocean Capacity Development and Training
  • All-Atlantic Aquaculture Technology & Innovation Platform
  • All-Atlantic Data Enterprise 2030
  • All-Atlantic Blue Schools Network
  • All-Atlantic Marine Research Infrastructure Network
  • All-Atlantic Marine Biotechnology Initiative
How to get involved

• The Mission will **develop and demonstrate innovative technological, social, business and governance solutions.**

• The scope of the Mission combines **new forms of governance** and cooperation and a **new way of reaching out to citizens** and getting them on board, including **young people**.

• **EU and non-EU countries**, regions and a wide range of public and private sector **stakeholders** will also need to get involved, to help ensure we make real impact, together.

• **Each one of us can co-design, co-implement and co-monitor** this Mission by participating in campaigns and other activities.

• Endorse the **Mission Charter**, a commitment to cooperate and align resources and a tool to mobilize stakeholders, gain traction and ensure timely delivery of actions.
Earth observations

• Observing, predicting and monitoring climate change
• Monitoring pollutants and Harmful Algal Blooms
• MPA, Marine spatial planning
• Monitoring of ecosystems, industry, impacts, opportunities
• All GEO Blue Planet activities:
  - Fishing
  - Marine Litter
  - Coastal Flooding
  - Sargassum
  - Eutrophication
  - Oil Spill
  - Climate Adaptation

Image: Mercator Ocean
Get onboard!

- Join the commitment to restore our Ocean and Waters
- Endorse the Mission Ocean and Waters Charter
- Reach out to identify synergies to your work
- What stage is your project at, and where would you like it to be?
- Where can we help each other?
- What is the greatest challenge your project faces in development?
- What is the biggest change you would like to see?
Inspiring examples

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Plenary session #2
Ecosystem Conservation