

**We have One Decade to accomplish One Mission.  
We need One Voice to achieve the One Ocean we want.**

# **EurOCEAN 2023**

## **speakers' biographies**



**2021  
2030** United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development



**EU MISSIONS**  
RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS

**10-11 October 2023**

Auditorio y Palacio de Congresos Mar de Vigo  
Vigo, Galicia, Spain

## One Ocean, One Mission, One Decade - One Voice

We have set up ambitious objectives to be achieved by 2030 to restore our Ocean and waters, and to realize the science we need for this purpose. We are now approaching the middle of the decade, and entering a new phase that goes from mobilization via the Mission Charter and the Ocean Decade Actions, to rally our efforts and work together to see the impact of our collective action, and investigate how we will meet these objectives for 2030. **We have One Decade to accomplish One Mission. We need One Voice to achieve the One Ocean we want.**

EurOCEAN conferences are major European marine science-policy conferences organized every 4-5 years. They provide a forum for the marine and maritime research community and wider stakeholders to interface with European and Member State policymakers and strategic planners. The aim of the EurOCEAN 2023 science-policy conference is to highlight the synergies between the EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030, other EU research and innovation, and management initiatives, and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. EurOCEAN 2023 will attract marine policy makers, marine scientists, science stakeholders and communicators, maritime industry representatives and European and national decision makers and programme managers, i.e. those that set, manage and implement the marine science agenda.

Other [events and visits](#) will happen around the dates of the conference outside the main conference organization. Please be aware that these side events require additional registration.

More information at <http://www.euroceanconferences.eu/>

**The EurOCEAN 2023 conference supports the EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030 and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.**



**2021  
2030** United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

**#EurOCEAN2023**

**#MissionOcean**

**#OceanDecade**

**EurOCEAN 2023** is co-organized by the European Marine Board (EMB), the Technology Centre of the Sea (CETMAR), the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) through the Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO-CSIC) and the Institute of Marine Research (IIM-CSIC), the European Commission, the Joint Programming Initiative on Oceans (JPI Oceans), the European Marine Research Network (EuroMarine), the European Global Ocean Observing System (EuroGOOS) and the European Centre for Information on Marine Science and Technology (EurOcean).



The EurOCEAN 2023 organizing committee appreciates the additional support from the European Union Innovation Actions EuroSea and EcoScope, the Centre for Marine Research of the University of Vigo (CIM-UVigo), the Campus do Mar, the Regional Government of Galicia (Xunta de Galicia), the Governing Board of CETMAR, the Marine Institute, the Council of the City of Vigo (Concello de Vigo), the Port of Vigo, industry associations CONXEMAR and ANFACO-CECOPESCA, and the European Fisheries Control Agency (ECFA).



# SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Tuesday, 10 October 2023

## Welcome and opening addresses



### Gilles Lericolais

Dr. Gilles Lericolais is presently acting as Senior Scientific Officer for the General Secretariat for the Sea of the French Prime Minister and is the Chair of the European Marine Board. From 2011 to 2020, he was the European and International Director of Ifremer. Gilles received his PhD (1997) and Professorship Habilitation (2009) in marine geology. He has been chief scientist of more than 10 scientific cruises and author and

co-author of more than a 100 publications and communications. From 2007 to 2013, he was nominated Vice-Chair and then Chair of the Site Survey Panel for International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) and Chair (2016 to 2018) and Vice-Chair (2018-2020) of the European Consortium for Ocean Research Drilling (ECORD) Facility Board for IODP. He was also the Vice-Chair (2019-2020) of the French Committee of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO). He has been a member of the Board of Trustees of POGO from 2019 to 2023. He is member of the Internal Advisory Committee of JPI Oceans and in June 2019, he was elected Chair of the European Marine Board for a 3 years mandate, which was renewed for another 2 years in April 2022.



### John Bell

Dr John Bell is the "Healthy Planet" Director in DG Research & Innovation, leading the European Green Deal research and innovation transitions on Climate Change, Oceans and Arctic, Water, Bioeconomy, Food Systems, Environment and Biodiversity, Circular Economy, and Bio-based systems. This includes the €10 billion Horizon Europe investments and chairing the Governing Board of the €2 billion Circular

Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking. He has led initiatives, such as the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance, Galway and Belém Statements, BlueMed and the EU Bioeconomy Strategy. He is also the Deputy Mission Manager for the Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030".





### **Abel Caballero**

Abel Caballero is the current Mayor of Vigo. He holds a PhD in Economics from the Universities of Cambridge and Santiago de Compostela and has worked as a lecturer at several Spanish and European universities. He is Professor of Economic Theory at the Faculty of Economics and Business Studies at the University of Vigo and has an extensive political career: Since 2007, he is the Mayor of Vigo and between 1985

and 1987 he was Minister of Transport, Tourism and Communications. He is a member of the Congress of Deputies of Spain (Congreso de los Diputados) and in 1997 he ran for the Presidency of the Regional Government of Galicia (Xunta de Galicia). He was also a member of the regional parliament until 2001, when he returned to teaching. Between 2005-2007, he was the president of the Port Authority of Vigo and has been president of the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP) from 2015-2013. Abel Caballero is also the author of numerous books in both the literary and professional fields. His extensive curriculum includes the official title of Merchant Marine.



### **Alfonso Villares Bermúdez**

Since 2023, Alfonso Villares Bermúdez is the Regional Minister of the Sea (Conselleiro del Mar). He holds a degree in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Santiago de Compostela and worked as a veterinarian between 1996 and 2007. During that time, he was also a councillor in the Council of Cervo (between 1995 and 2007) and held government responsibilities since 1999. From 2007 until June 2023 he was

Mayor of Cervo, and from 2011 to 2023 he was also vice-president of the Galician Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (Fegamp).



### **Gonzalo Arévalo**

Gonzalo Arévalo Nieto is the Director General for Research Planning of Spain. He obtained a PhD in Decision Engineering in 2013, a Master's Degree in Management of R&D applied to Health Sciences in 2011, and a Degree in Economics and Business Administration from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (1996). He has worked in research management

since 2003, specifically on to the internationalisation of Health Research, Development and Innovation. He was previously the Deputy Director General for International Research Programmes and Institutional Relations at the Carlos III Institute of Health (ISCIII) (2018-), Director of the European Projects Office (2014-2018), and National Contact Point for Legal and Financial Affairs for the European Framework Programmes FP7 and H2020 (2009-2019).





### **José María Martell**

José María Martell is the Vice-President for Scientific and Technical Research at the CSIC. He is a CSIC research scientist at the Institute of Mathematical Sciences (ICMAT), where he has been Director since June 2020. He has a PhD in Mathematical Sciences and his main areas of research are harmonic analysis, partial differential equations and geometric measurement theory. In 2013 he obtained a Consolidator Grant of half a million

Euros from the European Research Council which he used to further this research between 2014 and 2019. He has published more than 65 articles in high-impact journals and, has been cited more than 1,500 times (Mathscinet). In 2011, he published, together with D. Cruz-Urbe and C. Pérez, the essay: "Weights, extrapolation and the theory of Rubio de Francia", in the journal Birkhäuser.

Martell obtained his PhD in Mathematical Sciences from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid in 2001. He has subsequently held postdoctoral positions at the University of Missouri at Columbia (USA), the Université Paris Sud-CNRS (France) and the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain). In 2005, he obtained a Ramón y Cajal grant, which he held at the CSIC until he obtained a position as a scientist at the ICMAT. He served as Vice-Director of ICMAT between April 2018 and June 2020 when he became Director of that institute.



### **Juliette Aminian Biquet**

Juliette Aminian Biquet is an EMB Young Ambassador for the years 2022-2024. She is a researcher in ecology and conservation sciences, with broad interests in all natural sciences, socio-ecosystems functioning and protection. She has been involved in various projects, notably on the impact of fisheries, evolutionary consequences of climate change, our

perception of nature, and population monitoring in several ecosystems. She is also involved in scientific mediation about biodiversity. Juliette is now specializing in marine ecology, as a PhD student at the Centro de Ciências do Mar, thanks to a scholarship from FCT, a Portuguese EMB Member. She is studying marine protected areas in the European Union, describing the protection they were designed to deliver, and investigating the underlying reasons that led to these levels of protection, from the EU to the national scale, including the influence of individuals in these processes. She hopes her work will help to improve the socio-ecological benefits of the EU spatial protection.





### **Alfredo Garcia de Vinuesa**

Alfredo Santiago Garcia de Vinuesa Gutierrez is an EMB Young Ambassador for the years 2022-2024. He grew up in Extremadura, Spain, away from the sea. However, he always showed an enormous interest and curiosity for the marine world. Alfredo obtained a BSc in Marine Science in 2010 from the University of Cádiz, and moved shortly after to work in the Barcelona Institute of Marine Science (ICM-CSIC). From there,

he completed his studies with an MSc in Biodiversity and a PhD in Marine Science, both granted by the University of Barcelona. During his PhD, Alfredo focused his research towards the study of trawling impacts over especially vulnerable Mediterranean marine ecosystems to improve their management, working very close with stakeholders like fishers, NGOs and policy makers. Since then, Alfredo has been a great defender of participative management. He has now returned to Cádiz, where he is currently a Postdoc at the Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO-CSIC) – an EMB Member Organisation - working together with stakeholders, and trying to improve current Guadalquivir Estuary management through participative processes.



### **Alexandra Hahn**

Alexandra Hahn is an EMB Young Ambassador for the years 2023-2025. After graduating from high school, Alexandra volunteered for a year in nature conservation at the German Wadden Sea coast. She obtained her BSc from the University of Rostock with a guest semester at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. She completed her Master studies in Biological Oceanography at EMB Member Organisation

GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, Germany. Since 2023 she is a PhD Student in the Marine Ecological Genomics group at GEOMAR where she investigates local adaptation to various stressors in Baltic Sea copepods to assess how populations might react to a future changing ocean. She also has a passion for ocean themed art and shares her work on exhibitions and social media.



### **Riwan Leroux**

Riwan Leroux is an EMB Young Ambassador for the years 2023-2025. He is a researcher in aquatic ecology with a PostDoc position at the Deep-Sea laboratory (BEEP) at the EMB Member IFREMER, France. He works with Marjolaine Matabos and Jozée Sarrazin on evaluating the impact of research activities on hydrothermal vent fields. After a PhD in Canada, where he worked on trophic ecology and specialized in big data analysis,

he chose the deep sea to unravel the impact of human activities in these remote areas. His PROTECT project, standing for “impact indicators in a deeP-sea maRine prOtecTed arEa and reCommendations for management”, is at the interplay between research and public policy support to co-construct management strategies.

## Session 1: Enabling ecosystem-based management for fisheries and conservation



### Susan Steele

Dr. Susan Steele is the Executive Director of the European Fisheries Control Agency. Dr. Steele was born in Ireland and has spent her entire career working with the oceans. After completing her PhD in 1998, Susan worked as post-doctoral researcher and then as an instructor in BIM regional fisheries college in 2001, teaching over thirty-eight subjects from marine biology, through Standards of Training, Certification

and Watchkeeping (STCW) 95, boat handling, Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) radio courses, among others. She then became head of aquaculture and business training. Between 2009 and 2013, she was head of innovation and developed Ireland's seafood development Centre from a green field site. She then joined the Sea fisheries protection authority and served as CEO and chair from 2013-2021 with responsibility for over 140 staff across seven locations and an annual budget of fourteen million euros.



### Debbi Pedreschi

Dr. Debbi Pedreschi (she/her) is a senior post-doctoral researcher working in the Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management Team of the Marine Institute, Ireland. Dr. Pedreschi is also the Chair of the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Steering Group at the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). She works on Integrated Ecosystem Assessment, with a focus on working with stakeholders to build semi-quantitative risk assessments

and conceptual models to progress ecosystem-based management by developing the understanding of integrated socio-ecological systems. Her interests centre around using multidisciplinary approaches to gain a better understanding of ecological pressures and interactions, and the complexity of socio-ecological systems. Her work focuses on identifying complex problems, and developing applied real-world solutions.



### Pablo Martín-Sosa

Pablo Martín-Sosa Rodríguez works at the Canary Islands Center of CSIC-IEO, and is an expert in Marine Protected Areas. For the last 22 years he has been leading the MPAs research group at his Center, and has been involved in the effects of MPAs on both commercial stock species and fishing activity. He has also focused on projects related to biodiversity

protection and characterization of new MPAs. Pablo Martín-Sosa has designed, supervised and led many multidisciplinary research surveys using different methodologies, leading a vast multidisciplinary research team, and inventorying, mapping and assessing deep-sea Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME), as well as the artisanal fisheries and their impact on sea-floor integrity.





### **Ken Skau Fischer**

Kenn Skau Fischer is the CEO for the Danish Fishers PO, one of the largest fisheries producer organisations in the EU with 640 fishing vessel members. Members are mainly fishing in the North Sea, the Skagerrak and the Baltic Sea. He is a university educated economist and has more than 20 years of experience working with fishery policy and management in Denmark and in the EU. Kenn Skau Fischer has also been the Executive

Committee Chair of the North Sea Advisory Council for almost the last 4 years. He is devoted to a continued development of sustainable fisheries. Improved dialogue and cooperation are essential to the fishing sector and he has worked hard to build bridges between the academic world and the fisheries sector, especially at national level. He chairs and co- chairs several positions at national level in the fisheries sector, including the Danish umbrella organisation, the Seafood Branch, promoting fish and fish products in Denmark.



### **Elisabetta Betulla Morello**

Elisabetta Betulla Morello works for the FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) since 2017, first as a consultant and now as fisheries resources officer in charge of the GFCM fisheries team ad interim. She is a quantitative fisheries ecologist by training with a PhD in Marine biology (2004) from the University of London. Having spent ten years at the Italian National Research council working on the impacts of

fisheries and stock assessment, she moved to Australia in 2010 where she worked for CSIRO on models of intermediate complexity for ecosystem assessments (MICE), as well as on the impacts of human activities on tropical and subtropical ecosystems. In 2015 she obtained a senior Marie Curie fellowship looking at the application of models of different complexities to the same demersal fishery and management question.



### **Anastasiya Lazyna**

Anastasiya Lazyna is a Ph.D. candidate at the Stockholm Resilience Centre investigating marine ecosystem resilience in the Black Sea. As part of the BRIDGE-Black Sea project, she conducts holistic resilience assessments, focusing on evaluating anthropogenic impacts on resilience in data-poor cases. Before starting as a PhD candidate, she worked on the protection of marine ecosystems in the European Union by

collecting data on lesser-known environmental impacts and establishing the nature and extent of human activities in MPAs. She is a graduate of the interdisciplinary Masters in Marine Biological Resources (IMBRSea), specializing in global ocean changes. She wrote her thesis on MPA management, assessing the South African system of offshore MPAs to evaluate ecosystem protection and compare them to stated local and regional objectives.

## Session 2: Addressing pharmaceutical pollution from inland to sea



### Niall McDonough

Dr. Niall McDonough is Director of Policy, Innovation and Research Services in the Marine Institute in Galway, Ireland. Having originally been trained as a marine biologist, Niall has held research and management positions with the Environmental Change Institute at NUI, Galway and the Centre for Marine Resources and Mariculture at Queen's University Belfast. From 2009-2017 Niall served as Executive Director of the European Marine Board (EMB), based at the InnovOcean

campus in Ostend, Belgium. In November 2020, he was elected Chair of the European Joint Programming Initiative on Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (JPI Oceans).



### Bruno González-Zorn

Dr Bruno Gonzalez-Zorn is full Professor and Head of the Antimicrobial Resistance Unit (ARU) at the Complutense University in Madrid (Spain), a multidisciplinary laboratory he founded in 2004. His research has led to the discovery of novel global and clinical antimicrobial resistance paradigms that regulate the flux of antimicrobial resistance genes between bacteria and human, animals and the environment, putting the One Health perspective at the forefront of

research in antimicrobial resistance. He is advisor to the WHO on Antimicrobial Resistance and One Health, in the Group for Critically Important Antimicrobials for Human Health. He is veterinarian and researcher at the Veterinary Health Surveillance Center (VISAVET) and has led international projects on the ecology of antimicrobial resistance in the USA, Latin America, Africa and Asia. He is associate Professor at the University of Ghana, where he trains professionals and the community on AMR and One Health, with the aim of preventing antimicrobial resistance in LMICs. Dr Gonzalez-Zorn has been instrumental in the implementation of the Spanish National Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance, and he has advised Governments worldwide on the implementation of the One Health approach in their respective Action Plans.



### Marica Mezzelani

Dr. Marica Mezzelani is a Post-Doctoral Researcher at the Department of Life and Environmental Sciences of the Polytechnic University of Marche, Italy. Her main research interests are related to the use of marine organisms as bioindicators of chemical pollution and environmental disturbance. Her research activity, within the field of Ecotoxicology, is focused on pharmaceuticals as emerging

contaminants in marine ecosystems. A special emphasis is given to investigations on biological responses reflecting the activation of intracellular pathways involved in the metabolism and biotransformation of pharmaceuticals compounds, modulation of the transcriptional profile, redox homeostasis, lipid metabolism and immune system.



### **Kelly Thornber**

Kelly Thornber is Co-Director of the Pharmaceutical Pollution Solutions Hub and a Research Fellow in Sustainable Development at the University of Exeter, UK. She is passionate about using systems thinking and engaged research methods to develop real-world solutions to address the issues of pharmaceutical pollution and antimicrobial resistance in aquatic environments. She works with policy makers, the private sector,

non-profit organisations and public groups, both in low- and high-income contexts, and has published articles in relation to sustainable pharmaceutical usage in human healthcare, food production, science communication and global policy.



### **Nenad Gligoric**

Dr Nenad Gligoric is a founder and head of research of Zentrix Lab, a Tallinn and Belgrade based company doing cutting edge research and application of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). He leads the research activities of the company, developing solutions for water (PFAS sensors) and air monitoring, and solutions for monitoring processes

and performance based on blockchain labelling certification in pharma, mining, and textile industry for responsible production and consumption (SDG12) and access to clean water Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6). Their roadmap is to facilitate standardisation of tracking the source of pollution and resource use, to be able to ensure that they are extracted and processed in an environmentally and socially responsible manner, and reduce the impact on local ecosystems and communities.



### **Tainá Fonseca**

Tainá Fonseca is a junior researcher at the Centre for Marine and Environmental Research (CIMA) (University of Algarve - Portugal), where she obtained her PhD in Marine Pollution and Ecotoxicology in 2019. T. Fonseca's research aims to evaluate the effects of marine pollution caused by human pharmaceuticals on marine organisms using biochemical, genotoxic and cytotoxic biomarkers. Currently, her research

focuses on the meta-discipline Oceans and Human Health to assess the biological responses and potential risks posed to humans after consuming drug-contaminated seafood, aligned with UN SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and 14 (Life Below Water).

## Closing Day 1: Coastal resilience and Blue Carbon in Europe



### Kristin Richter

Dr. Kristin Richter is a Senior Scientist at the Norwegian Research Institute, Norce, in Bergen, Norway. She is a physical oceanographer with a research focus on past, present and future sea level change. She analyses observations at the coast and on the European continental shelf to understand recent changes and their causes to inform future sea level projections. She is, amongst others, contributing to the national Sea-Level

Rise report for Norway, thereby seeking to understand what kind of information stakeholders and decision makers need for future planning and adaptation. Dr. Richter is the co-chair of the European Marine Board working group on Coastal Resilience.



### Sebastian Villasante

Sebastian Villasante (PhD Economics) is Associate Professor, Distinguished Research of the Oportunus Program, Director of the EqualSea Lab at Department of Applied Economics of the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain), and Karl-Göran Mäler scholar at The Beijer Institute of Ecological Economics (Sweden). He develops interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary

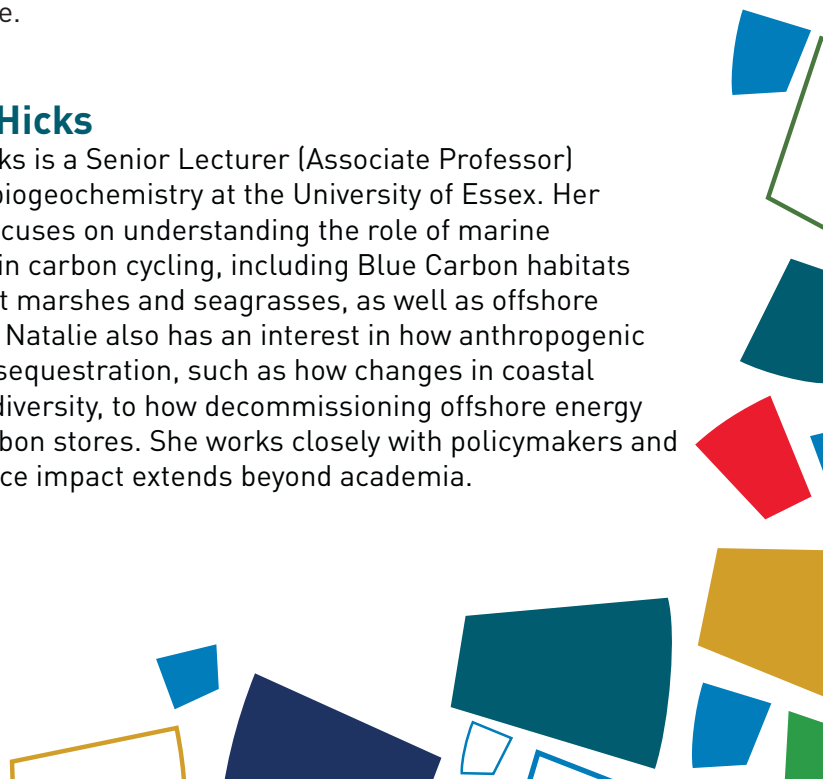
impact-oriented research to understand the role of knowledge and institutions in support of sustainable transformations. He is PI of the recently EqualSea funded project by the European Research Council aiming to study the role of transformative changes towards ocean equity of coastal communities in the Global South. He is also actively involved in international and regional initiatives that bridge science and policy, e.g., being a coordinating leading author of Chapter 2 - Future visions for nature and people of the IPBES Transformative Change Global Assessment, and the Program on Ecosystem Change and Society Working Group on Ocean Equity and Sustainable Futures. Sebastian Villasante is the Chair of the European Marine Board working group on Coastal Resilience.



### Natalie Hicks

Natalie Hicks is a Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in benthic biogeochemistry at the University of Essex. Her research focuses on understanding the role of marine sediments in carbon cycling, including Blue Carbon habitats such as salt marshes and seagrasses, as well as offshore sediments. Natalie also has an interest in how anthropogenic

activities may impact carbon storage and sequestration, such as how changes in coastal defence can support Blue Carbon and biodiversity, to how decommissioning offshore energy structures may impact shelf sediment carbon stores. She works closely with policymakers and industry collaborators to ensure her science impact extends beyond academia.







### **Ana Isabel Lillebø**

Ana Lillebø holds a PhD in Biology, with a specialisation in Ecology and Habilitation in Biology, and is an independent Researcher at CESAM/University of Aveiro since 2006. She is a well-established researcher in Coastal Ecosystems with focus on: Coastal Ecosystems Ecological Status & Management; Applied Ecology & Nature-based solutions; Environmental Chemistry & Anthropogenic impacts; and EU Policies &

Ecosystem Services, in a transdisciplinary context. Ana is the scientific coordinator of three Horizon Europe projects. She has collaborated with DG JRC on the Common Implementation Framework of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, co-authoring the 2nd Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem and their Services (MAES) report. She was also the main editor and co-author for the IWA book on Coastal Lagoons in Europe: Integrated Water Resource Strategies. Since 2015 she is a member of the Council of the Portuguese Centro Hydrographical Region (APA-ARH do Centro). Currently, she is CESAM's representative and Vice-Chair of AlterNet: A long-term biodiversity, ecosystems, and awareness research network. Since May 2022, she is the Vice-Rector for matters concerning the promotion of quality, communication, effectiveness and efficiency of the University and environmental sustainability.

## Wednesday, 11 October 2023

### **Session 3: Transforming ports at the interface between land, society and the Blue Economy**



### **Rosa Fernández**

Department for Technology Promotion and Transfer activities at Fundación CETMAR, specialising on the marine and blue economy realm. In this capacity, her responsibilities have been mainly to coordinate and execute numerous (> 30) research and innovation collaborative projects. She is an economist with noticeable expertise in technology foresight, knowledge management, market analysis, fundraising and strategic

planning. Her proficiency has been demonstrated in fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders, including industry, research institutions, and policymakers at different geographical scopes, from local to international. Furthermore, she has contributed as an invited lecturer at the University of Vigo and served as an external expert for various organizations in Europe. Since October 2018 she is the delegate for CETMAR at the EMB and since May 2021 also Vice-Chair for the EMB EXCOM.



### **Capucine Seguin**

Capucine Seguin graduated from a master's degree in international relations, and a complementary master degree on European projects. Afterwards, she worked for two years at the Ile de France Regional authority as a project officer in charge of European subventions for farmers. Since May 2023, she has joined the team of the Region Sud-Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (Sud-PACA) representation office in Brussels to work

specifically on environmental, agricultural, and maritime affairs. Coming from a coastal town in the South of France and being particularly attached to the local environment, she is aware of the main challenges we must all face to preserve our seas and oceans.



### **Gerardo González**

Gerardo works as head of the Projects and Works Division at the Port Authority of Vigo. He is a Civil Engineer with a degree from the University of La Coruña and has been working for the Port of Vigo for the last 5 years. His previous experience involved working for a major construction company both in Spain and for international projects in Europe, the Middle East and the USA. He is currently involved in several marine infrastructure related

projects, port-city development projects and biosustainable infrastructures.



### **Julie Olivier**

Julie Olivier is a science-policy officer at the Project Management Jülich for the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research. Based in Brussels since April 2023, she represents Germany in the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (Bluepartnership), a Horizon Europe co-funded partnership to boost the green and digital transformation. From 2011, she worked at the German Parliament in Berlin, including as a parliamentary advisor for Human Rights, and

gained experience in multiple issues at the science-policy-business-society interface. With an academic background at the Institute of Political Sciences of Strasbourg and Hong Kong Baptist University, she has two master's degrees in European Policies and International Affairs (2011).





### **Laura Airoidi**

Laura Airoidi is a professor in Ecology and Director of the Chioggia Marine Centre of the Padova University in Italy, who has been awarded the Web of Science Highly Cited Researcher recognition (2019 & 2021) and a Fulbright Research Fellowship (2013, Stanford University). She is a member of the European Academy of Sciences and of the Academy of Sciences of Bologna Institute, and the national Italian delegate for the HE

partnerships Biodiversa+. In addition, she is a Chief Editor in Marine Conservation and Sustainability for Frontiers in Marine Science, and an Editorial Board Member of Science Advances, Marine Ecology Progress Series and Sustainability. She is the (co) Principal Investigator (PI) in several national and European projects on biodiversity conservation and restoration, and has been recognized as one of the forerunners of the new field of marine urban ecology and coastal 'eco-engineering'.



### **Evelyn Paredes Coral**

Evelyn Paredes-Coral is a PhD candidate at Ghent University, with a strong background in projects that are oriented in training and skills development for maritime professionals. In particular, she has gained expertise in skill gaps analysis in sectors such as offshore renewables and shipbuilding and repair. In addition, her professional experience includes the mapping of trainings and educational programmes in the blue economy. Evelyn's research

focuses on studying the connections between maritime workers and the ocean (ocean literacy), to better understand how this connection translates into sustainable practices.

## **Session 4: Ensuring Ocean knowledge in the age of the digital Ocean**



### **Tom Redd**

Tom Redd is the Operations Manager at HUB Ocean, a foundation with a mission to unlock the power of ocean data. Tom leads activities related to ocean restoration and governance. He is responsible for the company's involvement in European activities and HUB Ocean's role in the Iliad Digital Twin project. Previously, Tom has worked on developing marine science funding programmes at a European level at the

intergovernmental organisation JPI Oceans. His education is in marine science, policy, and law.



### **Elisabetta Balzi**

Elisabetta Balzi is Head of the Healthy Seas and Oceans Unit and Deputy Director of Healthy Planet, at the European Commission Research and Innovation Directorate General (DG RTD). She has been previously Head of the Bioeconomy Unit at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. She is in charge of EU Research and innovation in the marine environment, and the EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters. She previously

co-ordinated the development and implementation of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy and Action Plan, and the establishment of the European Commission's Knowledge Centre for Bioeconomy. She has been in charge of co-ordinating the EU Framework Programme design for implementation and international co-operation in food, agriculture, forestry, the marine environment and the bioeconomy, from the 6th EU Research Framework Programme (FP6) to Horizon Europe. Previously, she was a research associate at Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium, where she led research on antimicrobial drug resistance. She holds a PhD in Sciences and a Master in Applied Sciences and Biotechnologies from the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium), and a Master in Biological Sciences from the University of Turin (Italy). She was also trained at Université de Paris-Sud Orsay (France), the Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum in Heidelberg (Germany), and the University of Michigan and Truman College in Chicago (USA).



### **Pierre Bahurel**

Pierre BAHUREL is the Director General of Mercator Ocean International, a non-profit organisation delivering an operational ocean monitoring and forecasting service worldwide, entrusted by the European Commission for the implementation of the Copernicus Marine Service, and preparing with a large community of marine & digital organisations the European Digital Twin Ocean (EDITO).

All along his career, Pierre has been deeply involved in the international structuration of operational oceanography towards a sustainable ocean, based on worldwide cooperation, open sharing of knowledge and general-interest services. He is committed to contributing to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.



### **Kate Larkin**

Dr. Kate Larkin is the Head of Secretariat for the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet), an operational EU marine data service funded by the European Commission DG MARE. Kate is a marine scientist who has worked in the areas of Ocean Observation and Ocean Data for over 15 years, including at the NOC, Southampton, UK and the

European Marine Board and, since 2019, with EMODnet. In her role, Kate works with EMODnet partners, associated partners and wider stakeholders at National, Regional, European and Global levels to expand, diversify and evolve EMODnet's offer of marine data and knowledge needs for science, policy, industry and society. This includes EMODnet's key partnership with the Copernicus Marine Service which includes joint activities to deliver the marine data infrastructure backbone and associated common data lake for the EU Digital Twin Ocean.





### **Inga Lips**

Inga Lips is the Secretary General of the European Global Observing System (EuroGOOS). She has spent most of her career studying phytoplankton dynamics affected by the hydrophysical and biogeochemical processes in the Baltic Sea. She has combined biological and physical oceanography in her research, integrating traditional ship-based measurements and laboratory analysis with data from autonomous measuring and sampling

platforms. She has led many national and international projects, coordinated Estonia's national open sea monitoring program, developed national and Baltic Sea-wide oceanographic measurement programs, and established the Marine Ecology Lab at Tallinn University of Technology. She also serves as Chair of the European Ocean Observing System (EOOS) steering group and represents EuroGOOS at the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) Regional Alliances Council.



### **Deniz Dişa**

Deniz is a marine ecosystem modeller, interested in integrating physical, chemical and biological processes of the ocean.

After graduating from Industrial Engineering, she pursued her master's studies in oceanography at METU-IMS, the Institute of Marine Science in Türkiye. In her master's thesis, she coupled a biogeochemical model with a fisheries and food web model to investigate the impact of fish and fisheries on marine

biogeochemistry. In her PhD, at ETH Zurich, she worked for a tropical coral reef island, Moorea. She developed a coupled wave-circulation-biogeochemistry-coral physiology model in order to investigating the interplay between these components. She is currently working at METU-IMS, on developing a coupled physical-biogeochemical model for the Black Sea.

## **Session 5: Changing humanity's relationship with the Ocean: art as agent of change**



### **Sérgio Bryton**

Sérgio Bryton is a Portuguese Navy Commander with a degree in Naval Military Sciences, a specialization in Informatics, a postgraduate degree in Cybersecurity and Data Protection, an MSc in Computer Engineering, and an International PhD in Nautical Engineering from the Barcelona School of Nautical Studies. Since 2019 he is the Executive Director of the EurOcean Foundation. Previously, he was manager, engineer,

researcher and lecturer in several prestigious organizations, such as the European Commission Joint Research Centre, the Portuguese Directorate General for Maritime Policy, NOVA Information Management School, NOVA School of Science and Technology, and the Portuguese Navy.



### **Ursula Kluwick**

Dr Ursula KLUWICK holds a PhD in English literature from the University of Vienna, Austria, and is a Senior Lecturer at the English Department of the University of Bern, Switzerland. Among her main research interests are British and Anglophone literature and cultures of the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries. She specialises in environmental and blue humanities. Her books in this field include *The Beach in Anglophone Literatures and Cultures* (ed. with Virginia Richter;

Ashgate 2015), a *Handbook of Sustainability* (ed. with Evi Zemanek, UTB 2019), and *Victorian Water Writing* (in press, 2024). She is currently writing a monograph on the Mediterranean beach.



### **Daniel Rey**

Daniel Rey is a Full Professor in Stratigraphy at the University of Vigo since 2008. He graduated as a geologist from the Universidad Complutense of Madrid in 1985 and obtained his PhD at The University of Birmingham in the UK in 1992. He joined the University of Vigo in 1993. He currently coordinates the Marine and Environmental Geology research group, where he started the Paleomagnetism Laboratory of the University of Vigo in 1995 and promoted Environmental Magnetism

studies in Spain. His research focus on the application of magnetic geophysical techniques to paleoclimate over the last 30 to 200 kilo years, and to the integrated management of coastal zones. He is currently the Head of the Campus do Mar, an international campus of excellence, and the Director of the Marine Research Centre at the University of Vigo. He has implemented a Responsible Research and Innovation strategy through: the increase of Marine Scientific Culture and the development of a socially responsible research practice committed to establishing ethical principles, good research practices and gender equality. He also has a strong interest in science outreach, participating in many activities that promote research communication and public engagement, and encourage young people to study STEM subjects. He has organized many outreach and science communication events and contributions in the printed press, radio, tv, and social media.



### **Guillaume Lheureux**

Guillaume LHeureux has a master degree in economics and is interested in issues of social justice and democratic innovation. His father was a sailor and he grew up near France's largest fishing port, so his passion for the ocean came at a very young age. For the last 10 years, he has been working in the international cooperation department at Nausicaa (one of Europe's largest aquariums) on social innovation projects. Since

its creation in 2020, he has been facilitating the European Commission's Youth4Ocean Forum and helps to develop ocean awareness-raising and conservation projects led by more than 300 young people aged 16 to 30.



### **Sonia Levy**

Sonia Levy's inquiry-led artist practice considers shifting modes of engagement with more-than-human worlds amidst Earthly precarities. Her work operates at the confluence of knowledge practices and attempts to interrogate Western expansionist and extractivist logics. She is one of the 2023-24 European Marine Board artists-in-residence, an activity contributing to the UN Ocean Decade and Mission Ocean, and was the 2022 selected

artist for the S+T+ARTS4Water residency hosted by TBA21-Academy in Venice. Levy's work has been screened and exhibited internationally, including, among others, Centre Pompidou; ICA, London; Showroom, London, Baltic Gateshead, ZKM, Karlsruhe and her work has been published by MIT Press and Thames & Hudson. Levy is currently an associate lecturer in Media Studies at the Royal College of Art, School of Architecture in London.



### **Letizia Artioli**

Letizia Artioli, architect and researcher, lives and works in between Venice and Den Haag, always below sea level. She is currently an Architecture PhD candidate at IUAV University of Venice and KABK ArtScience in Den Haag. Her projects focus on dichotomies between immaterial matter, data spatialisation and climate change emergency. She hopes to transform contemporary emptiness in public spaces in order to create

awareness for the incoming post-disruptive climate-changed digital future through beauty. Currently, she is investigating the relationship between human beings and environmental data as a matter for research and creation, entangling climate data and its inhabitants into immersive installations. Her previous exhibitions include: FillingTheVoid@TheGreySpaceinTheMiddle, ARS ELECTRONICA22; MilanDesignWeekD.O.S.22-23, #MakesUsVisibleNYC 2022, Laguna Festival, ArsElectronicaGardenNYC, MMMAD Madrid, LABA Valencia. She is also the Founder of the Venice Climate Change Pavilion project (EU4Ocean Award for Arts&Culture Relating to the Ocean 2022) and part of Youth4Ocean Forum Member.



## Presentation of the Vigo Declaration



### Sheila Heymans

Sheila Heymans is the Executive Director of the European Marine Board. She obtained her PhD in 1997 and has a background in Zoology, marine ecosystem modelling and the environmental impacts of fisheries and ecosystem change. Prior to joining the European Marine Board as Executive Director, she worked at the Scottish Association for Marine Science where she was the Head of the Science Department (2007-2017). In 2017, she became Professor in Ecosystem Modelling at the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) in Scotland. She obtained her degrees from the University of Port Elizabeth (now Nelson Mandela University) in South Africa working on food-web models of South African estuaries and the Northern Benguela ecosystem, and then moved to the USA (University of Maryland) to complete a Post-Doctoral study at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (1999-2000) on the changes in the Everglades. She then moved to the Fisheries Centre of the University of British Columbia where she was a research fellow (2000-2006) working on the Newfoundland fisheries and the decline of Steller sea lions, before moving to Scotland. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology in the UK and has a publication record spanning the past 3 decades.

## Closing session - What's next: rallying actions for our Ocean and Waters



### Gilles Lericolais

see above



### Vladimir Ryabinin

Dr. Vladimir Ryabinin is the Executive Secretary of the IOC, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, and Assistant Director-General of UNESCO. He is an oceanographer, marine engineer, meteorologist, and climatologist. He originated several mathematical models for the ocean, atmosphere, wind waves, etc., and is an author of hundreds of scientific publications. Since 1980s, Dr. Ryabinin has been involved in various capacities in the activities of the United Nations and has contributed to the core design and coordination of international initiatives, such as the Global Ocean Observing System and the World Climate Research Programme. The current work of IOC and Dr. Ryabinin is focussed on creating a solid scientific foundation for managing the ocean sustainably, including through the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 2021-2030.





### **Javier Ruiz**

Javier Ruiz is the director of the Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO). He graduated in biology at the University of Granada and obtained his Doctorate from the University of Málaga. He has developed his scientific career at the Institute fur Meereskunde (Kiel), Bedford Institute of Oceanography (Canada) and the National Oceanographic Center (Southampton). During ten years he was a lecturer in Marine Ecology at the University of

Cádiz. He then moved to the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), where he worked as a Research Professor until the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation asked him to take the role of Director of the IEO in 2020. His research activity has always been connected to the use of scientific knowledge for making decisions on the management of marine ecosystems.



### **Fran Saborido-Rey**

Fran Saborido-Rey is the director of the Institute of Marine Research in Vigo, which has a team of 82 researchers and over 230 staff members. He has 34 years of experience in fisheries research and he has been the head of the Fisheries Ecology group for the past 23 years. His research aims to provide a holistic and ecosystem perspective to fisheries ecology, understanding the environmental and population mechanisms

determining the individual and stock reproductive potential, its influence on recruitment, and the interactions with fisheries. He is currently coordinating the Marine Science Programme in Galicia, that unites over 350 researchers in a collaborative effort, where a multidisciplinary research is being conducted to sustainably address the new challenges in monitoring and observing the marine environment, climate change, aquaculture and other sectors of the blue economy.



### **Andreea Strachinescu**

Andreea Strachinescu is the Head of Unit of the Maritime Innovation, Marine Knowledge and Investment Unit in the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) of the European Commission. She is responsible for promoting innovative and emerging technologies and solutions, and ensuring broad dissemination of marine knowledge and research. The unit she manages fosters innovation and provides policy input to the Horizon Europe research and

innovation programme, and it aims to create a better understanding of the ocean resources and advocate for their sustainable use. In addition, the unit leads the provision of policy input to the investment strategies for the blue economy. Prior to this position, Ms. Strachinescu was head of the unit responsible for New Energy Technologies and Innovation in the European Commission's Directorate General for Energy, which is charge of developing policy and actions on non-nuclear energy research and innovation.

The EurOCEAN 2023 conference is an official event of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.



The EurOCEAN 2023 conference supports the EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030 and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.



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## **EurOCEAN 2023**

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