



Let's talk about Ocean & Climate

📅 12 June 2025 – 10:30 am - 1:30 pm CEST

📍 Inspire Area – European Digital Ocean Pavilion

🌐 United Nations Ocean Conference 2025

Abstract

The role of the ocean for climate resilient futures

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IPCC WGII AR6 (2022) developed the concept of Climate Resilient Development which envisions timely climate stabilization and integrated strengthening of biodiversity and human society by adaptation and resilience building (Pörtner et al., Science 2023, Eriksen et al. Nature Climate Change 2024). These principles apply to ocean and land alike. Reaching resilience requires emissions reductions, due to climate change weakening the capacities of ecosystems and human societies to resist. In light of the implementation gaps for the reduction of fossil fuel production and, in general, the reaching of environmental targets the question is to what extent sustainability can nonetheless be secured. Coordinated efforts will need to reduce emissions, and at the same time apply spatial planning for the strengthening of biodiversity, of biomass and of the ocean's capacity to transport and store anthropogenic carbon. The paper will discuss the pathway from assessing impacts and risks to the installment of implementation measures, targeting the pressures undermining sustainability, and building resilience of ecosystems and societies up to a level permitted by climate change, maintaining room for future maneuvering. Learning from affected systems that require strengthening under climate change it may be more beneficial to follow integrated overarching climate targets supporting sustainability than guardrails or boundaries for individual processes.

