



Let's talk about Coastal Challenges

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Abstract

A youth and participatory approach to tackling coastal pressures

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As an Early Career Ocean Professional (ECOP), I work at the intersection of local governance, civil society, and blue innovation supporting cross-border, community-led projects that empower youth and citizens to take part in shaping coastal solutions. This includes inclusive municipal climate planning, youth climate assemblies, ocean literacy programs, and blue tech initiatives aimed at diversifying the local economy and restoring marine ecosystems. I also contribute to global youth advocacy through the YOUNGO Ocean's Voice Working Group, amplifying youth priorities in international ocean governance and bridging local experience with global policy conversations.

In this presentation, I will share examples from both global youth advocacy and localized activism in the Gulf of Aqaba-Eilat, an ecologically unique but highly vulnerable region facing intense pressures from tourism, desalination, and rapid urbanization.

My experience shows that coastal resilience is more than technical adaptation, it's about building social infrastructure that empowers communities, bridges political and generational divides, and opens space for youth and innovators from all backgrounds to lead. When youth are not just consulted, but trusted, we accelerate the kinds of inclusive, cooperative solutions our coasts urgently need.

