






Let's talk about Marine Biodiversity

 9 June 2025 – 10:30 am - 1:30 pm CEST

 Inspire Area – European Digital Ocean Pavilion

 United Nations Ocean Conference 2025

Abstract

LIFE Conceptu Maris

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Studying whales, dolphins, and turtles in the open sea can be very challenging, as it is difficult to gather enough useful data to update the current knowledge about these animals. The European **project LIFE Conceptu Maris**, which includes 11 partners, among them the French EcoOcéan Institute, has developed an innovative approach: it uses commercial ferries as true research vessels, hosting researchers and volunteers for monitoring activities in the Mediterranean. These activities include intensive analysis of environmental DNA, citizen science programs involving over 300 participants, and training sessions for ferry staff. After three years of work, a clearer picture is emerging regarding the distribution of these animals and the major risk factors (marine litter, vessel collisions, fishing activities). This information will be highly valuable in identifying key sites in the Mediterranean for the long-term conservation of cetaceans and marine turtles and in developing more targeted and effective conservation measures.

