Breakout 3: Protecting the future with science, technology, and innovation

Panel 3.1: The ocean we want by 2030: the role of ocean observation data for research, growth, and wellbeing, facilitated by the OECD STI Ocean Economy Group, in collaboration with the OECD Environment Directorate and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission at UNESCO

23 April 2024 from 10:45 to 12:30 Paris time, OECD Conference Centre, 2 Rue André Pascal, Paris, France

Join us in exploring the critical significance of enhancing our understanding of ocean dynamics, alongside the role of science and technology policy in ocean observations. Amidst the acceleration of climate change and biodiversity loss, understanding the ocean's dynamics is imperative for OECD countries and partner economies. The ocean covers 71% of the planet's surface and supports 90% of its biosphere, playing a crucial role in sustaining life by producing over half of the oxygen we breathe and absorbing 90% of heat from human-induced greenhouse gases. However, booming ocean economic activities have led to severe environmental impacts, necessitating policy action to establish and maintain critical ocean observing infrastructures. These infrastructures provide essential data for scientific research, commercial operations, and public policy objectives, aiding in understanding local conditions to global climate processes. This session, co-organized with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission at UNESCO, will convene policymakers, research institutes, ocean experts, private sector stakeholders, and civil society to explore the role of science and technology policy in ocean observations, contributing to the broader agenda of sustainable ocean science and management leading up to the UN Ocean Conference in Nice, France, in June 2025.

Objectives

- **Build awareness and facilitate exchanges** in the science and technology community and beyond on the value of ocean observations - from the seabed to currents, to biodiversity and genetic diversity – for scientific discovery, economic growth and wellbeing.
- **Overcome the fragmentation** and diversity of public initiatives and systems, by encouraging further the adoption of FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) principles for ocean observation data, following the OECD Recommendation on Access to Research Data from Public Funding.
- **Identify** the contribution that OECD can make to the development of rigorous and internationally comparable evidence on the economics of ocean observations, and call for OECD to strengthen the analysis of economic models for sustained public ocean observations (from oceanographic data to biological data).
- **Brief policy-makers** from ministries, many of whom are funders of ocean observation data infrastructures, on progresses made on ocean observations and the Global Ocean Observing System, as reported during the 2024 United Nations Ocean Decade Conference that will be held a few weeks earlier in Barcelona (8-12 April 2024).

Key Questions

- What are the main gaps in ocean observations to understand better the ocean, its role in climate processes and biodiversity, and the different pressures it faces?
- Are there innovations on the horizon to improve ocean observations, and make national fleets of oceanographic vessels and other observing infrastructures more cost-efficient and carbon-free?
- What are the best cooperation models to develop further sustained ocean observations?
- With only 23.4% of the world's ocean seabed mapped today, how to speed up ocean exploration and mapping to get an improved understanding of ocean processes and resources?
- Will ocean digital twins bring new opportunities to improve ocean management and policies from local to global levels? What are the main challenges?

Shared challenges, transformative actions

OECD Science and Technology Policy Ministerial

23-24 April 2024, OECD, Paris

Why should you attend?

The multistakeholder meeting is designed as a platform for experts and academics in the field of science, technology, and innovation to convene and actively participate in dialogues, exchanging knowledge and expertise with peers from OECD countries and beyond. It offers an opportunity to engage with high-level representatives from national administrations, international organisations, as well as from business and civil society. Your presence at the OECD underscores your dedication to the principles of international cooperation while strengthening the pivotal role of science, technology, and innovation in driving sustainability transitions. Don't miss this opportunity to engage, learn, and network with leaders in this space!

Breakout 3: Protecting the future with science, technology, and innovation Panel 3.1: The ocean we want by 2030: the role of ocean observation data for research, growth, and wellbeing	
	Master of Ceremony: Jose Manuel Lamarque, Journalist, Grand Reporter – Expert on maritime affairs
10:45 -10:55	**Opening Remarks and Setting the Scene** • Mr. Orlando Vega Quesada, Vice Minister of Science, Technology, and Innovation of Costa Rica
10:55 – 11:10	**Keynote: The international coordination of ocean observations and the UN Ocean Science Decade** • Vidar Helgesen, Assistant Director-General, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission at UNESCO (former Norwegian Minister for Climate and the Environment)
11:10-11:50	**Panel 1. Ocean observations: challenges and advances** ***Panel moderated by:*** Kim, Jong-Deog President, Korea Maritime Institute • Monica Grasso, Chief Economist, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s National Ocean Service, United States • Christina Abildgaard, Director of Department for Ocean and Polar Research in The Research Council of Norway • Roberto Danovaro, Professor of Marine Biology and Ecology at the Polytechnic University of Marche, Italy • François Houllier, Président-Directeur Général, Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (IFREMER), France
11:50-12:25	**Panel 2. Ocean data supporting public policy** ***Panel moderated by:*** Dr. Mona Nemer, Chief Science Advisor, Government of Canada • Jan Mees, Director, Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), Belgium • Takeshi Kawano, Executive Director, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) • Niall McDonough, Director, Marine Institute, Ireland • Pierre Bahurel, Chief Executive, Mercator Ocean, France
12:25-12:30	**Closing remarks and looking ahead to the UN Ocean Conference in 2025 (UNOC 2025)** Olivier Poivre d'Arvor, Ambassador for the Poles and the Ocean, France

What is the OECD Ocean Economy Group? This high-level Breakout Session is organised as part of the OECD ocean economy work, which also helps building the knowledge base on the economics of ocean observations globally. Sustained ocean observations, with facilitated uses of marine data, play a major role for our economies, but their value is not well assessed, and funding models remain fragile. The OECD Ocean Economy Group's work programme (soon to be the "OECD Ocean Economy Monitor") focuses on two main areas: improving the measurement of ocean economic activities and their impacts on sustainability, and on providing evidence on the role of science, technology and innovation as drivers of ocean sustainability. A major ocean economy foresight work is ongoing, entitled *The Ocean Economy in 2050*, which will feed original OECD statistical evidence and policy recommendations for the UN Ocean Conference in 2025.

Have Questions? Please contact cstpministerial2024@oecd.org.