

FROM DEPTH TO ACTION

| BIOS

START THE DIALOGUE BY GETTING TO KNOW THE SPEAKERS

PROGRAMME

12:45 **Doors open**

13:00 **From Depth to Action: Our Collective Role in Understanding & Protecting our Ocean**
Vidar Helgesen, Executive Secretary, IOC-UNESCO
Sanna Thimmig Johansen, CEO, Voice of the Ocean Foundation

13:15 **Keynote: OceanEye: a European Commission Initiative to Support our Global Ocean**
Kestutis Sadauskas, Deputy Director-General, European Commission -DG MARE

13:25 **Keynote: The Peacebuilding Potential of Ocean Science Collaboration**
Robert Blasiak, Associate Professor, Stockholm Resilience Centre & UN Ocean Decade Advisory Board

OCEAN LITERACY BLOCK

13:35 **Inspiring Ocean Stewardship: Building Ocean Literacy Through Education & Collaboration**
Moderators: Marika Griehsel & Lena Scherman, Deep Sea Reporter

13:40 **Keynote: Beyond Education: Ocean Literacy as a Pathway to Connection and Action**
Leandro Pedron, Director of Thematic Programs at the Brazilian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI), and Brazilian Government Coordinator for the 2027 UN Ocean Decade Conference

- 13:50 Panel: Inspiring Ocean Stewardship: Building Ocean Literacy Through Education & Collaboration**
Géraldine Fauville, Associate Professor, University of Gothenburg
Justin Edwards, Co-Lead and Director, Minecraft Education
Karen Evans, Head of Ocean Science, IOC-UNESCO
Patricia Ricard, President, Paul Ricard Oceanographic Institute
Janaina Bumbeer, Project Manager, Boticario Group Foundation
- 14:50 AFTERNOON BREAK**
OCEAN OBSERVATION BLOCK
- 15:20 GO Ocean film & Campaign Launch**
Louise Biddle, Science Lead, Voice of the Ocean Foundation
- 15:25 From Observation to Action: Building the Partnerships Our Ocean Needs**
Moderators: Marika Griehsel & Lena Scherman, Deep Sea Reporter
- 15:30 Keynote: The Ocean: The Biggest & Most Important Thing that We Know the Least About**
Vidar Helgesen, Executive Secretary of IOC-UNESCO
- 15:40 Panel: From Observation to Action, Building the Partnerships Our Ocean Needs**
Lina Mtwana Nordlund, Associate Professor, Uppsala University
Laurent Béguery, Scientific Director, ALSEAMAR
Martin Koehring, Principal Research Fellow and Head of the Centre for Private Finance in Development, ODI Global
Justin Manley, Senior Advisor, Oceankind
Kaitlyn Lowder, Program Manager, The Ocean Foundation
- 16:30 Conclusion of the day**
- 16:45 Exclusive screening of the new IMAX film Ocean Dreams**
- 17:15 Cocktail reception**
Venue closes at 19:00



SANNA THIMMIG-JOHANSEN

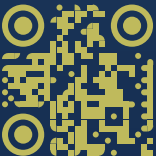
CEO, Voice of the Ocean Foundation

As CEO of the Voice of the Ocean Foundation (VOTO), Sanna Thimmig Johansen leads efforts to connect ocean science, technology and strategic communication to advance ocean literacy and inform decision-making. She is an experienced leader, speaker and fundraiser with over a decade of international experience in the non-profit sector, including leadership roles at Human Rights Watch and other global organisations.

Her commitment to the ocean deepened during two years spent circumnavigating the globe by sail, engaging with researchers, coastal communities and ocean initiatives along the way. This experience continues to inform her work on ocean observation, scientific collaboration and international partnerships, particularly in the Baltic Sea. She also sits on the Executive Board of Mission Neptune, supporting its efforts to advance ocean science and action.



Connect with Sanna
via LinkedIn



Learn more about
Voice of the Ocean Foundation



VIDAR HELGESEN

Executive Secretary, IOC-UNESCO

As Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), Vidar Helgesen leads global efforts to advance ocean science and cooperation for sustainable development. He previously served as Co-Chair of the Advisory Board of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

An international lawyer by training, he brings extensive experience in government, international cooperation and sustainable development. As Norway's Special Representative for the Ocean, he initiated and led the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy from 2017 to 2020. He has also served as Norway's Minister for Climate and the Environment and Minister for European Affairs, as well as Executive Director of the Nobel Foundation in Sweden.



Connect with Vidar
via LinkedIn



KĘSTUTIS SADAUSKAS

Deputy Director-General, European Commission
-DG MARE

As Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), Kęstutis Sadauskas works on European maritime policy and the sustainable development of Europe's seas and blue economy.

A Lithuanian national, he brings extensive experience in European and international policy. From 2014 to 2022, he was Director for Circular Economy and Green Growth at the Commission's DG Environment. From 2010 to 2014, he served as Head of Cabinet to Commissioner Algirdas Šemeta, responsible for taxation, customs, anti-fraud, audit and statistics. Before this, he was Head of the European Commission Representation in Vilnius. From 1993 to 2006, he worked in Lithuania's Foreign Service on multilateral issues.



Connect with Kęstutis
via LinkedIn



ROBERT BLASIAK

Associate Professor, Stockholm Resilience Centre

As an Associate Professor at the Stockholm Resilience Centre at Stockholm University, Robert Blasiak leads research on ocean stewardship, marine biotechnology and the financial risks of climate change for seafood production. His work explores the dynamics of the Anthropocene Ocean, including the growing industrialisation of the ocean, the emergence of new actors and coalitions, and the potential of transdisciplinary science.

His current work focuses on ocean science diplomacy and the peacebuilding potential of ocean science collaboration. He is a strong advocate for science-based ocean stewardship and a member of the Advisory Board for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, where he contributes to efforts to strengthen international collaboration and the role of ocean science in building a more sustainable and peaceful future.



Connect with Robert
via LinkedIn



Learn more about
Stockholm Resilience Centre

MEET YOUR M



MARIKA GRIESEL

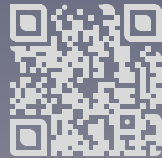
Journalist & documentary filmmaker

MODERATORS



LENA SCHERMAN

Editor-in-Chief of Deep Sea Reporter



Learn more about
Deep Sea Reporter

MEET YOUR M



MARIKA GRIEHSSEL



Connect with Marika
via LinkedIn

Marika Griehsel is an award-winning journalist, international correspondent and documentary filmmaker, with extensive experience reporting on global issues. She began her career at Swedish Public Service and became one of Sweden's most prominent foreign correspondents, reporting from conflicts, crises and periods of social change across Africa and elsewhere. Her journalism is characterised by a strong commitment to human rights, justice and amplifying voices that are often underrepresented.

Today, as an editor and reporter at Deep Sea Reporter, she focuses on the ocean and the people whose lives are shaped by it. Her work brings together journalism, science and storytelling to make ocean issues accessible and relevant to wider audiences.

MODERATORS



LENA SCHERMAN



Connect with Lena
via LinkedIn

As Editor-in-Chief of Deep Sea Reporter, Lena Scherman brings more than two decades of experience in journalism, documentary production and public broadcasting to communicating international issues, often with a focus on climate and the environment, to wider audiences. She worked at Sveriges Television (SVT) for over 20 years, producing feature-length documentaries and news reports and reporting from more than 60 countries. Since 2011, she has been a driving force behind SVT's current affairs programme *Korrespondenterna*, working as a producer, reporter and host.

Her reporting has explored issues including coral loss in the Philippines, declining fish stocks and the crisis facing fishing communities in Tanzania, and seal hunting in Greenland. Through Deep Sea Reporter, she connects science, journalism and storytelling to build greater public understanding of the ocean and the challenges it faces.



LEANDRO BORTOLOZO PEDRON

Director of Thematic Programs, Brazilian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI)

Leandro Pedron is a Brazilian public official and specialist in science, technology and innovation management, currently serving as Director of the Department of Thematic Programs at the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI) in Brazil. With a background in both Law and Pharmacy, he has professional experience at the intersection of public policy, regulation, science and innovation, and is currently pursuing an MBA with a focus on ESG and sustainability.

He has been closely involved in Brazil's contribution to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, including the coordination of the Brazilian National Decade Committee and currently coordinates the Brazilian Government's preparations for the 2027 UN Ocean Decade Conference in Rio de Janeiro. His work focuses on strengthening international cooperation and mobilising science and innovation to address shared ocean challenges and support sustainable development.



Connect with Leandro
via LinkedIn



Learn more about
MCTI Brazil



GÉRALDINE FAUVILLE

Associate Professor, Gothenburg University

As an Associate Professor at the University of Gothenburg and an affiliate of Stanford University's Virtual Human Interaction Lab, Géraldine Fauville explores how digital and immersive technologies can strengthen ocean and environmental literacy. With a background in marine biology, education and information technology, her research focuses on creating new ways for people to understand and connect with the ocean.

Her work includes pioneering research into underwater virtual reality, exploring how immersive experiences can translate scientific knowledge into greater ocean awareness and, ultimately, action. She has played a key role in advancing ocean literacy for over 10 years, including co-founding the European Marine Science Educators Association.



Connect with Géraldine
via LinkedIn



JUSTIN EDWARDS

Co-Lead and Director, Minecraft Education

As Director of Learning Programmes at Minecraft Education, Justin Edwards works at the intersection of education, technology and play-based learning, developing new ways to engage young people with complex subjects. He joined Minecraft Education after seven years as Chief Executive of Northern Ireland's Council for the Curriculum, Examinations & Assessment, bringing extensive experience in education reform, assessment and curriculum development.

He is particularly interested in how game-based learning can make subjects such as climate change and sustainability more engaging and accessible. He was closely involved in the development of Ocean Heroes, a collaboration between UNESCO-IOC, Minecraft Education and Voice of the Ocean that uses immersive gameplay to build ocean literacy and introduce young people to real-world ocean science and conservation challenges.



Connect with Justin
via LinkedIn



Learn more about
MINECRAFT
OCEAN HEROES



KAREN EVANS

Head of Ocean Science, IOC/UNESCO

As Head of Ocean Science at UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO), Karen Evans works to strengthen the generation, coordination and use of ocean science to address global challenges. She also leads UNESCO's work on capacity development and ocean literacy, helping to connect ocean knowledge and science with education, public engagement and a broader understanding of humanity's relationship with the ocean.

Her work spans multiple ocean science disciplines, with a focus on the development of tools that make ocean knowledge more accessible and useful to society. She has contributed extensively to international initiatives including the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the Global Ocean Observing System and global assessments such as the World Ocean Assessment, with a strong focus on ensuring that ocean science can inform decisions and inspire action.



Connect with Karen
via LinkedIn



PATRICIA RICARD

President, Paul Ricard Oceanographic Institute

As President of the Institut océanographique Paul Ricard, Patricia Ricard leads an organisation dedicated to marine research, scientific communication and public engagement. Founded in 1966, the Institute operates as a public-private-philanthropic partnership, with a focus on marine biodiversity and the Mediterranean. Patricia has been actively engaged in environmental protection for more than 30 years and has chaired the Institute since 2005.

She is also Vice-President and spokesperson of the Ocean & Climate Platform, a consortium of 120 organisations working for ocean protection and science-based policy. In this role, she helps build bridges between science, academia, policymakers and the private sector, with a particular focus on strengthening awareness of the links between ocean, climate and biodiversity. She is also a member of the France Ocean Committee and an IUCN Patron of Nature.



Learn more about
Paul Ricard
Oceanographic Institute



JANAINA BUMBEER

Project Manager, Boticario Group Foundation

As a scientist and strategist at Fundação Grupo Boticário de Proteção à Natureza, Janaina Bumbeer works to advance nature conservation through science, innovation and strategic partnerships. She brings more than 15 years of experience working at the intersection of climate, biodiversity, and sustainable development in Brazil.

Her work has increasingly focused on the relationship between healthy ecosystems and the decisions, investments and partnerships needed to protect them. She has contributed to international ocean-literacy initiatives and to efforts to strengthen understanding of how ocean knowledge can support more sustainable choices and action.



Connect with Janaina
via LinkedIn



Learn more about
Boticario Foundation



LOUISE BIDDLE

Science Lead, Voice of the Ocean Foundation

As Science Lead at the Voice of the Ocean Foundation, Louise Biddle leads scientific strategy and works to strengthen ocean observation, data and research infrastructure. Alongside her scientific work, she coordinates the GO Ocean campaign, bringing together partners across science, philanthropy, technology and other sectors to build greater understanding of ocean observations as essential infrastructure and advance the systems that enable sustained observing.

An oceanographer by training, she has experience working with autonomous observing technologies and international ocean-observing communities, and is a Steering Team member of OceanGliders, a GOOS network. She is particularly interested in building the partnerships and enabling conditions needed to connect scientific ambition with practical investment and long-term impact.



Connect with Louise
via LinkedIn



Check out the
real-time data
Observations Portal



LINA MTWANA NORDLUND

Associate Professor, Uppsala University

As an Associate Professor at Uppsala University, Lina Mtwana Nordlund works at the intersection of marine science, sustainable development and ocean observing. She is a member of the Biology and Ecosystems Panel of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), where she contributes to the development and coordination of global ocean observations, and leads work on the Seagrass Essential Ocean Variable.

She is also Coordinator of BioEcoOcean, a Horizon Europe project working to strengthen biological and ecosystem observations and leads the development of OCEANIS, a framework for strengthening integrated ocean observing. Her international roles include contributing to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the World Ocean Assessment, bringing a strong focus on connecting science, observation and policy to improve understanding and management of the ocean.



Connect with Lina
via LinkedIn



LAURENT BÉGUERY

Scientific Director, ALSEAMAR

As Scientific Director at ALSEAMAR, Laurent Béquery works on the development and application of technologies that enable sustained observation and exploration of the ocean. An engineer by training, he began his career at the CNRS designing underwater measurement systems before helping to establish the use of autonomous underwater gliders for oceanographic research in France.

Since joining ALSEAMAR, he has led the development and deployment of the SeaExplorer glider, advancing the use of autonomous platforms and sensors for ocean observation. His career has been focused on turning technological innovation into practical tools for understanding the ocean and bringing scientific observation into real-world applications.



Learn more about
ALSEAMAR



Meet the
SeaExplorer 200:
SHALLOW GLIDER
Collab by VOTO & ALSEAMAR



MARTIN KOEHRING

Principal Research Fellow and Head of the Centre
for Private Finance in Development, ODI Global

As Principal Research Fellow and Head of the Centre for Private Finance in Development at ODI Global, Martin Koehring focuses on sustainable finance and the role of investment in supporting development and environmental outcomes. He is also a Trustee of the Marine Conservation Society and brings extensive experience working at the intersection of finance, sustainability and the blue economy.

His work explores ocean observing as public-good and enabling infrastructure, and how the full data value chain, from collection and processing to distribution and uptake, can be financed. He is particularly interested in how public, philanthropic and private finance can work together to unlock investment in ocean observing and create credible value propositions for sectors including insurance and offshore wind. His previous roles include Head of the World Ocean Initiative at The Economist Group.



Connect with Martin
via LinkedIn



Learn more about
ODI International



JUSTIN MANLEY

Senior Advisor, Oceankind

As a Senior Advisor to Oceankind, Justin Manley works to advance innovation and investment in technologies that support ocean conservation and a sustainable blue economy. An ocean technologist and executive, he has worked with marine technology and robotics since 1990, including at MIT, NOAA, Liquid Robotics and Teledyne Marine Systems, where he led business development and networked systems strategy.

A recognised leader in uncrewed systems and ocean technology, he has advised startups, investors and research organisations on innovation, strategy and technology development. He was a founding member of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Advisory Committee, is a member of NOAA's Ocean Exploration Advisory Board and co-chairs the UN Ocean Decade Technology & Innovation Working Group.



Connect with Justin
via LinkedIn



Learn more about
Oceankind



KAITLYN LOWDER

Program Manager, The Ocean Foundation

Dr. Kaitlyn Lowder is a Program Manager at The Ocean Foundation supporting the Ocean Science Equity Initiative, working to reduce the technical and financial barriers that prevent many countries and communities from participating fully in ocean science. This team's work includes developing and deploying low-cost ocean observing technologies, including the GOA-ON in a Box kit for measuring ocean acidification, and delivering research support to West Africa, the Pacific Islands, and other regions.

She received her PhD in Marine Biology with a Specialization in Interdisciplinary Environmental Research from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego, where she researched the effects of ocean acidification and ocean warming on economically important crustaceans.



Connect with Kaitlyn
via LinkedIn



Learn more about
The Ocean Foundation

**LET THE
DIALOGUE
TAKE US**

FROM DEPTH TO ACTION



Voice of the Ocean