

Marine science to support the UN2030 Sustainable Development Goals

Integration, capacity-building and engagement in science, along with science-based societal debate, are key to support the Sustainable Development Goals, say participants at the 6th EMB Forum. The European Marine Board is committed to help in achieving this.

31/01/2018 – Oostende, Belgium



The European Marine Board (EMB) is releasing the 6th Forum Message highlighting the needs for marine science to be at the core of the ocean governance debate, and also presenting 8 specific commitments that EMB is making to underpin those needs and support future development. You can read all our commitments and download the Message from our website: <http://marineboard.eu/emb-releases-6th-forum-message>.

Over 150 ocean governance stakeholders from a wide range of backgrounds including industry, law, academia, NGO's and policy registered to attend the 6th EMB Forum in Brussels. The event, held on 6th December 2017, focussed on the topic of "Implementing the UN 2030 Agenda: What role for marine science?".

In answer to this question, the main message of the Forum was that the role of marine science should be to provide a solid and sound evidence base to enable science-based societal debate on the future direction of ocean governance. Speakers, panellists and attendees alike also highlighted the importance of integration, moving away from silo thinking and towards greater collaboration among stakeholders to address the upcoming challenges. They also added to the growing voice calling for greater engagement of marine science with society, and improved ocean literacy.

During the Forum it was also announced that the General Assembly of the United Nations has formally supported an International Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030. The attendees strongly supported this initiative and highlighted the huge opportunity this will represent for the marine science community, and indeed all marine stakeholders.

You can find out more on our website: www.marineboard.eu

Notes to editors

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The European Marine Board (EMB) is a leading European think tank in marine science policy. EMB is a network with a membership comprising major national marine/oceanographic institutes, research funding agencies and national networks of universities from countries across Europe. The Board provides a platform for its member organizations to develop common priorities, to advance marine research, and to bridge the gap between science and policy to meet future marine science challenges and opportunities.