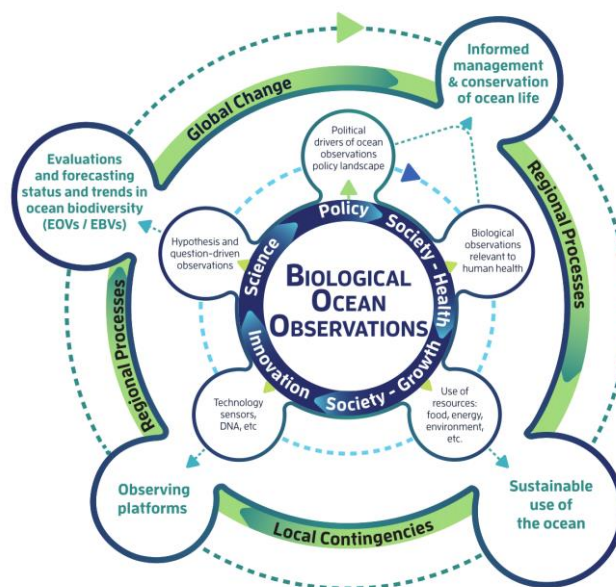


Strengthening Europe's biological ocean observation capability

Europe lacks a multi-purpose integrated biological ocean observing system. We recommend building on existing capability to create a fit-for-use and adaptable system to meet societal needs.

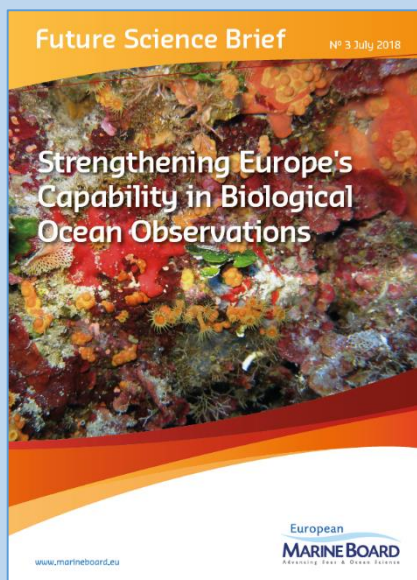
Physical and biogeochemical measurements are collected, stored and disseminated more than biological observations. Enhancing the European biological ocean observing capacity will:

- underpin sustainable management of human activity in the marine environment (CFP, WFD), to bring benefits to society;
- strengthen the implementation of marine biodiversity conservation (CBD) and good environmental status assessment (MSFD);
- promote the development of an integrated system that meet user needs and requirements (MSP); and
- assess progress against national and international conservation targets (CBD Aichi Targets), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Blue Growth agenda.



The relevance, nature and context of biological ocean observations.

Credit: Steff Klein-Milodavich



Recommendations

Europe needs a strategic vision for biological ocean observations to increase capacity, bring together stakeholders, provide long-term support for an integrated system that contributes to the European Ocean Observing System (EOOS) and harmonize with the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS). Support is needed for:

- Current biological ocean observation capacity, such as taxonomy, new emerging technologies, data management and data re-use;
- Technological innovation to enhance cost-effective automated monitoring of biological variables;
- Citizen Science to improve observation capacity, increase public confidence in science and the public's emotional connectedness with the marine environment.

More information in the EMB Future Science Brief 3 "Strengthening Europe's Capability in Biological Ocean Observations", free to download at:

<http://www.marineboard.eu/science-strategy-publications>

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