

# Citizens at the heart of the Mission to restore our Ocean and Waters



## Sheila Heymans

 @sheilaheymans  
@emarineboard

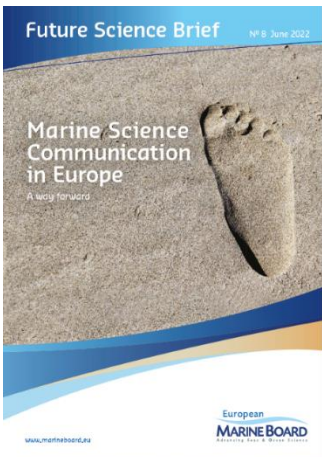
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 @EMarineBoard

# The European Marine Board bridges the gap between science and policy by providing high-quality advice

European  
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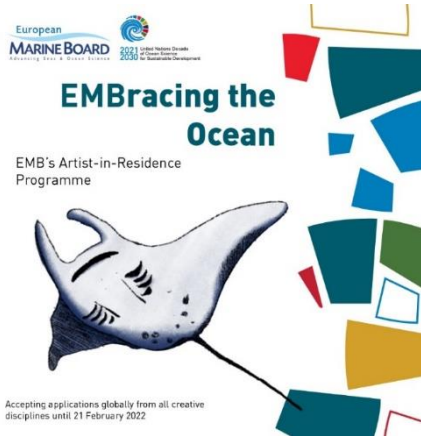


**EuroOCEAN**  
ONE OCEAN ONE VOICE 2023

# EMBracing the Ocean: Artist in residence

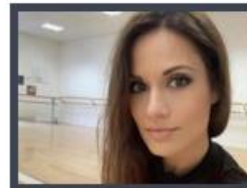


2021  
2030  
United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development



## EMBracing the Ocean

Artist in residence programme;  
2 artists, 1 year, 10,000 EUR;  
Inspire Ocean engagement;  
Link artists and scientists.



**Emily Larillot**



# Mission Objectives:

## 1. Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems ...

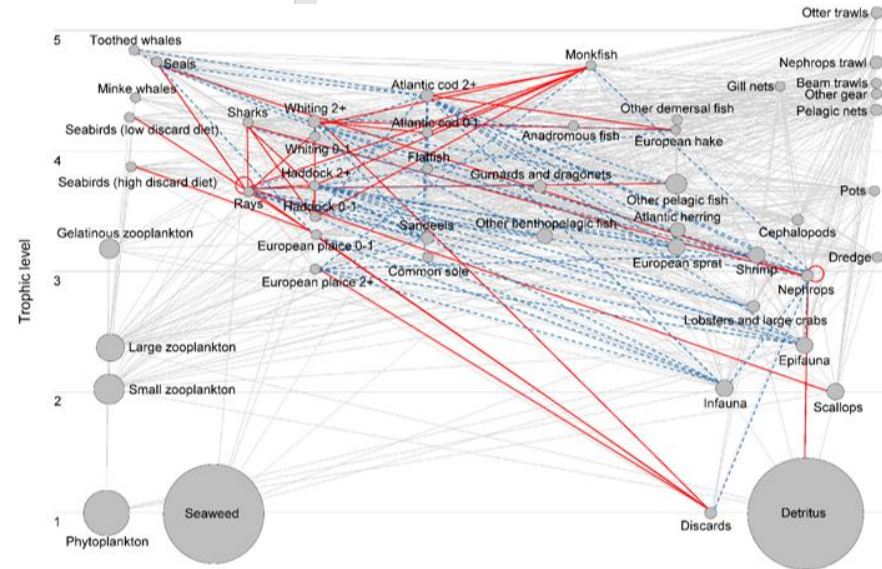
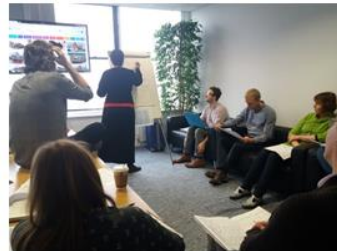
WKIRISH: co-creating knowledge for a better ecosystem understanding

### Advancing Citizen Science

for Coastal and Ocean Research

Position Paper 23

### Building food-webs using fisher's knowledge



Red and blue lines highlight fishers' predator/prey suggestions which were **new** or available in scientific knowledge

Bentley et al. 2019. Fishers' knowledge improves the accuracy of food web model predictions. ICES Journal of Marine Science 76(4): 897-912.



# Mission Objectives:

## 2. Prevent and eliminate pollution of our Ocean...

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/en/frontpage/1647>

EVERY ACTION  
- EVEN THE SMALLEST ONE -  
BRINGS CHANGE  
TO OUR



UNESCO  
GREEN CITIZENS  
A global voice  
for local actors  
of change  
...recognized in 2022



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1127332017349687/user/100070717350409> - since 2017

~95,000 € trash removed in 2022

← Thread



Sheila Heymans  
@sheilaheymans

Today's 4 h walk: 3masks/h, 2 sigarette packets/h, 5 cans/h - had to dekant my garbage bag half way - again all less than 100m from waterways. #MakeEUBlue @EMarineBoard



3:44 PM · Jun 13, 2021

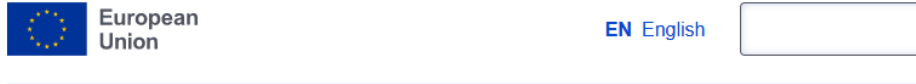


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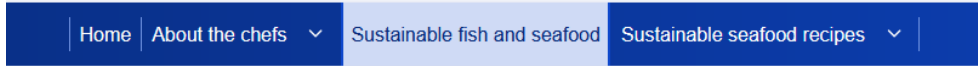
<http://www.marineboard.eu/>

# Mission Objectives:

## 3. Make the blue economy carbon neutral ...



### Taste The Ocean



HOME > Sustainable fish and seafood

### Sustainable fish and seafood



De Viswijzer van WWF

**ANSJOVIS**  
*Engraulis encrasicolus*

✓ ? ✗

**DORADE (GOUDEN)**  
*Sparus aurata*

? ✗

**App**  
Enhancing the engagement of the public in fisheries management.

[www.ecoscopium.eu](http://www.ecoscopium.eu)



Donald Deschagt is bekend van Le Homard et la Moule, maar tegenwoordig minstens evenveel als 'seaweedchef'. © Benny Proot



# Lessons ...

## ... for putting citizens at the heart of the science behind the Mission!

To successfully co-design projects with citizens you need to:

1. Have a long term established relationship with them – this takes **time** and **trust**.
2. **Involve** them at all stages of the process, from proposal through impact.
3. Share knowledge, do not harvest knowledge – it is a **two-way process**.
4. Disseminate the results and the **value of their contributions** back, often.
5. It is often best if the **research is requested by the stakeholders/citizens**.

## ... for engaging citizens with the Mission/Ocean at large...

To engage citizens with the Mission objectives - communicate the issues in an **understandable** way and give them **achievable** goals.

Describing the problem and then **giving a solution** is better than just describing the problem!

Engaging through art and culture can really help.








# Thank you and how to connect:

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