



**MARS Network**

The European Network of Marine Research Institutes and Stations



Est. 1884  
Incorporated by  
Royal Charter 2013

# Why 21<sup>st</sup> century marine stations are essential to address societal challenges

**Matt Frost**

*President Mars (European Network of Marine Stations), MBA Deputy Director*

**European Marine Board, Brown Bag Lunch,  
Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences,  
Brussels, October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019**



# Societal challenges: The Global Climate Emergency

- “at least 749 municipalities in 16 different countries representing more than 138 million people have declared climate emergencies”\*.

\*<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/which-cities-climate-emergency/>



By Global Climate Action Summit 2018 - Mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=81570215>

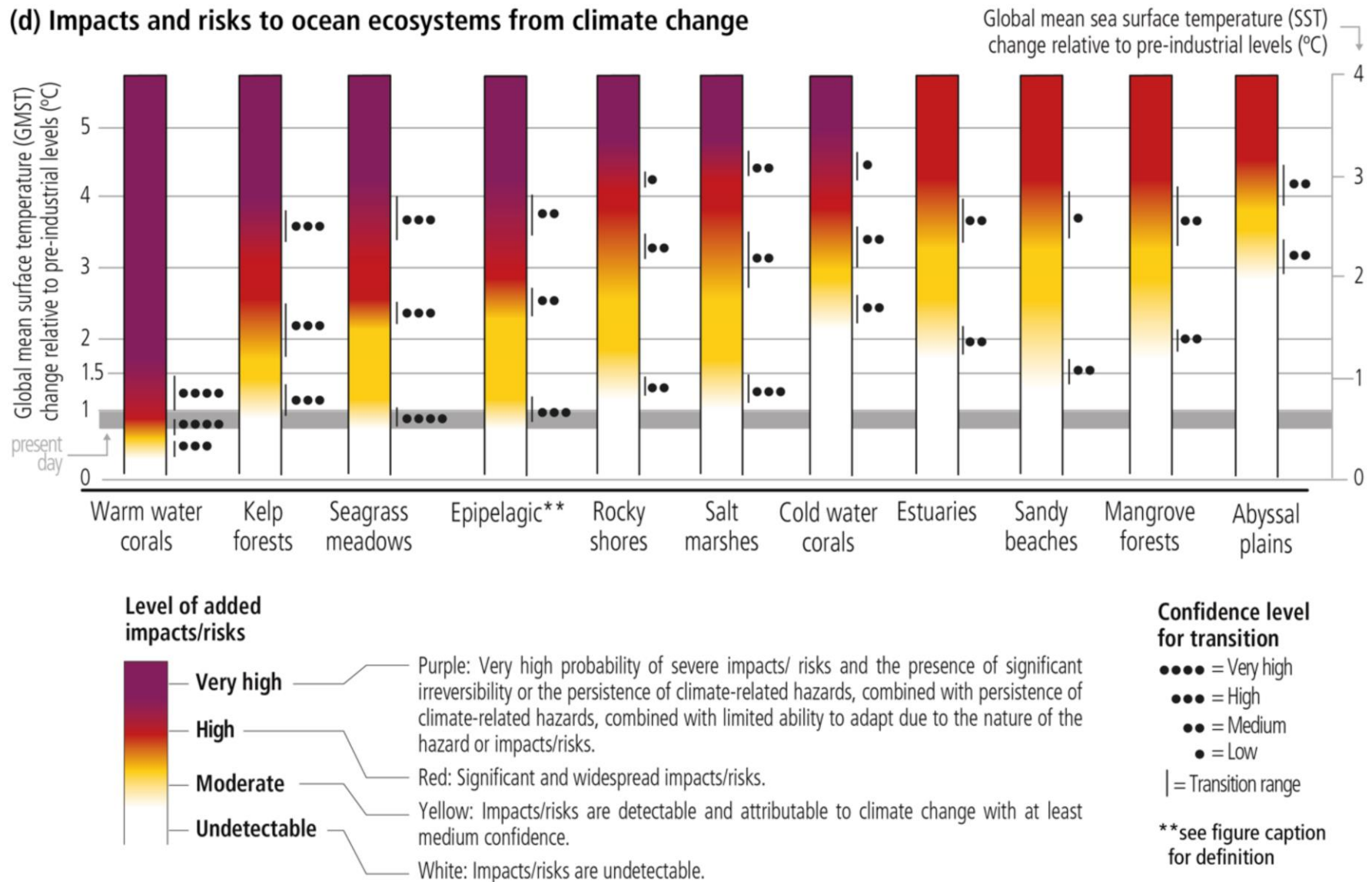


By Theclownfromit - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=79606388>



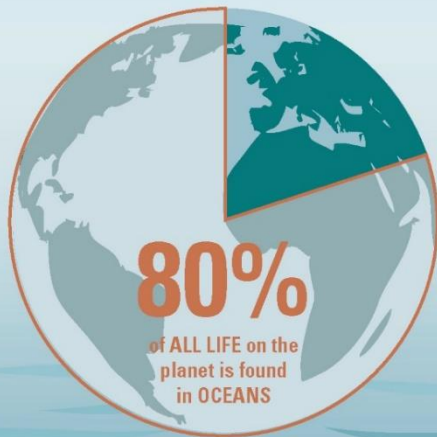
# Societal challenges: The Global Climate Emergency

## (d) Impacts and risks to ocean ecosystems from climate change



# Societal challenges: healthy oceans

## HEALTHY OCEANS, HAPPY PEOPLE



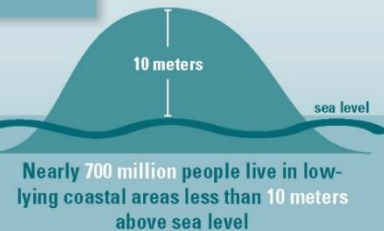
Oceans provide half the planet's oxygen



THIRTEEN of the world's twenty megacities lie along coasts



More than 40% of the global population lives within 100 km of the coast



Blue carbon sinks (mangrove forests, seagrass beds, other vegetated ocean habitats) can sequester up to **five times** as much carbon as tropical forests

**10-12%** of the world's population is dependent on fisheries and aquaculture for livelihoods

Over **90%** of the 58.3 million people engaged in the primary fisheries and aquaculture sector work in small-scale fisheries

The potential economic gain from restoring fish stocks is estimated at **\$50 billion** a year

The impact of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing is estimated at **\$10-23.5 billion** annually

Source: [www.globaloceansactionsummit.com](http://www.globaloceansactionsummit.com)  
Design by Rebecca Dodelin

Source: <https://www.populationconnection.org/magazine/december-2014/>



# Societal challenges: goals and targets



- High-level political commitment to the SDGs is falling short of historic promises
- Countries obtain their worst scores on SDG 13 (Climate Action), **SDG 14 (Life Below Water)** and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

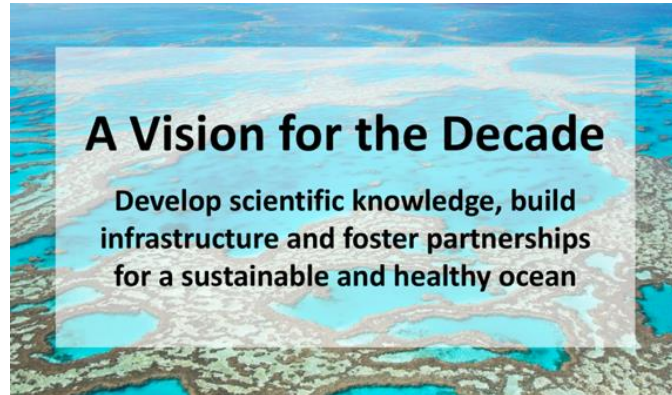
Source: Sachs et al (2019): Sustainable Development Report 2019.



# Societal challenges: goals and targets



2021  
2030 United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development



## R&D Priority Area 2: A comprehensive ocean observing system

➤ *The proclamation of the Decade indicated that it should be implemented within existing structures and available resources...the Decade will **not require....new appropriations from the regular budget of UN.***

➤ *The realisation of the Decade is therefore intrinsically linked to its capacity to mobilize extra-budgetary or other forms of financial and human resources. Indeed, the Business Plan for the Decade should proceed on an assumption that the Programmes and **Projects of the Decade will need to be self-supporting.***

Restricted Distribution

IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 3

Paris, 18 June 2018  
Original: English



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
(of UNESCO)

Fifty-first Session of the Executive Council  
UNESCO, Paris, 3–6 July 2018

Item 4.1 of the Revised Provisional Agenda

REVISED ROADMAP FOR THE UN DECADE  
OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



# Marine stations: an untapped resource



Figure 3.8. World distribution of marine stations. Data regarding marine stations were gathered from several sources and their locations were mapped using Google Maps.

Marine stations rarely mentioned in monitoring overviews but should be because **they are an untapped resource**

*“Globally, 784 marine stations are maintained by 98 countries; the majority are located in Asia (23%), followed by Europe (22%), North America (21%), Antarctica (11%), South America (10%), Africa (8%) and Oceania (5%).”*



# Marine stations: an untapped resource

- First marine stations (?): Ostend (Belgium) 1843: Concarneau (France); 1859; Woods Hole (USA) 1888; Hopkins Marine Station (USA) 1892
- Anton Dohrn & Miklouho-Maclay: *“plan to cover globe with network of zoological research stations, analogous to railway stations”*



Roscoff (1871)



Banyuls (1880)



Naples (1872)

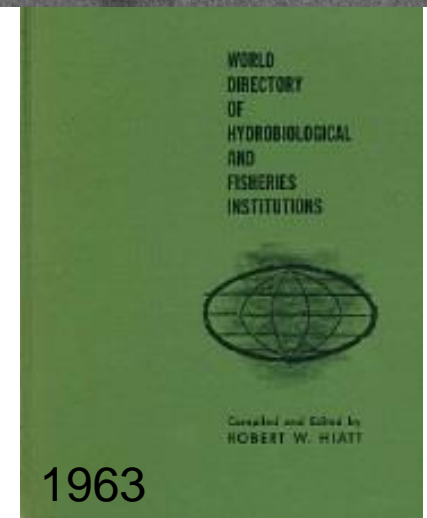
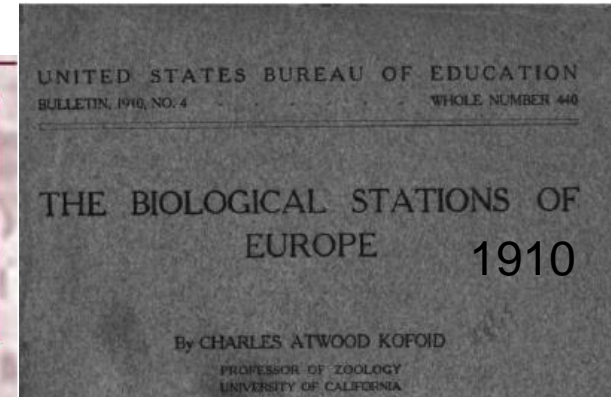


Endoume (1869)



Plymouth (1871)

*A model for other stations*



.....they have a long and eminent history



# Marine stations: vital research

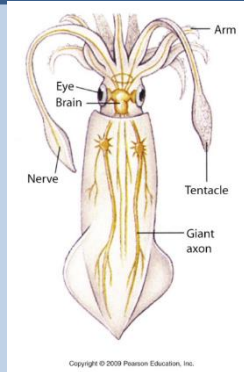


Introduced to Cephalopods whilst working in **Naples, Italy. 1932**

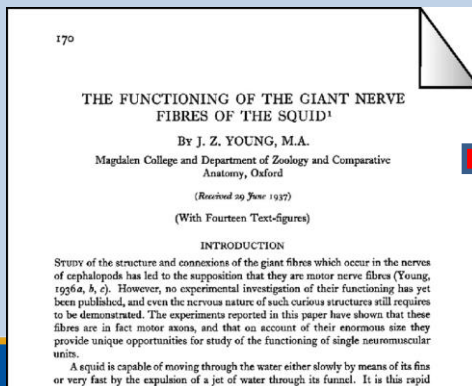
Prof. J.Z. Young,



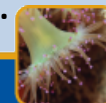
Confirmed discovery at **Woods Hole, MS, USA 1936**



Discovered giant nerve fibres (axons) at **MBA, Plymouth, UK, 1932 - 1936)**



Youngs USA collaborators worked with Alan Hodgkin and Andrew Huxley at MBA, **Plymouth, UK, 1939-49**. Hodgkin and Huxley continued and went on to win **Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1963** – basis of modern neurophysiology.



An Easter class (est. 1896) at the shore collecting specimens with , 1933.



Anton Dohrn Aquarium, Naples



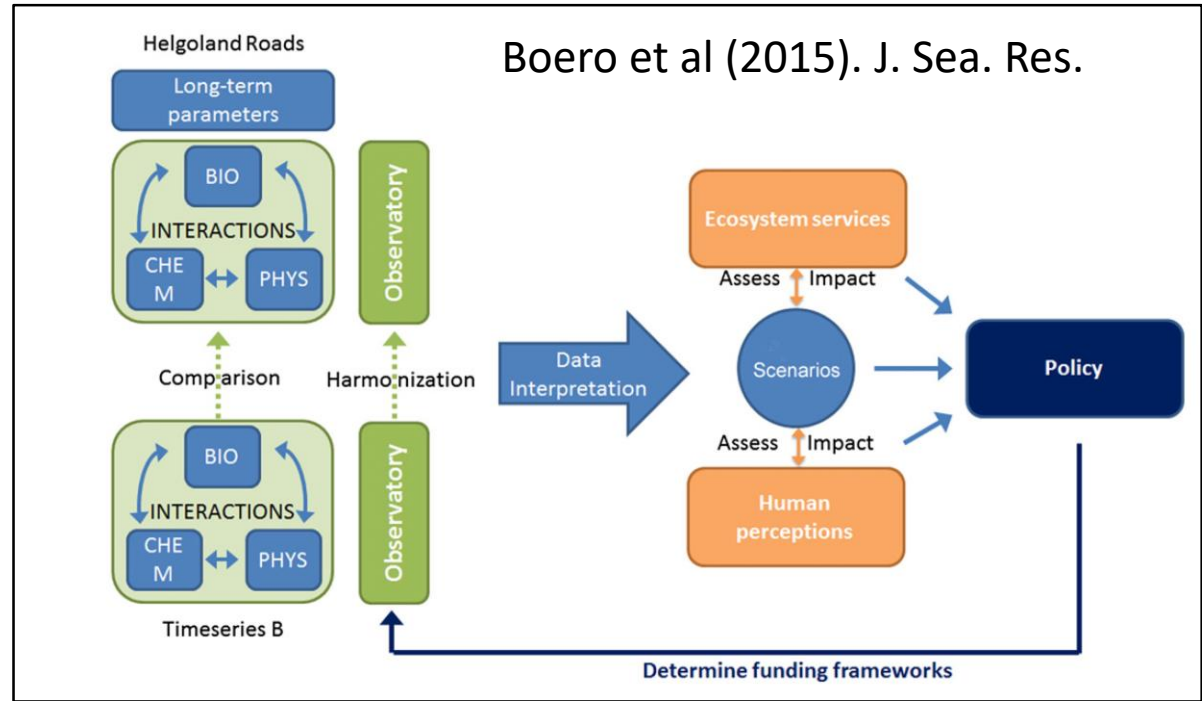
Cretaquarium, HCMR, Crete

Mote ML aquarium, USA

NP White Sea, Russia



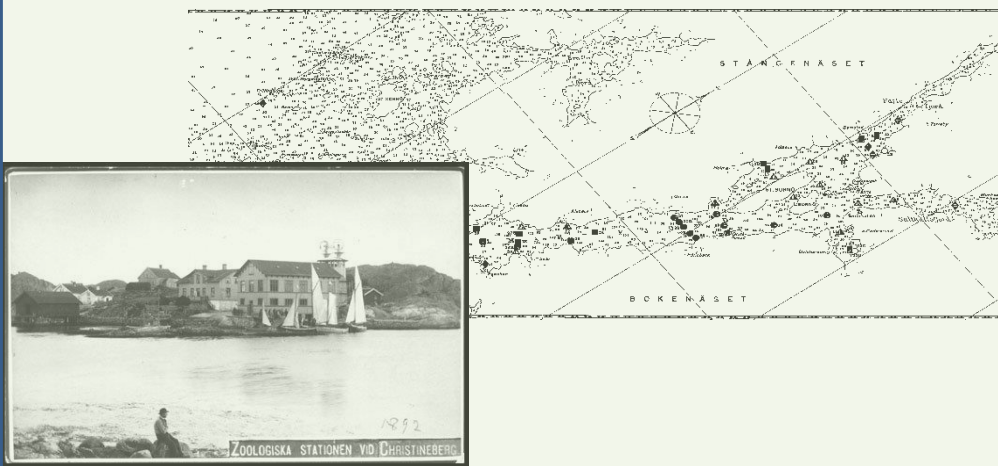
# Marine stations: an untapped resource



*“Marine field stations and laboratories **provide access to a range of environments.....support research... provide opportunities for educational outreach.....** Many marine research institutions also support long-term observational studies that provide vital baseline data for understanding natural systems, such as natural variations and human impacts on ecosystem processes...”*



# Marine stations and long-term biodiversity monitoring



MOLANDER, ANIMAL COMMUNITIES ON SOFT BOTTOM AREAS. 83

Species: Stations (italicized figures denote large number of individuals):

<i>Articaria prolifica</i>	8
<i>Articaria obliqua</i>	6, 30 III
<i>Ascidella aspersa</i>	6, 16, 20 II, 32, 33 B, 55, 60
<i>Ascidella longicorns</i>	41
<i>Asteris elliptica</i>	43
<i>Asteris montagui</i>	43, 66
<i>Asteris rubens</i>	2 B, 33 B, 42 B, 42 C, 56
<i>Athanas nitescens</i>	12 B
<i>Bathyporeia pelagica</i>	37
<i>Bithium reticulatum</i>	2 B, 4, 12 B, 30, 39, 42 B
<i>Brachia villosa</i>	4, 5, 20 II, 29, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 51, 53, 60
<i>Brachia reticulata</i>	5, 6, 8, 9, 13, 24, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 37, 38, 40, 41, 48, 49, 58, 64, 65, 68, 69, 61, 62
<i>Brachyopa tigrifera</i>	7, 8, 10, 11, 41
<i>Calceolaria mas andreae</i>	42 C
<i>Capitella capitata</i>	42 C
<i>Carcinus maenas</i>	42 C
<i>Cardium fasciatum</i>	5, 12 B, 12 C, 16 B, 43 B, 61
<i>Cardium minimum</i>	1, 3, 4, 5, 13, 17, 19, 25, 26, 29, 31, 33, 34, 40, 46, 48, 53, 54, 55, 58, 62
<i>Cerastophylla punctata</i>	10, 14, 18, 20 III, 21, 21 D, 22, 24, 27 B, 28 D
<i>Cerastophylla loevis</i>	10, 18, 19, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37 B
<i>Chactosia setosa</i>	6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 14, 18, 19, 21, 21 B, 22, 23, 26, 27, 27 B, 31, 50, 63, 64, 65, 66, 69, 62
<i>Chirocarus intermedius</i>	54
<i>Chirocarus sordidus</i>	39, 37, 66
<i>Chirocarus nanus</i>	25, 54
<i>Chironomus digitatus</i>	21
<i>Ciona intestinalis</i>	2 B, 12 B
<i>Cerastophylla longicorns</i>	46, 32
<i>Cerastophylla gibba</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 B, 12 C, 13, 15 B, 16, 17, 27, 30, 32, 33, 39, 40, 41, 42, 45, 46, 48, 52, 55, 58, 60, 61
<i>Cerastophylla punctata</i>	16, 20 II, 30, 67
<i>Crangon affinis</i>	49
<i>Cumacea elongata</i>	43
<i>Callinectes pelagicus</i>	2, 5, 12 C, 15, 44, 46, 50, 53, 54, 57, 61, 62
<i>Cyathophylla longicorns</i>	4, 5, 40, 42, 48, 54, 56, 62
<i>Cyathophylla longicorns</i>	66
<i>Cyprina islandica</i>	1, 5, 37, 42, 58, 59
<i>Isostichia calata</i>	20 II, 29, 33, 37, 41, 43, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52

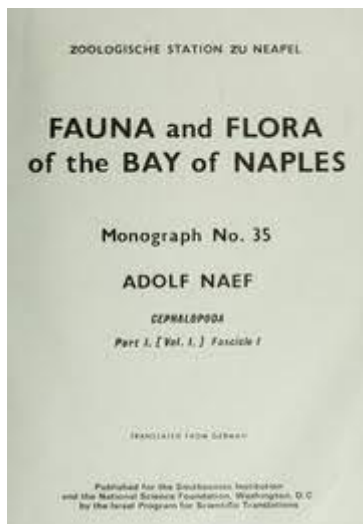
MOLANDER, ANIMAL COMMUNITIES ON SOFT BOTTOM AREAS. 79

Table 21. *B. ch. + Mai.*

Station	Depth	Date	S %/m	T°	O <sub>2</sub> conc./L
G. 34	60	21/12 1923	34.81	6.40	—
" 35	48	21/12 1923	34.21	6.40	—
" "	"	27/12 1923	33.40	12.20	—
" 41	52	29/12 1923	34.65	6.28	—
" "	"	27/12 1923	33.70	11.40	—
" 60	48	17/12 1923	32.82	12.30	5.17
" "	"	27/12 1923	33.40	12.20	—

Table 22. *B. ch. + T.*

Station	Depth	Date	S %/m	T°	O <sub>2</sub> conc./L
G. 37	59	29/12 1923	32.88	6.60	—
" 43	66	" "	34.45	6.40	—
" "	"	21/12 1923	34.14	7.00	4.54
" "	"	20/11 1924	33.80	10.20	—
" 45	38	29/12 1923	32.25	7.70	—
" 48	45	" "	33.36	6.70	—
" "	"	20/11 1924	33.26	11.00	—
" "	"	21/12 1926	30.40	14.46	—
" 53	51	7/12 1923	32.72	8.00	—
" 64	56	" "	34.20	7.10	—
" 65	41	" "	31.70	9.65	—
" 62	50	19/12 1926	33.80	11.40	—



INTEGRATED PUBLISHING TOOLKIT (IPT)

Summary

**Roscoff inventories: marine fauna and flora since 1800**

Latest version published on Jul 10, 2019

This resource has not been registered with GBIF

\* Inventories list marine species observations performed in Roscoff area since 1800. Observations result from a review of historical literature and observations made by voluntary contributors and the scientific teams of the Roscoff Marine Station. Taxonomic groups documented in the inventories are macroalgae, marine benthic macroinvertebrates and fish. Inventories provide information about location, collection date, collection type, collector, and species biology (habitat, reproduction).

Catalogue of Biota of the MSU White Sea Biological Station

(Redirected from Main Page)

Editors: E. D. Krasnova, A. V. Tchesunov, N. M. Kaljulina, E. N. Bubnova

Translation: Natalia Sokolova

Internet project team: Elena Krasnova, Alexei Malorov, Natalia Sokolova

Authors

Annotation

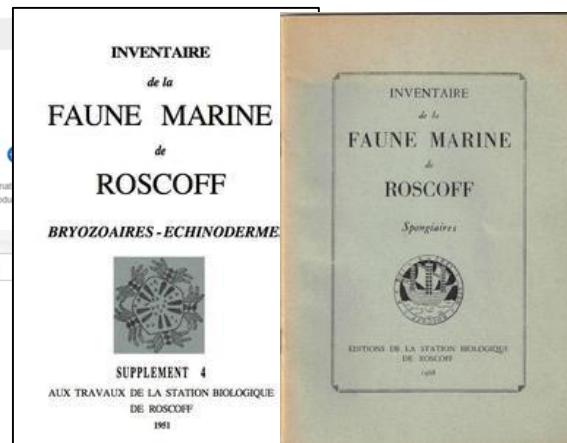
Introduction

Nature in the MSU VSBIS vicinity

Abbreviations

Contents (list)

1. KINGDOMS
  - 1.1 Bacteria (Eubacteria)
  - 1.2 Protists (Protista)
  - 1.3 Eukaryotic Algae
  - 1.4 Funguslike Protists
  - 1.5 Fungi
  - 1.6 Lichens (Lichenes)
  - 1.7 Land Plants/Embryophytes (Plantae)
  - 1.8 Animals (Metazoa)



PLYMOUTH MARINE FAUNA

Third Edition, 1957

Being notes on the local distribution of species occurring in the neighbourhood of Plymouth, including some other records of species found on the south coasts of Devon and Cornwall and the adjacent offshore waters of the English Channel

Compiled from the records of the Laboratory of the Marine Biological Association

THE PLYMOUTH MARINE FAUNA ONLINE

Demonstration version

THE MARINE BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

MarLIN

The Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom. A company limited by guarantee. Registered in England No. 21401. Charity No. 226663.



# Eddystone Reef – 1895-2007: comparison over one century time scale

## Winners

**Amphipoda**  
(Crustacea)



• **Glyceridae**  
(Polychaeta)



• **Lumbrineridae**  
(Polychaeta)



• **Nephtyidae**  
(Polychaeta)



## Losers

***Marthasterias glacialis***  
(Echinodermata)



***Echinus esculentus***  
(Echinodermata)



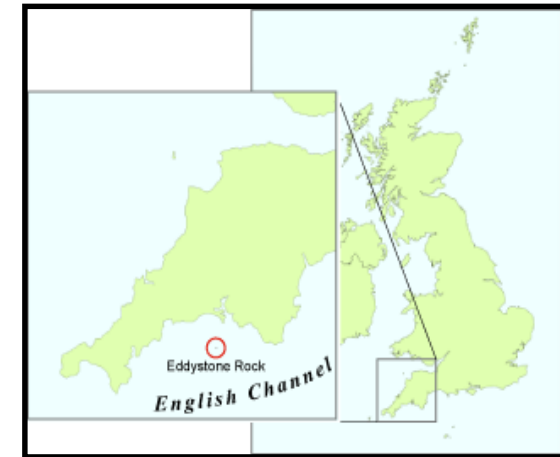
***Pecten maximus***  
(Mollusca)



***Chaetopterus variopedatus***  
(Polychaeta)



subset of 40 original stations sampled in 1895 using the SAME Naturalist's Dredge to collect benthos



Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom, 2010, 90(6), 1161–1172. © Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom, 2009  
doi:10.1017/S0025315409991020


## Investigation of benthic community change over a century-wide scale in the western English Channel

E. CAPASSO<sup>1,2</sup>, S.R. JENKINS<sup>1,2</sup>, M. FROST<sup>2</sup> AND H. HINZ<sup>1,2</sup>

“potential area for establishment of an offshore (SAC)”.



# Marine stations and long-term biodiversity monitoring

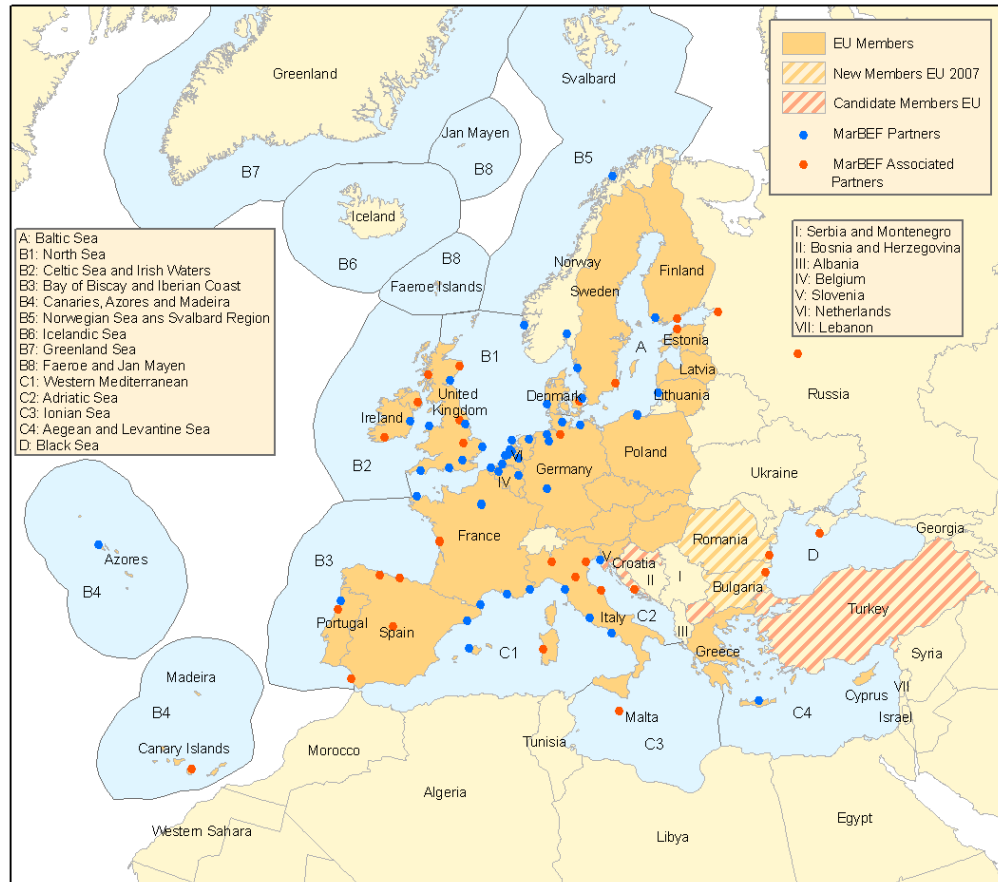


**BIOMARE**  
 Implementation and networking of large-scale long-term  
 Marine Biodiversity research in Europe



**European  
Marine  
Biodiversity  
Research  
Sites**

Richard M. Warwick, Chris Emblow, Jean-Pierre Féral,  
 Herman Hummel, Pim van Avesaath, Carlo Heip



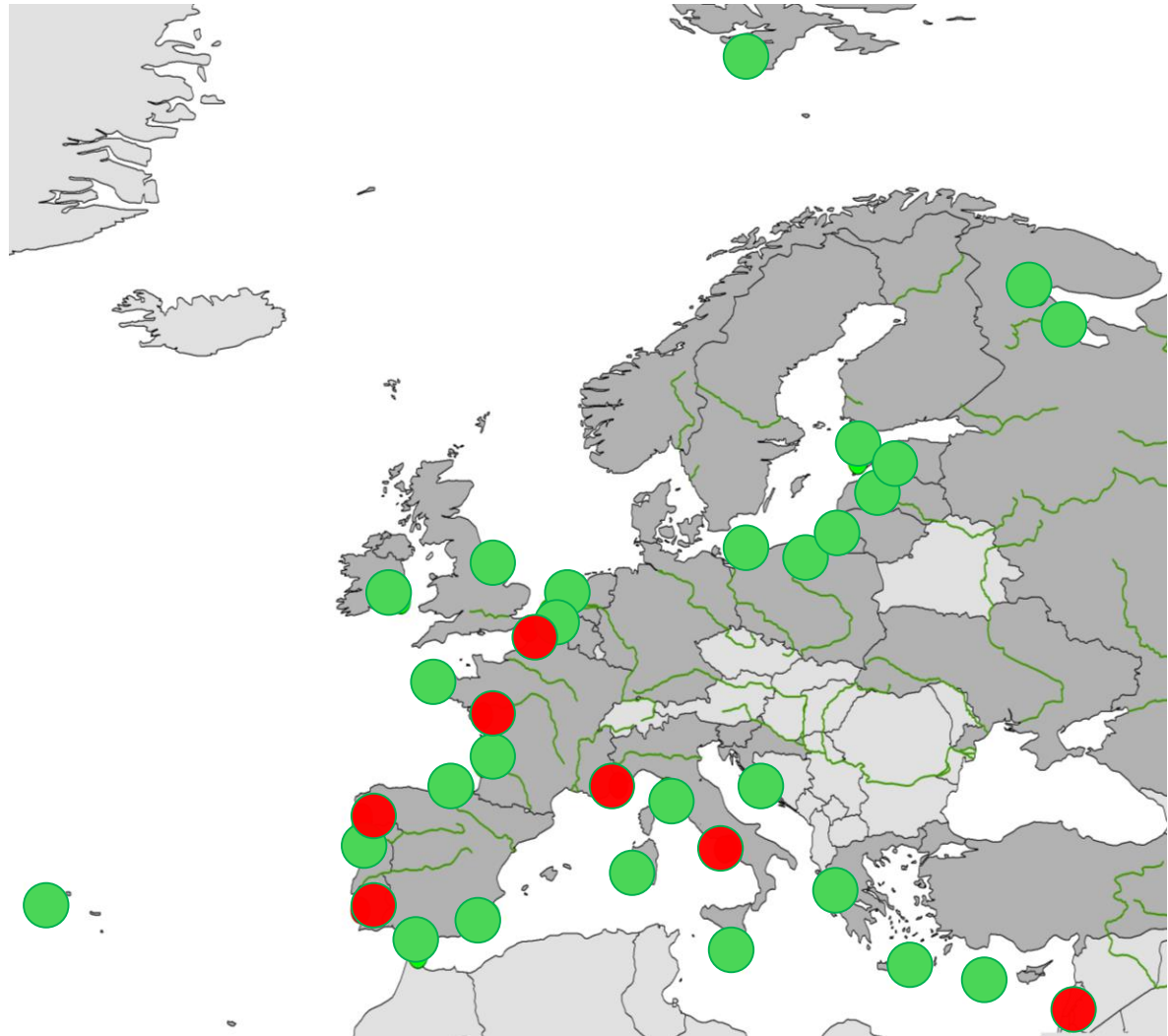
Marine stations maintain long-term biodiversity monitoring platforms



# Marine stations and long-term biodiversity monitoring

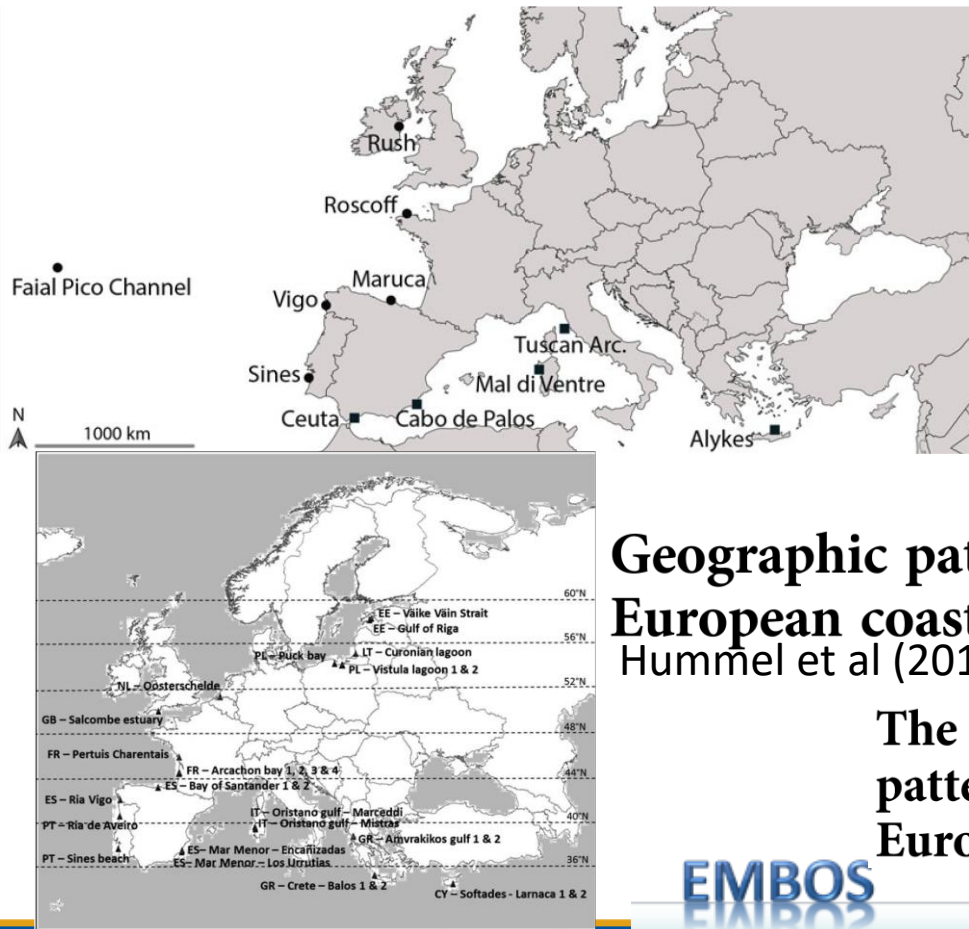
The EMBOS Pilot Project (2011-2015), following harmonised methods, is carried out with observations at 34 stations on:

- Hard-substrate
- Soft-substrata
- Pelagic

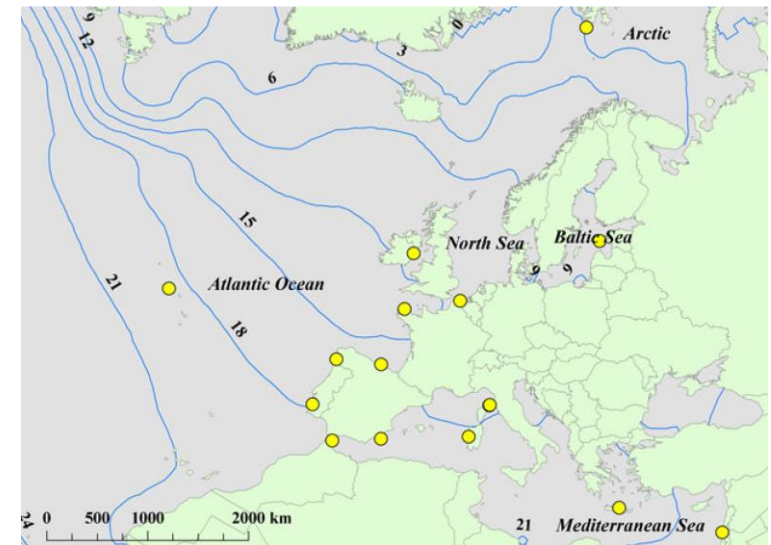


# Marine stations and long-term biodiversity monitoring

**Consistent patterns of spatial variability between NE Atlantic and Mediterranean rocky shores** Del Bello et al (2016) JMBA.



**Essence of the patterns of cover and richness of intertidal hard bottom communities: a pan-European study** Kotta et al (2016) JMBA.

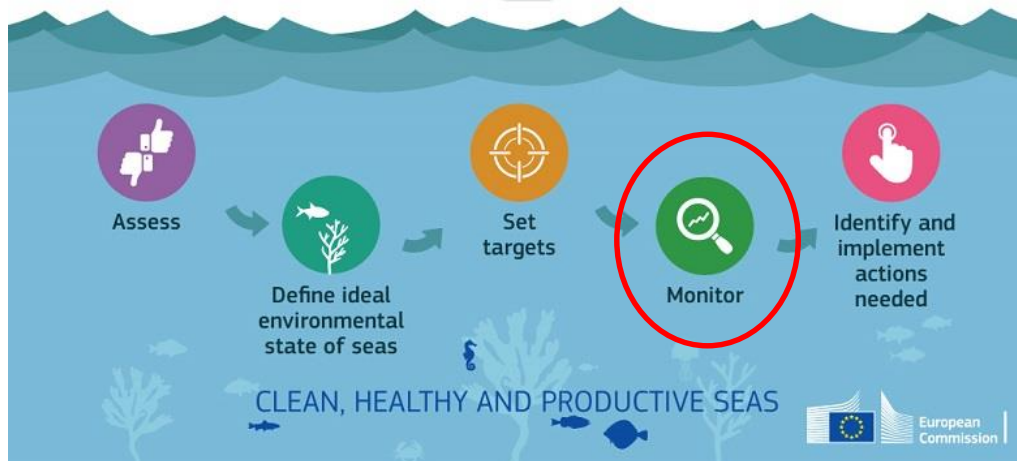


**Geographic patterns of biodiversity in European coastal marine benthos** Hummel et al (2016) JMBA.

**The role of physical variables in biodiversity patterns of intertidal macroalgae along European coasts** Puente et al (2016) JMBA.

# Societal challenges: biodiversity monitoring

## How EU Member States develop marine strategies



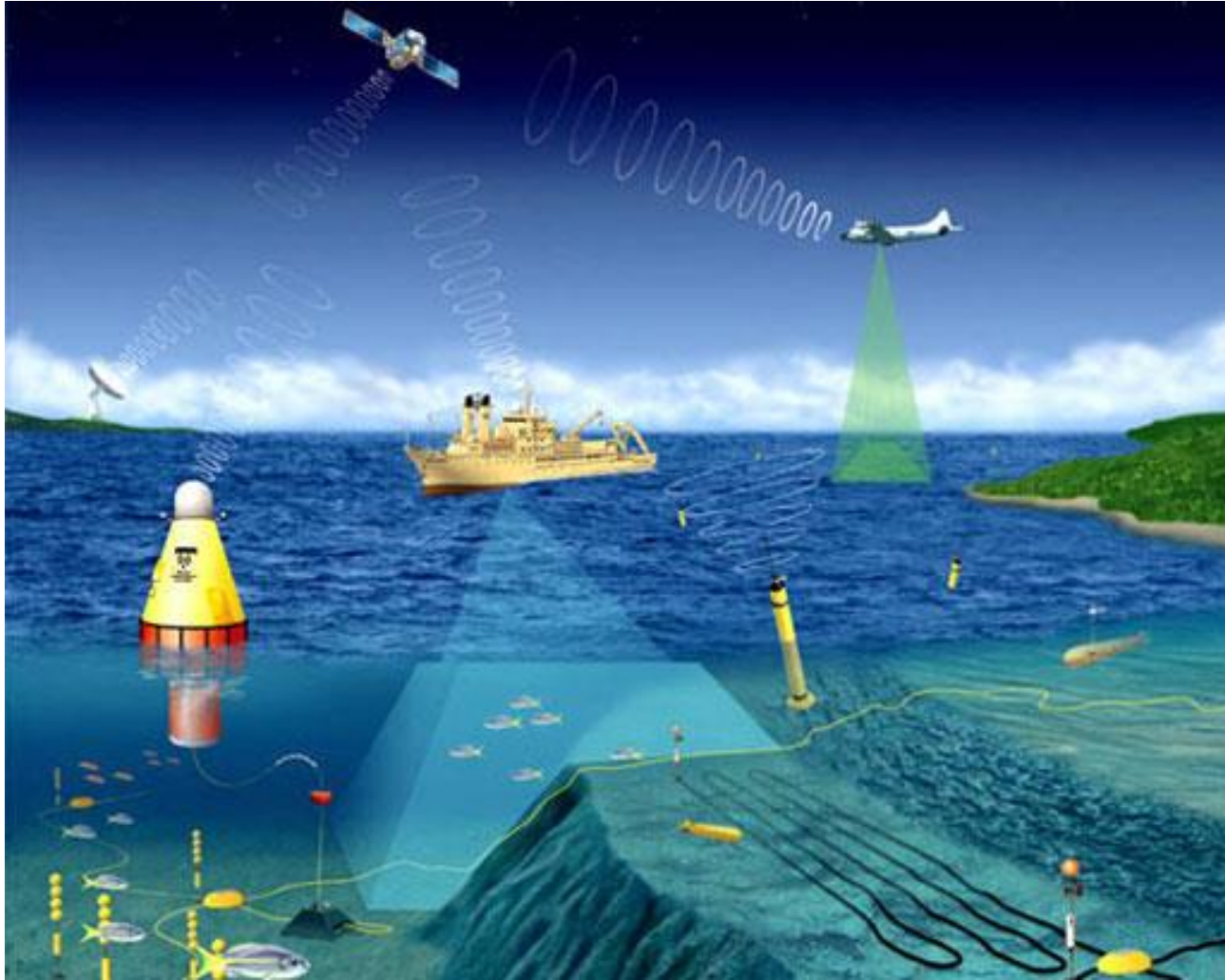
## Marine Strategy Framework Directive

### Reporting obligation for: MSFD monitoring programmes (Art. 11)

- Member States shall establish and implement coordinated monitoring programmes for the ongoing assessment of the environmental status of their marine waters that are compatible within marine regions or subregions.
- Member States should provide more specific information on measures for the biodiversity descriptors, in terms of what will be done to ensure that GES will be achieved by 2020 and if not, how and when GES is to be achieved beyond the 2020 target.



# So what's the issue? Coastal observing systems

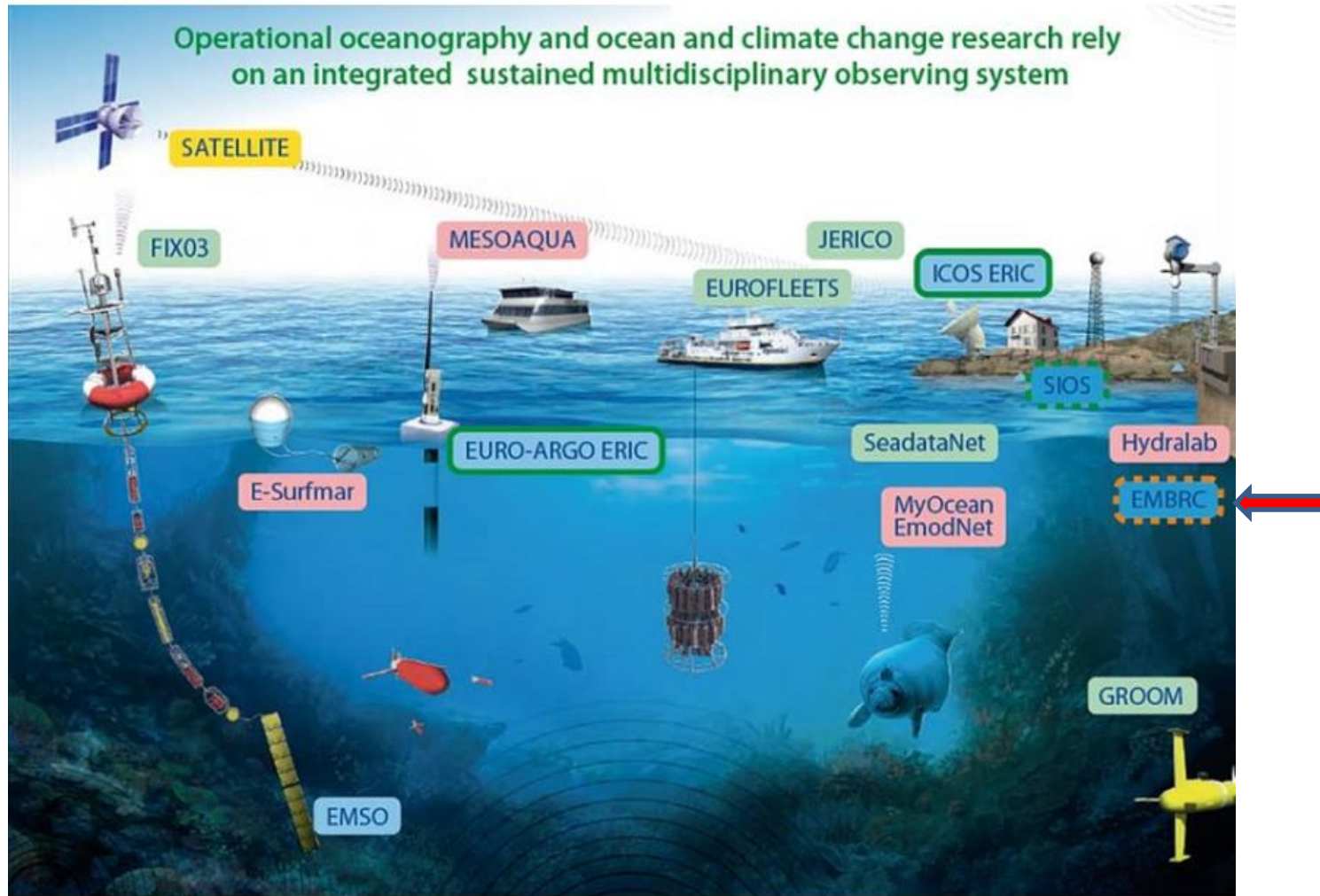


U.S. Integrated  
Ocean Observing  
System

Source: <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/weeklynews/jan11/ioos.html>



# So what's the issue? Coastal observing systems



<http://www.eurocean.org/np4/557.html>



# Marine stations, time-series and the funding gap.....

- Many time-series run by marine stations are written in as contributing to statutory obligations but not funded via statutory mechanisms so are always at risk.
- C. 40% of all European marine time series in late 1980's 'closed down' (Duarte, 1992. *Nature*.) and the trend continues.
- *“In a funding environment that typically prioritizes innovative, curiosity-driven science and supports projects on 3- to 5-year timelines, it is a challenge to maintain long-term uninterrupted funding for ocean time series programs...Thus, many time series operate on a shoestring budget”* (Benway et al, 2019. *Front. Mar. Sci.*)
- We are also losing the associated expertise: *“it is worrying that expertise in taxonomy is vanishing in the European Union, and even simple identification can be difficult”* (Boero et al, 2015. JMBA)



# Marine stations, time-series and the funding gap.....



Port Erin Marine Laboratory, Isle of Man UK

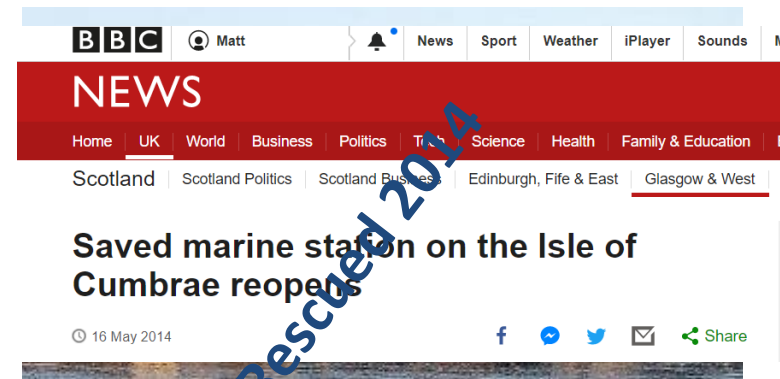


MBL, Woods Hole, USA

- *Biological field stations are at risk unless they modernize and better communicate their mission to policymakers, funders, the public (Baker, 2015. BioScience)*



Kewalo Marine Biological Laboratory, Hawaii, USA



Millport Marine Station, Scotland, UK





Solution: coordination to promote value and visibility.

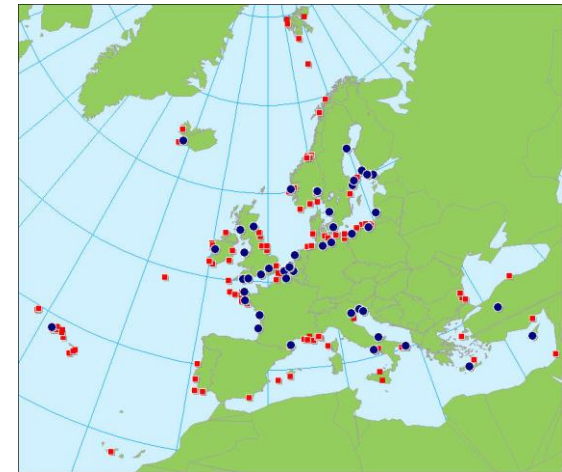
## MARS (European network of Marine Stations) Current Member Status. >60 Labs/Institutes



SZN, Italy



SLC, Sweden



SAMS, UK



MBA, UK



HMRC, Greece



SARS, Norway



CCMAR, Portugal



AWI, Germany



SBR, France



OOVS, France

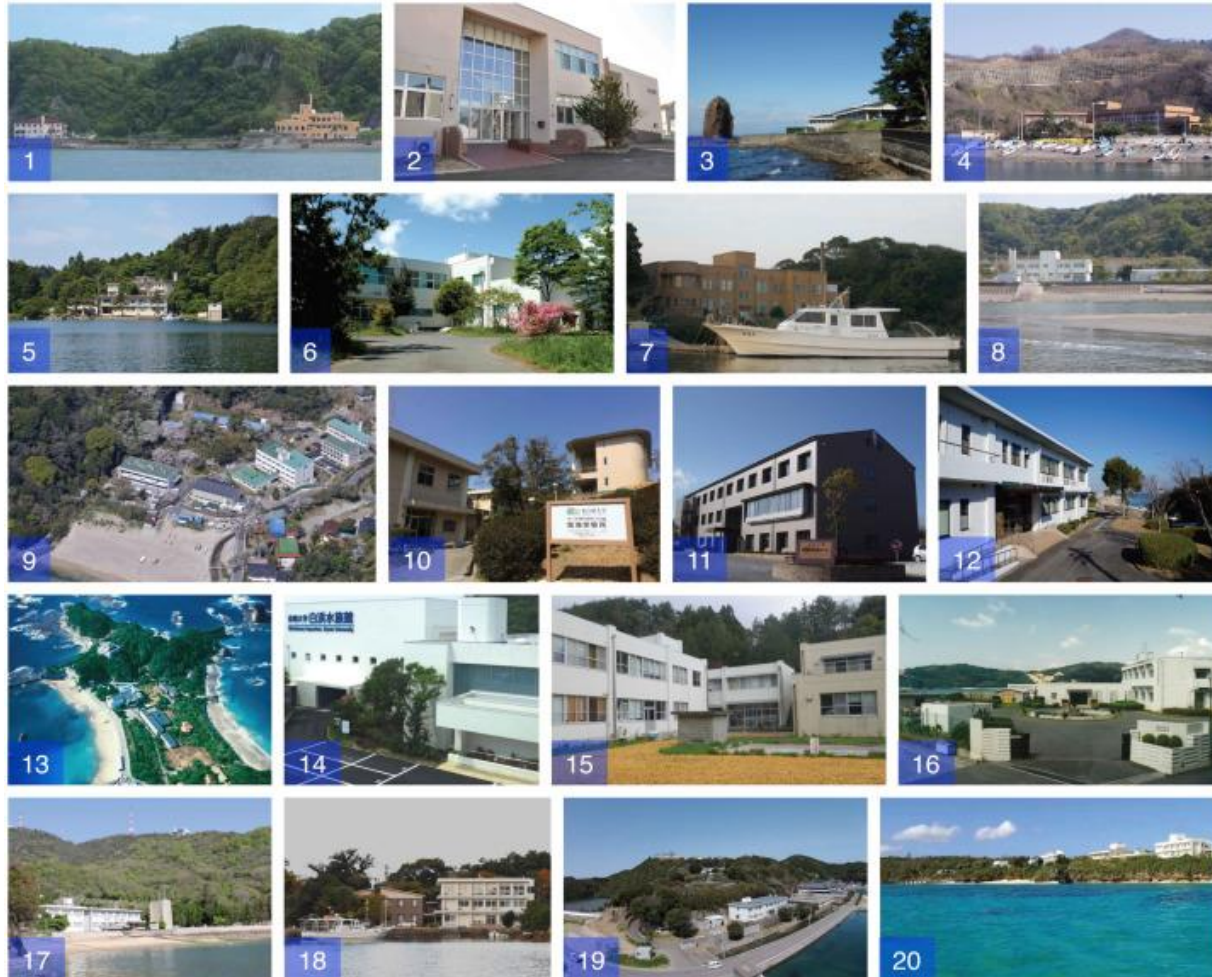


OOBS, France



# Solution: coordination to promote value and visibility.

Inaba, 2015. Japanese marine biological stations: special issue.  
*Regional Studies in Marine Science*.

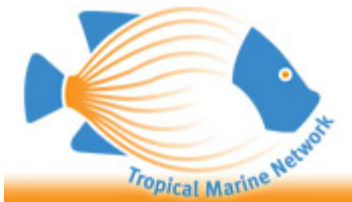




# Global networks: WAMS

## The World Association of Marine Stations

A Network of Marine Stations and Institutes  
for the 21st Century



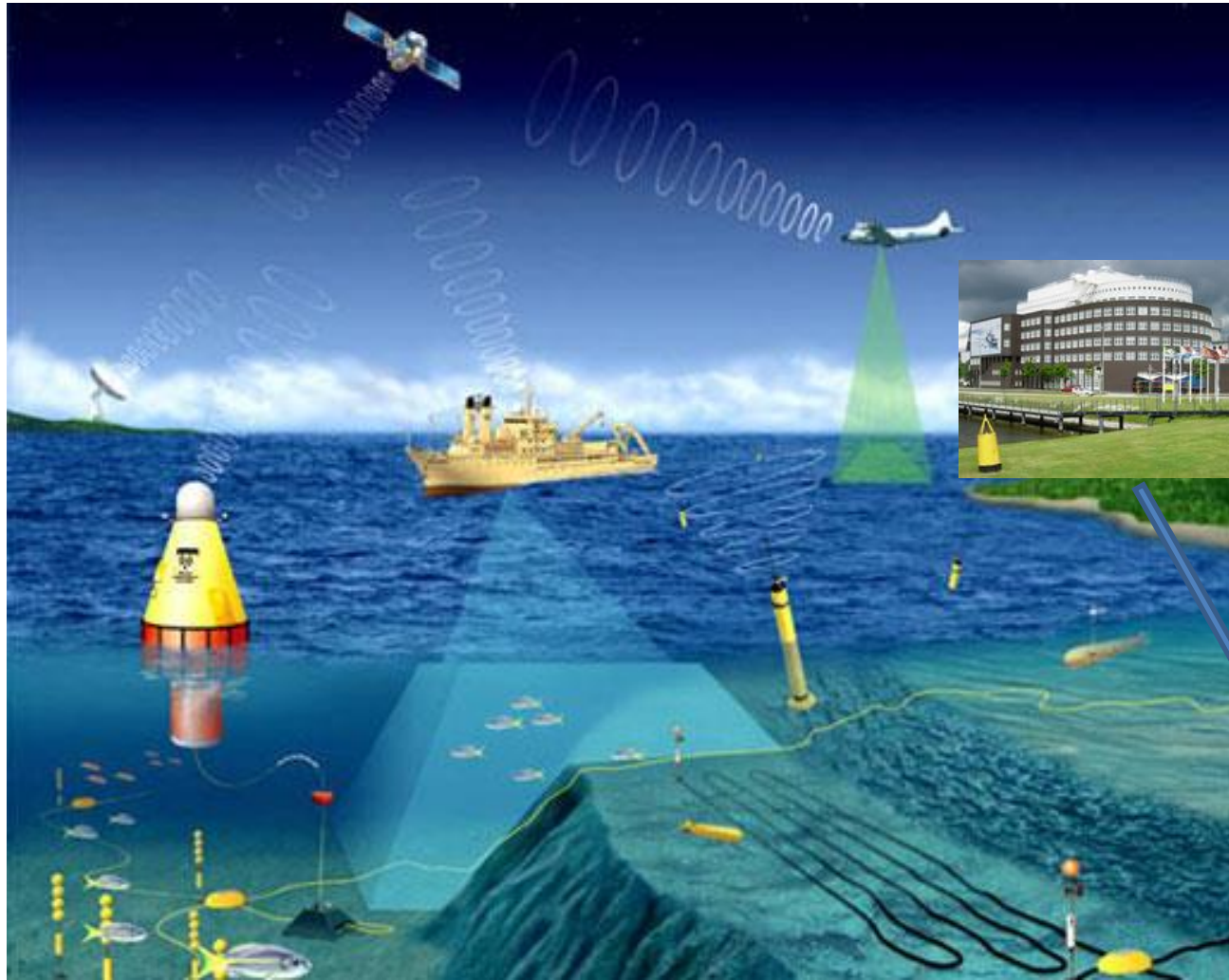
Africa



# The World Association of Marine Stations (WAMS)

- Number of national and regional networks came together in 2009 under the auspices of MARS and with support of IOC-UNESCO.
- Report on establishment of WAMS formally presented to the IOC Assembly - adopted unanimously 4 July 2011 but limited progress since then due to resource issues
- Meeting with IOC-Unesco, Paris, March 2018 - IOC agreed to support new plan for WAMS in support of Ocean Decade / SDG14.
- Russia (MSU) agreed to provide secretariat support for WORLD CONGRESS OF MARINE DIRECTORS to be held in Moscow, November 2020.
- Links to UN Ocean Decade are crucial as well as clear overall strategy.
- **Viable financial plan being compiled.**

# Better integration of marine stations into Coastal observing systems



**Outreach:** 'Gateway' for public

**Time-series custodians:** biodiversity monitoring

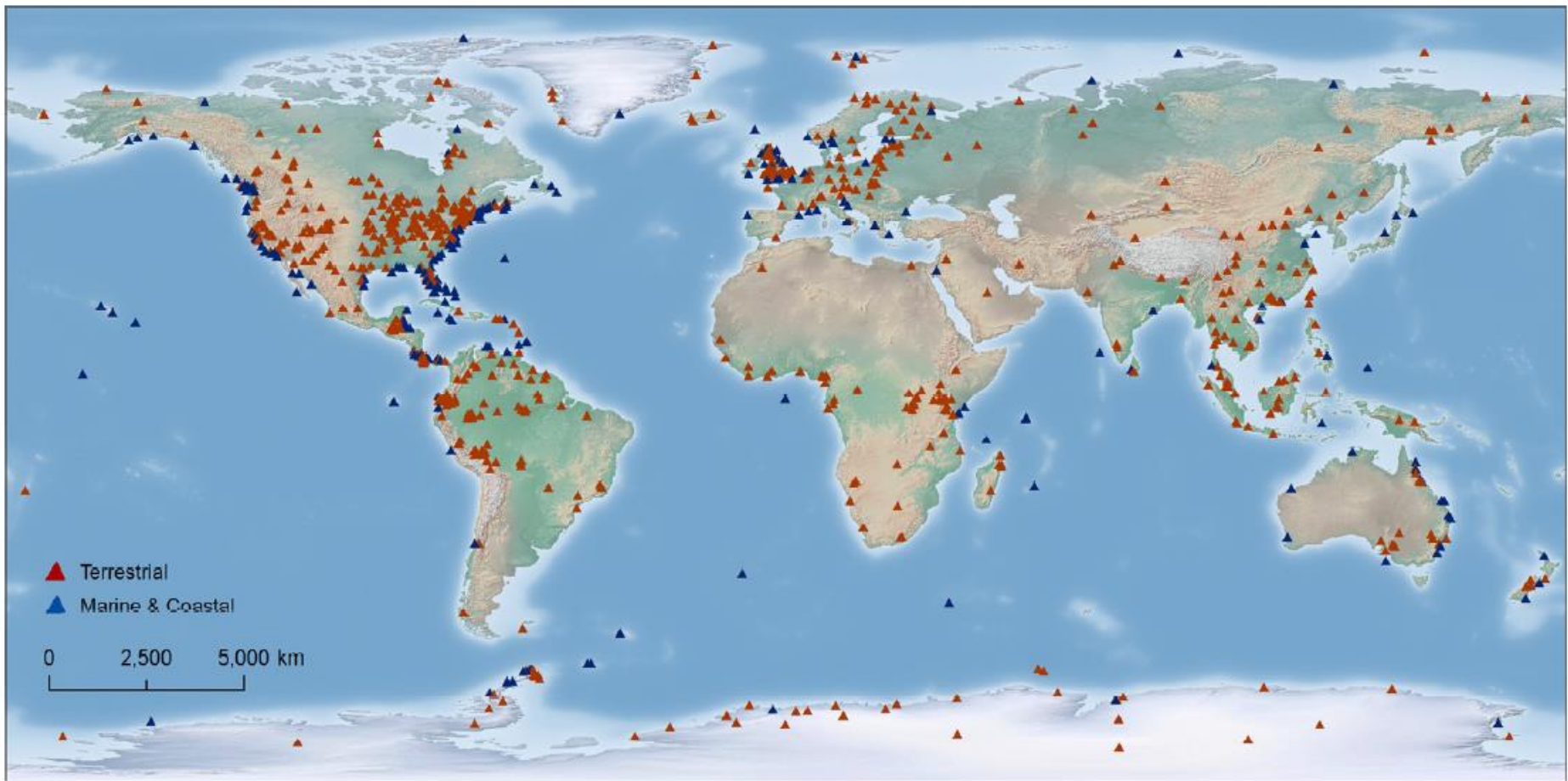
**Capacity building:** 'expert taxonomy to citizen science

**Research:** 'interpretation and analysis

**Society:** pathways to impact

Source: <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/weeklynews/jan11/ioos.html>





Source: Enhancing the Value and Sustainability of Field Stations and Marine Laboratories in the 21st Century (Washington, D.C., [www.nap.edu](http://www.nap.edu)).

Aim: Stations connected to each other (e.g. WAMS) → embedded in wider monitoring framework (physical, biological → communicating to policy makers (e.g. MARS, WAMS) → recognition of value of stations and biodiversity time-series leads to better resourcing



# Take home messages:

- 1) We need to quantify the value of their contribution to marine science and a wide range of societal goals / policy objectives

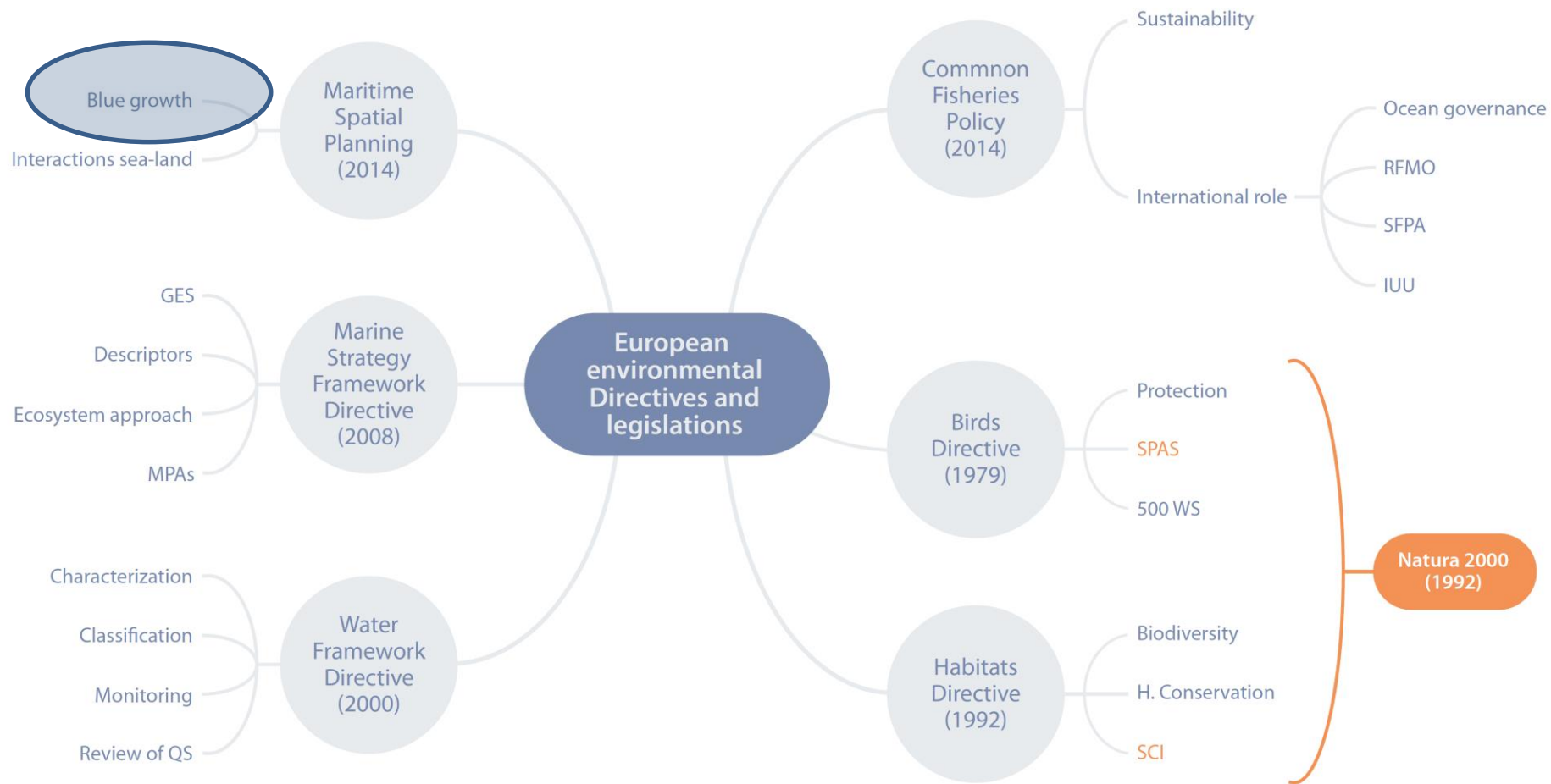
## *Cost vs value: How much are ocean observations worth?*

- 1) *GLOBAL: Considering the vital role played by ocean observations in climate prediction, an overall value of between \$10 trillion to \$20 trillion US dollars could be assigned*
- 2) *REGIONAL: A conservative value for ocean observations in Europe, for example, puts the value added to the GNP of the EU as being in the order of \$1.4-2.3 billion per year*
- 3) *NATIONAL: The USA alone estimates the benefits from its ocean observations to >\$1 billion per year while Australia has estimated \$617 million per annum as well as numerous unquantified benefits.*

Value of ocean observations. Sources: 1) Weatherhead et al. (2018)<sup>68</sup> 2) Cristini et al. (2016) , Flemming, N. (2001). 3) Kite-Powell (2009) , Abare (2006)



# Take home messages:



Source: Fig 1.2. Benedetti-Cecchi et al (2018) Strengthening Europe's Capability in Biological Ocean Observations. Future Science Brief 3 of the European Marine Board.



## Take home message:

- 1) We need to quantify the value of their contribution to marine science and a wide range of societal goals / policy objectives
- 2) Many time-series and, in some cases, marine stations themselves, are at risk – we need an inventory of ‘at risk’ ocean observations (individual programmes and networks) and stations – regular status assessments?
- 3) We need better integration of biodiversity monitoring into ocean observation systems
- 4) We need a better voice for marine stations to create improved pathways to policy. WAMS can help enhance dialogue and ensure better connections between networks



# Take home messages:



From Dr Luis Valdez (IOC): Prospects and opportunities in a changing marine science and policy landscape (ICES CONF. 2014)

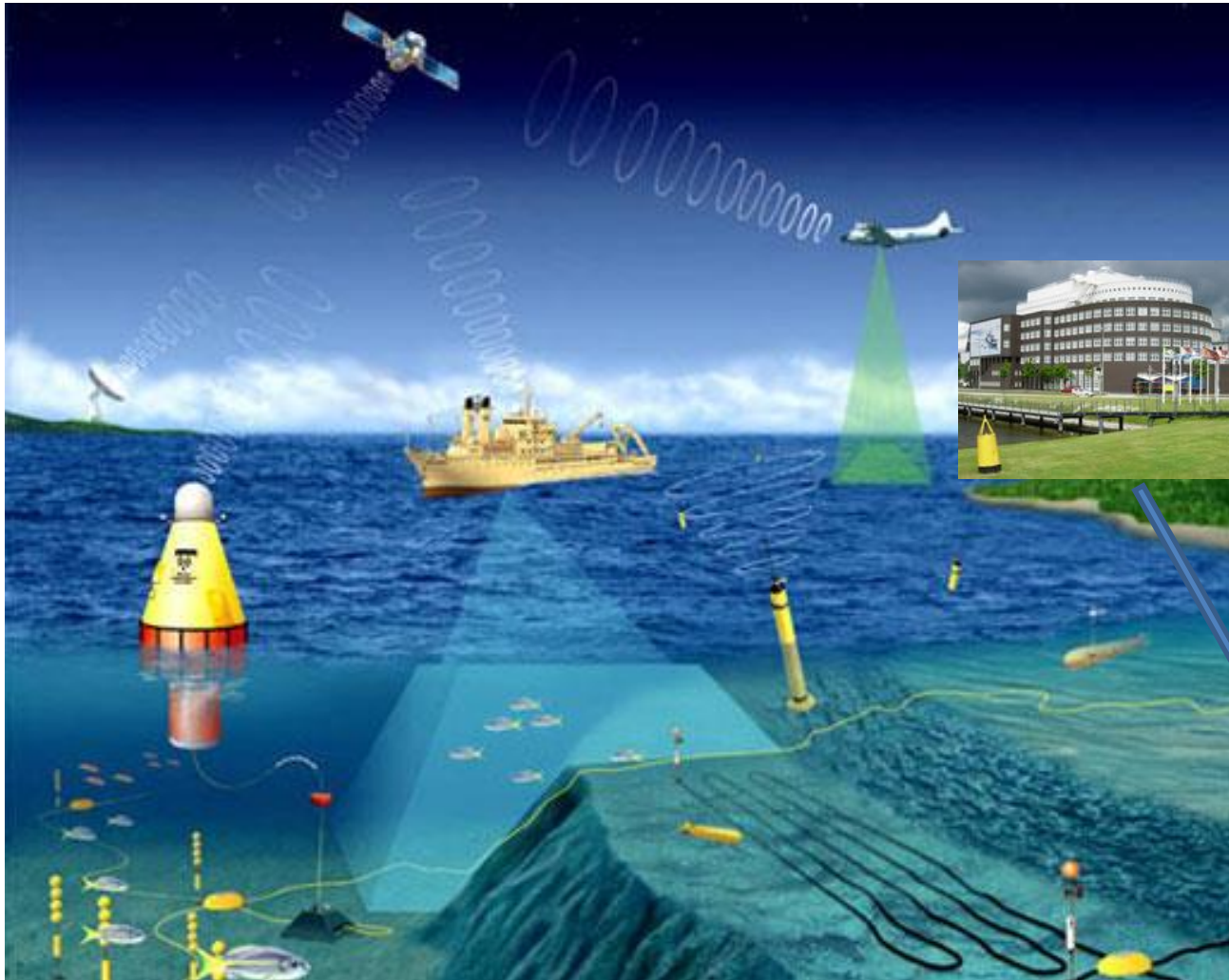


## Take home message:

- 1) We need to quantify the value of their contribution to marine science and a wide range of societal goals / policy objectives
- 2) Many time-series and, in some cases, marine stations themselves, are at risk – we need an inventory of ‘at risk’ ocean observations (individual programmes and networks) and stations – regular status assessments?
- 3) We need better integration of biodiversity monitoring into ocean observation systems
- 4) We need a better voice for marine stations to create improved pathways to policy. WAMS can help enhance dialogue and ensure better connections between networks
- 5) We need a strategic funding approach when considering time-series and associated skills such as taxonomy



# Thank you for listening...



**Outreach:** 'Gateway' for public

**Time-series custodians:** biodiversity monitoring

**Capacity building:** 'expert taxonomy to citizen science

**Research:** 'interpretation and analysis

**Society:** pathways to impact

Source: <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/weeklynews/jan11/ioos.html>

