

8th EMB Forum

Supporting the Ocean Decade in Europe

1 December 2021, BluePoint Brussels and Online



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

European

MARINE BOARD
Advancing Seas & Ocean Science



FORUM PROGRAMME



ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

The European Marine Board is Europe's leading think tank and authoritative voice on the latest advancements and future strategic directions for marine science. European Marine Board Member Organizations are leading National Marine Research Organizations or Institutes, National University Consortia and Funding Agencies. EMB is active across a broad range of marine and maritime related areas, and EMB Working Groups conduct expert reviews of the state-of-the-art on marine scientific topics, producing recommendations and actions to improve and enhance European capability in marine research, and related technology, infrastructure and human capacity development.

The EMB Biennial Open Forum is a platform to bring together a wide range of marine science stakeholders (scientists, European and national policymakers, pan-European and regional networks, etc.) to discuss and share knowledge, identify common priorities, develop common positions and collaborate on these. The Forum bridges the gap between the scientific community and policymakers and prepares a joint vision and recommendations to further develop the topic at hand.

This EMB 8th Forum event has been endorsed as an official Ocean Decade activity.

Website: www.marineboard.eu

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Event hashtag: #EMBForum

Event Sli.do: www.Slido.com / #EMBForum



AGENDA

Forum Moderator: Sheila Heymans

09.00- 09.30	Registration and welcome coffee / Livestream link opens	
09.30 – 10.00	Opening Session	
09.30 – 09.35	Forum opening & housekeeping	Sheila Heymans Executive Director, European Marine Board
09.35 – 09.45	Welcome	Gilles Lericolais Chair, European Marine Board
09.45 – 10.00	Opening address	Charlina Vitcheva Director-General, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission
10.00 – 11.15	Session 1. Engaging Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) in the Ocean we want	
10.00 – 10.30	This is the Ocean We Want	Jasmine Harrison, UK
10.30 – 11.15	Panel discussion with questions from audience on “How do we engage ECOP’s in the Ocean Decade and what is the Ocean they want?”	Alessandro Cresci, IMR, Norway Natalija Dunić, IOF, Croatia Rebecca Zitoun, GEOMAR, Germany Anjali Gopakumar, University of Bologna, Italy Jasmine Harrison, UK
11.15 – 11.45	Networking and coffee / Online breakout room for networking	
11.45 – 12.30	Session 2. EMB activities towards the Ocean We Want	
11.45 – 12.00	Underwater noise (a clean ocean) including Q&A	Frank Thomsen DHI, Denmark
12.00 – 12.15	Marine geohazards (a predicted and a safe ocean) including Q&A	Heidrun Kopp GEOMAR, Germany
12.15 – 12.30	Launch of EMB programme for an Inspiring and Engaging Ocean	Gilles Lericolais Chair, European Marine Board



12.30 – 14.00	Group photograph, followed by lunch / Online breakout room for networking	
14.00 – 14.45	Session 3. An inspiring and engaging Ocean Decade	
14.00 – 14.45	Panel Discussion with questions from the audience on communicating about and engaging a wider community in the Ocean Decade.	María del Carmen García-Martínez , IEO, Spain, and Chair of EMBCP Romulus-Marian Paiu , Mare Nostrum, Romania Peer Fietzek , Kongsberg Maritime, Germany Elisabetta Balzi , DG Research and Innovation, European Commission
14.45 – 15.45	Session 4. Harmonizing Ocean Decade activities in Europe	
14.45 - 15.00	Ambitions for the Ocean Decade	Vladimir Ryabinin Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO)
15.00 – 15.45	Panel discussion with questions from the audience on bridging science and policy at different levels to support the Ocean Decade in Europe.	Andreea Strachinescu , DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission Niall McDonough , Marine Institute, Ireland, and Chair of JPI Oceans Gesine Meißner , Chair of German Ocean Decade Committee, Germany Colin Stedmon , Danish Centre for Marine Research, Denmark and Ocean Decade Arctic Action Plan Annemie Rose Janssen , RBINS, Belgium, and Ocean Decade Southern Ocean Task Force
15.45 – 16.00	Closing Session	
15.45 – 15.55	Jean-Eric Paquet , Director-General, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission	
15.55 – 16.00	Sheila Heymans , Executive Director, European Marine Board	
16.00	Reception	



SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

Moderator

Professor Dr. Sheila Heymans

Executive Director of the European Marine Board
[@sheilaheyman](#)

Professor Heymans is a Zoologist with a background in marine ecosystem modelling and the environmental impacts of fisheries and ecosystem change. She joined the European Marine Board in 2018 from the Scottish Association for Marine Science where she was the Head of the Science Department (2016-2017). She became Professor in Ecosystem Modelling at the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI, UK) in 2017. She obtained her degrees from the University of Port Elizabeth (now Nelson Mandela University) in South Africa working on food-web models of South African estuaries and the Northern Benguela ecosystem, before moving to the USA (University of Maryland) to complete a Post-Doctoral study at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (1999-2000) on the changes in the Everglades. She then moved to the Fisheries Centre of the University of British Columbia where she was a research fellow (2000-2006) working on the Newfoundland fisheries and the decline of Steller sea lions before moving to Scotland in 2007.





Opening Session

Dr. Gilles Lericolais

Chair of the European Marine Board

Dr Lericolais is currently Scientific Officer for the French Prime Minister General Secretariat for the Sea. From 2011 to 2020, he was the European and International Director of Ifremer. He received his PhD (1997) and Professorship Habilitation (2009) in marine geology. He has been chief scientist of more than 10 scientific cruises. From 2007 to 2013, he was nominated Vice-Chair and then Chair of the Site Survey Panel for IODP and Chair (2016-2018) and Vice-Chair (2018-2020) of the ECORD Facility Board for IODP. He also was the Vice-Chair (2019-2020) of the French Committee for the IOC of the UNESCO. He is member of the Internal Advisory Committee of the JPI Oceans and since January 2019 a member of the Board of Trustees of POGO. In June 2019, he was elected Chair of the European Marine Board.



Charlina Vitcheva

Director General of DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE)

@vitcheva_eu

Prior to her appointment as Director General of DG MARE in June 2020, Ms Vitcheva became Deputy Director General of the JRC in September 2016. She was acting DG for the JRC from the 1st November 2019 to the 30th April 2020. Previous to this, she was Director of Smart and Sustainable Growth and Southern Europe at DG Regional and Urban Policy, and also held a Director's position on Inclusive Growth, Territorial and Urban Development and Northern Europe. Before joining the Commission, Ms Vitcheva spent 15 years in the Bulgarian public administration including at the Permanent Representation in Brussels, dealing mainly with agricultural and fisheries issues. During this period, she was actively involved in the accession negotiations of Bulgaria and between 2000 and 2004 she headed the negotiations teams in the area of agriculture and rural development, food safety and fisheries.





Session One - Engaging ECOPs in the Ocean we want

Jasmine Harrison

Adventure Athlete
[@rudderlymad](#)

Ms Harrison is an adventure athlete who loves travelling. From December 2020 to February 2021, she rowed across the Atlantic from La Gomera to Antigua, which makes her the youngest ever female to solo row any Ocean. Highlights of her journey were encountering the Ocean wildlife, the sky, and witnessing and attuning herself to the Ocean under all weather conditions, day and night. The Atlantic Ocean is an incredible space and she feels very lucky to have experienced it as she did. She is looking forward to more adventure challenges in the future.



Dr. Alessandro Cresci

EMB Young Ambassador (2020 - 2022)
[@AlessandroCre90](#)

Dr Cresci has a PhD in Ocean Sciences from the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (RSMAS) at the University of Miami, Florida, USA. His PhD project investigated the most mysterious aspects of the migratory behaviour of early-life stages of European eels and other species of fish. Specifically, his work focused on the role of the Earth's magnetic field and celestial cues in the orientation of fish. He grew up in the south of Italy, where he obtained his MSc in Marine Biology and his BSc in Biological Sciences from the Federico II University of Naples. Dr Cresci is currently working on a Post-Doctoral project at the Institute of Marine Research (IMR) in Norway, focusing on the effects of anthropogenic disturbances on migratory behaviour of fish, with a special focus on Offshore Wind Farms.





Dr. Natalija Dunić

EMB Young Ambassador (2020 – 2022)

Dr Dunić has an MSc in Physics from the University of Split, Croatia, and a PhD in Geophysics from the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Zagreb, Croatia. Her PhD research was conducted at the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries in Split (IOF), where she investigated the Adriatic Sea thermohaline circulation using several regional climate models. Currently, she is undertaking a Post-Doctoral programme at IOF granted by the Ministry of Science and Education in Croatia, in which her main research will be the impact of different climate change scenarios on the Adriatic Sea thermohaline properties, the latter conditioning the life of marine habitants, in particular of those who have low tolerance levels for temperature and salinity changes.



Dr. Rebecca Zitoun

EMB Young Ambassador (2021 - 2023)
[@RebeccaZitoun](#)

Dr Zitoun holds a BSc in Earth Sciences (University of Frankfurt), an MSc in Marine Environmental Science (Carl Ossietzky University Oldenburg), and a Postgrad Diploma and a PhD in Marine Science (University of Otago). Her PhD project investigated the principles and processes underlying copper speciation in marine ecosystems to advance current understanding of trace metal biogeochemistry, refine aquatic biogeochemical models, and improve environmental risk assessments for bioactive metals. From 2020 to 2021 Dr Zitoun worked as a Post-Doctoral Researcher at the Royal Netherlands Institute of Sea Research (NIOZ) focusing on the biogeochemistry of iron in the High Latitude North Atlantic. Since October 2021, she is part of the Marine Mineral Resource group of GEOMAR-Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel.





Anjali Gopakumar

EMB Young Ambassador (2021 – 2023)

@AnjGopakumar

Ms Gopakumar holds a BTech in Biotechnology from VIT University, India, and an MSc in the EU-funded Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Programme: International Master of Science in Marine Biological Resources (IMBRSea). Currently, she is working as a Cotutelle PhD student at the University of Bologna (Italy) and Macquarie University (Australia), investigating the ecosystem functions and services of restored salt marshes in urban seascapes. She will be focussing on the impacts of restoration on microbial communities and biogeochemical fluxes in salt marshes in the Venetian lagoon in Italy, and in the estuaries of New South Wales in Australia.



Session Two - EMB activities towards the Ocean We Want

Dr. Frank Thomsen

Senior Scientist and Director of Market Development for Sound and Marine Life at DHI, Denmark

Dr Thomsen has extensive experience in managing research and consultancy projects focusing on marine mammals and the effects of noise on aquatic life and has published widely in the scientific literature. He has been providing policy advice for regulators in Germany, the UK and Denmark and has advised international bodies such as the United Nations, the European Commission, OSPAR, the International Maritime Organization and the London Convention. His areas of expertise include marine mammal science, bioacoustics, environmental impact assessment and the effects of underwater noise on aquatic life. He was the Chair of the recent EMB working group on underwater noise.





Professor Dr. Heidrun Kopp

Scientist at GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, Germany

Professor Kopp is a marine geophysicist with extensive background in seismology and seafloor geodesy. Her research focus is on crustal investigations of active plate margins, rifts and ocean basins with a focus on marine geohazards. She has been principal investigator on twelve research cruises. Professor Kopp is particularly dedicated to training the next generation of scientists. She has taken on a number of leadership roles in geophysics. She was the first woman to be elected president of the German Geophysical Union in 2019 and heads the Dynamics of the Ocean Floor Department at GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel. She was the Chair of the recent EMB working group on marine geohazards.



Session Three - An inspiring and engaging Ocean Decade

Dr. María del Carmen García-Martínez

Scientist at Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO) & Chair of the European Marine Board Communications Panel (EMBCP)
@mclimatica

Dr García-Martínez is the head of the Climate Change Laboratory at the Oceanographic Centre of Malaga, and is responsible for the RADMED project, which is devoted to the routine observation and sampling of the Western Mediterranean. She has written or participated in numerous research papers, congresses contributions, books and has participated in 25 research cruises. She has always developed a sense of responsibility in making science knowledge available to the general public and since March 2021 is the Chair of the European Marine Board Communications Panel.





Romulus-Marian Paiu

Ecology expert at Mare Nostrum, Romania

Mr Paiu studied ecology and environmental protection and completed a Master's degree in management of environmental impacts. Currently he is doing a PhD in biology. He started to work as a field activities coordinator in 2010 in a project dedicated to biodiversity of the Danube Delta marine area, primarily dolphins, and for the last 11 years he has been an expert on this issue for Mare Nostrum NGO, Romania. He coordinated numerous projects and led scientific teams in research of marine mammals and marine litter, the CeNoBS project being the last huge success covering most of the Black Sea.



Peer Fietzek

Senior Business Development Manager Ocean Science at Kongsberg Maritime, Germany

Mr Fietzek works as Senior Business Development Manager Ocean Science at Kongsberg Maritime in Germany and he is a convinced advocate for science-industry collaboration. His current work focus is on innovative applications for quantitative acoustic sensors and for comprehensive digital Ocean data solutions. After graduating in physics in 2007, he has spent his entire career in the marine sector working for a research institute, a start-up, a SME and a global corporation. He worked as a sensor developer for chemical oceanographic parameters followed by several technical management positions. Mr Fietzek joined Kongsberg Maritime in 2015.





Dr. Elisabetta Balzi

Head of Unit Healthy Ocean and Seas at DG Research and Innovation (RTD)
@ElisabettaBalzi

Dr Balzi is Head of the Healthy Ocean and Seas Unit at the European Commission Research and Innovation Directorate General. She was previously Head of the Bioeconomy Unit at the European Commission Joint Research Centre. She co-ordinated the development and implementation of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy and Action Plan, and the establishment of the EC Knowledge Centre for the Bioeconomy. She was in charge of co-ordinating the EU Framework Programme design, implementation and international co-operation in food, agriculture, forestry, the marine and the bioeconomy, from FP6 to Horizon 2020. Previously, she was research associate at Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, where she led research on antimicrobial drug resistance. She holds a PhD in Sciences and a Master's in Applied Sciences and Biotechnologies from the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium), and a Master's in Biological Sciences from the University of Turin (Italy). She was also trained at University of Michigan (USA), Université de Paris-Sud Orsay (France) and the Deustches Krebsforschungszentrum in Heidelberg (Germany).



Session Four - Harmonizing Ocean Decade activities in Europe

Dr. Vladimir Ryabinin

Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO
and Assistant Director-General of UNESCO

Dr Ryabinin is an oceanographer, marine engineer, meteorologist, and climatologist. He created several mathematical models for the Ocean, atmosphere, wind waves, etc., and is the author of more than a hundred scientific publications. Since the 1980s, Dr Ryabinin has been involved in various capacities in the activities of the United Nations. The current work of IOC and therefore of Dr Ryabinin is focused on creating a solid scientific foundation for managing the Ocean sustainably, including through the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 2021-2030.





Andreea Strachinescu

Head of Unit Maritime Innovation, Marine Knowledge and Investment at DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE)

@stracma

As Head of Unit Maritime Innovation, Marine Knowledge and Investment at the European Commission Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Directorate General, Ms Strachinescu is responsible for promoting innovative and emerging technologies and solutions, and ensuring broad dissemination of marine knowledge and research. The Unit fosters innovation and provides policy input to Horizon Europe, to smart specialisation strategies and it aims to create a better understanding of the ocean resources and advocate their sustainable use. It is also in the lead for providing policy input to the investments strategies for the blue economy. Prior to this position, Ms Strachinescu was Head of Unit responsible for New Energy Technologies and Innovation in the Directorate General for Energy, in charge with the development of policy and actions on non-nuclear energy research and innovation.



Dr. Niall McDonough

Director of Policy, Innovation and Research Services with the Marine Institute in Galway, Ireland & Chair JPI Oceans

Having originally trained as a marine biologist, Dr McDonough has held research and management positions with the Environmental Change Institute at NUI, Galway and the Centre for Marine Resources and Mariculture at Queen's University Belfast. From 2009-2017 he served as Executive Director of the European Marine Board (EMB), based at the InnovOcean campus in Ostend, Belgium. In November 2020, he was elected Chair of the European Joint Programming Initiative on Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (JPI Oceans).





Gesine Meißner

Chair of the German National Committee for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

Ms Meißner is a Member of the EU Mission Board Healthy Oceans, Seas Coastal and Inland Waters/ Mission Starfish 2030 since July 2019. In November 2020, she was elected as Chair of the National Committee for the UN Decade Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Since January 2020, she is Champion for Antarctica 2020. From 2009 until 2019 she was a Member of the European Parliament in the group Alliance of Liberals and Democrats (ALDE) and rapporteur of the Integrated Maritime policy, Marine Spatial Planning Directive and Port Reception Facilities Directive. In 2015 she founded the European Parliament Intergroup Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas (SEARICA) which she chaired as elected president. In July 2018 she was appointed as Special Envoy of the President of the European Parliament on maritime policy.



Professor Dr. Colin Stedmon

Professor in Chemical Oceanography Technical University of Denmark & Ocean Decade Arctic Action Plan

Professor Stedmon obtained his PhD from the University of Copenhagen in 2004. His current research is focused on Arctic marine biogeochemistry. Since 2015 he has led the Danish Centre for Marine Science (DCMR), a national virtual centre that encourages collaboration in marine science, allocates funds for ship charter, and facilitates collaboration with the Danish Royal Navy in the North Atlantic and Arctic. DCMR was also the lead on the development and writing of the Arctic Action Plan for the UN Decade for Ocean Science and Sustainable Development.





Annemie Rose Janssen

Science Officer at the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences & Coordinator of the Southern Ocean Task Force
[@AR_Janssen](#)

Ms Janssen is a marine ecologist with a Master's Degree from the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium. She currently works at the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences (RBINS) as a Science Officer for the UN Ocean Decade where she coordinates the Southern Ocean Task Force. Owing to her international experience both in research and international environmental policy, she has had the opportunity to gain a hands-on view of marine conservation and has acquired a holistic outlook on current environmental issues across different parts of the world.



Closing Session

Jean-Eric Paquet

Director General, DG Research and Innovation (RTD)
[@JEPaquetEU](#)

Mr Paquet became Director-General of DG Research and Innovation on 1st April 2018; his involvement in EU research policy dates back from 2002, as Deputy Head of Cabinet of Philippe Busquin, then Commissioner in charge of Research and Development. He also worked in DG Transport, where he led the development of the Trans-European Transport Network Policy. He was also EU Ambassador in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania from 2004 to 2007. Between 2015 and 2018, he was the Deputy Secretary-General of the European Commission in charge of Better Regulation and Policy Coordination. In all his endeavours, he puts co-creation and systemic change at the heart of the decision-making process, and strongly believes that citizens should be more involved in shaping public policy agendas.





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