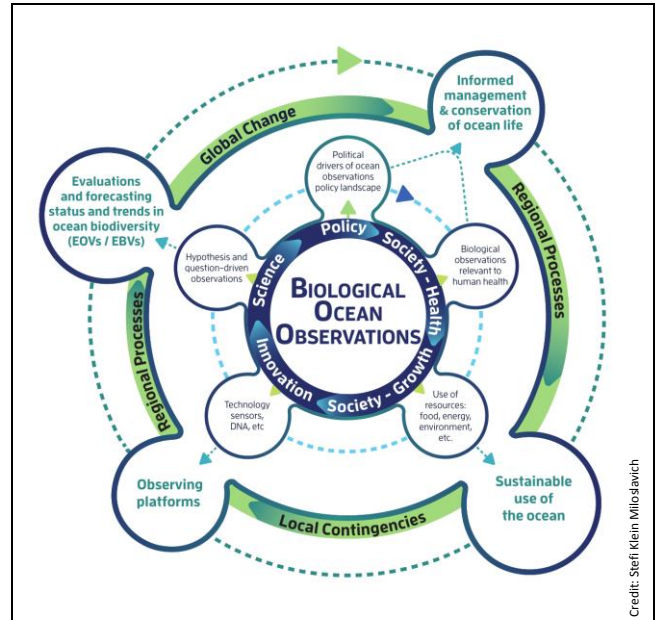


## Europe’s biological ocean observation capability needs to be strengthened

Europe lacks a multi-purpose integrated biological ocean observing system. To support the long-term integration of biological ocean observations, we recommend building an integrated biological ocean observation system, while supporting current capacity.

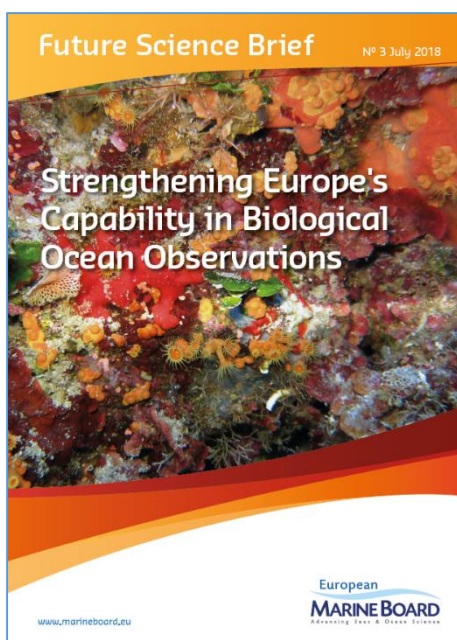
Physical and biogeochemical measurements in the ocean are substantially more harmonized in terms of collection, storage and dissemination than biological observations. Enhancing and supporting the European biological ocean observing capacity will:

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



The relevance, nature and context of biological ocean observations.

Europe needs a strategic vision on biological ocean observations to increase the relevant biological ocean observation capacity, and bring together key stakeholders, to provide the long-term support for an integrated ocean observing system that contributes to the European Ocean Observing System (EOOS) and harmonized with the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS).



Support is needed for current biological ocean observation capacity, especially in taxonomic expertise and in the use of new emerging technologies, data science and management. Supporting technological innovation will develop smart technologies for cost-effective automated monitoring of biological variables; and supporting Citizen Science will 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 [www.marineboard.eu/publications](http://www.marineboard.eu/publications)

EMB/July 2018