We are pleased to invite you to a webinar on the Tropical Americas A Predicted Ocean Theory of Change (ToC) Webinar: *Changing the vibe to predict smooth sailing in the Tropical Americas: A Theory of Change approach.*

For broader shared wisdom and interventions we expanded the from Western Tropical Atlantic (WTA) Region to the Tropical Americas Region (TAR).

The webinar is open to all stakeholders and interested parties. Participants will be local, national, regional, and Metocean data specialists, Metocean scientists, transdisciplinary, researchers, producers of Metocean data, Marine Services products, policymakers, UN partners (e.g IMO, WMO, IHO, UNWTO), business and industry, government representatives, NGOs and other key stakeholders from the regions involved in national and regional ocean prediction and marine forecast services, ocean governance (regional sea convention representatives).

More specifically, members of the WTA – Predicted Ocean working group 3 (WTA-RPG-WG3); ocean and marine services data professionals; marine /shipping industry; the science community; Other UN Ocean Decade Endorsed Programmes (e.g. Ocean Predict – Ocean Best Practices).

Main purpose

The virtual session will contribute to the transformative actions and solutions that will be proposed for a Predictive Ocean ToC Workshop: *Changing the vibe to predict smooth sailing in the Tropical Americas: A Theory of Change approach.* Zoom will be the main platform for the webinar, and Miro will be used as support. Results of the discussions will be the basis for the webinar*, which* will be held on 23 September 09h00 Cartagena de Indias - Colombia (10h00 AST, 14h00 UTC).

Duration: 2.5 hours

English, French, and Spanish - Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Rationale

The UN Ocean Decade is to harness and stimulate innovative ocean research, from co-design to co-delivery, to achieve a predictive ocean, as well as to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This virtual session of the UN Decade Ocean WTA series will result in a short regional discussion paper that will include recommendations on the enhancement of ocean prediction techniques. To contribute to this effort the topic chosen for this discussion is *Changing the vibe to predict smooth sailing in the Tropical Americas: A Theory of Change approach.*

These short regional discussions papers (in English and Spanish) will be prepared in close collaboration with the co-conveners of the regional session and contribute to the WTA Action Plan.

As seen by previous UN Decade WTA workshops and workshops related to the blue economy a key aspect in these workshops is observing essentials climate and ocean variables and modeling future conditions. Furthermore, during the WTA Regional workshop in April 2020, an action and several challenges were proposed for *A Predicted Ocean* in the WTA[1].

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[1] • Action
A predicted ocean whereby society has the capacity to understand current and future ocean conditions, forecast their change and impact on human wellbeing and livelihoods.
• Challenges
To Produce, Integrate and Communicate knowledge and high-quality ocean and coastal data, information, and services that meet the safety, economic, and stewardship needs of the region sustain long-term high-quality observations of marine and coastal environments including human interactions and deliver forecast and decision-support tools that help fulfil the multiple sustainable development goals.

In WG3 we will dwell more into these items. The goal is *A predicted ocean where society in the TAR understands and can react to changing ocean conditions by 2030.* To reach this goal we will need to change the current vibe we are in.

So how can we create the change, that will result in investment in resources, which can alleviate current ocean observations and modeling shortcomings and can enable sustained and systematic ocean observations needed to document ocean change, and initialize ocean system models?

To do this we will use the ToC process. ToC is a critical thinking approach to program design, monitoring, and evaluation that has become increasingly influential in international development. A ToC is a great tool for wicked problems and also involves different stakeholders. We should think about the ToC as a strategy that offers us a picture of important destinations our ship will travel to and guides us on what to look for on the journey to ensure we are on the right pathway. As Alice observed in Wonderland, "If you don't know where you are going, any road will take you there." In other words, without a ToC, we are vulnerable to sailing aimlessly in the open ocean and never reach our end destination.

To develop the ToC for the Predicted Ocean, we need to follow different steps. The populating of our problem tree is the first step that needs to be done. Then we will continue with the other steps, and during the webinar, on September 23, 2021, we will do a final revision and have different exciting lighting talks to pick your brain till the end to come with last-moment ideas to be incorporated into the ToC. As part of the ToC process, we will be using the Miro platform many times, to create the proper change while involving as many stakeholders as possible.

For the first Miro template (Figure 1) we will work on a customized problem tree. Afterward, the tree will be flip upside-down to continue the ToC process.

The tree has a core problem, with three main root causes branching out, and from the main root causes more causes spread out.

The link to the Miro template is (https://miro.com/app/board/o9J_l4JnXlM=/).
You will be able to add sticky notes or comments to the tree as a guest. You
don't need a Miro account, although creating an account is free. The Miro
template will open on most browsers, but we would recommend downloading
the Miro app (https://miro.com/apps/). *Adding sticky notes is as easy as
clicking 'n' on your keyboard, and adding comments is as easy as clicking 'c'
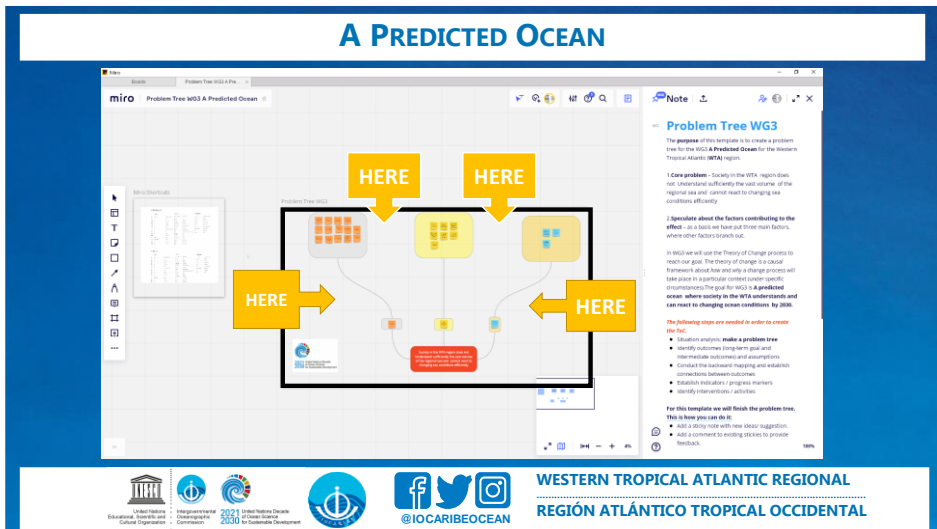on your keyboard.*

Figure 1. Miro Template Problem Tree.

So if you just want to learn more on ToC or are interested in aiding the work of
the Western Tropical Atlantic - Ocean Predict, working group, in Changing the
vibe to predict smooth sailing in the TAR, please join us on September 23 and
beforehand add as many sticky notes or comments you deemed necessary to the
Miro template that will be rolling out for each step.