

**Item 12**

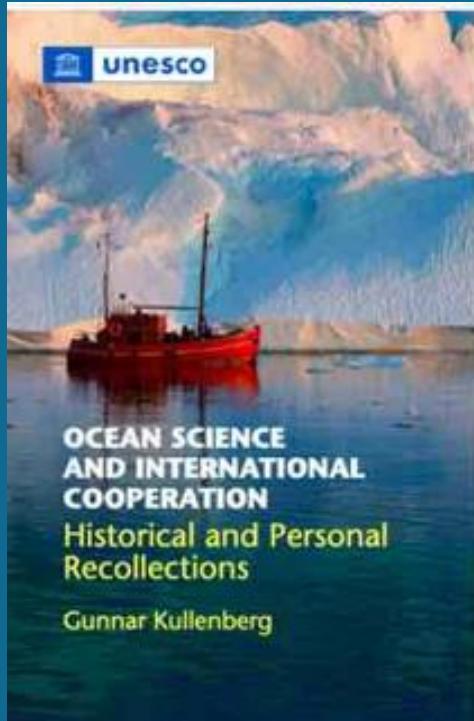
**IOC Officers 2024, Item 12  
IOC and Future of the Ocean  
VR, 24 January 2024**

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This document calls for a broad consultation on how to continue maximizing the societal benefit of IOC work and on the future IOC evolution towards producing and effectively using the science we need for the ocean we want.

The proposal is in line with the culture of the IOC's rigorous self-assessment, strategic planning and the work on resources. The most recent phase of that effort was the 2021 UNESCO Internal Oversight Service [Evaluation](#) of the IOC Strategic Positioning. The Draft Action Plan to address the 6 recommendations in the Evaluation will be reviewed under the Assembly Agenda items 6.3 and 6.4. Having discussed the Evaluation and the Plan, the IOC Executive Council adopted at its 55th session (UNESCO HQ, Paris, 14–17 June 2022) the Decision IOC/EC-55/3.2 and Resolution IOC/EC-55/2 requesting the Executive Secretary to produce an estimate of the budget, including human resources requirements for sustained delivery of the IOC's current core programmes and coordination of the Ocean Decade. It was subsequently sent to IOC Member States on 22 October 2022 through Circular Letter [2912](#) and is also annexed to this document.

The estimate triggered a positive response from UNESCO Member States and the UNESCO Executive Board at its 216<sup>th</sup> Session adopted in May 2023 a decision to significantly increase the IOC Regular Programme budget. Nevertheless, the co-design of the IOC's future needs to continue. The Assembly will be invited to consider launching of a new consultation to that effect.



Restricted Distribution

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION**  
(of UNESCO)



**Twenty-Third Session of the Assembly**  
Paris, 21–30 June 2005

**FINANCING AND OWNERSHIP OF IOC'S PROGRAMMES**

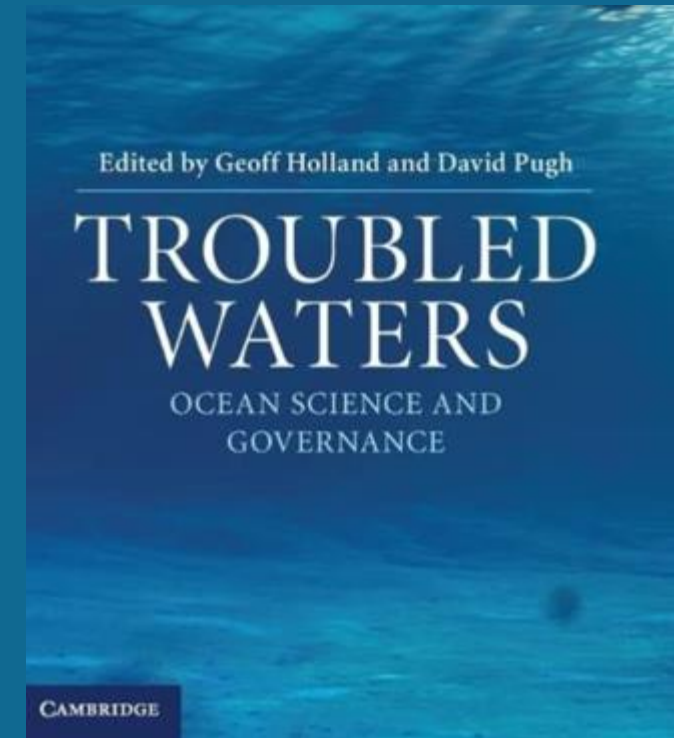
**“WE HAVE A PROBLEM”**

**Future of the Ocean  
and the role of IOC in it**



**The Future of IOC toward next 10  
years and its implication for  
Member States**

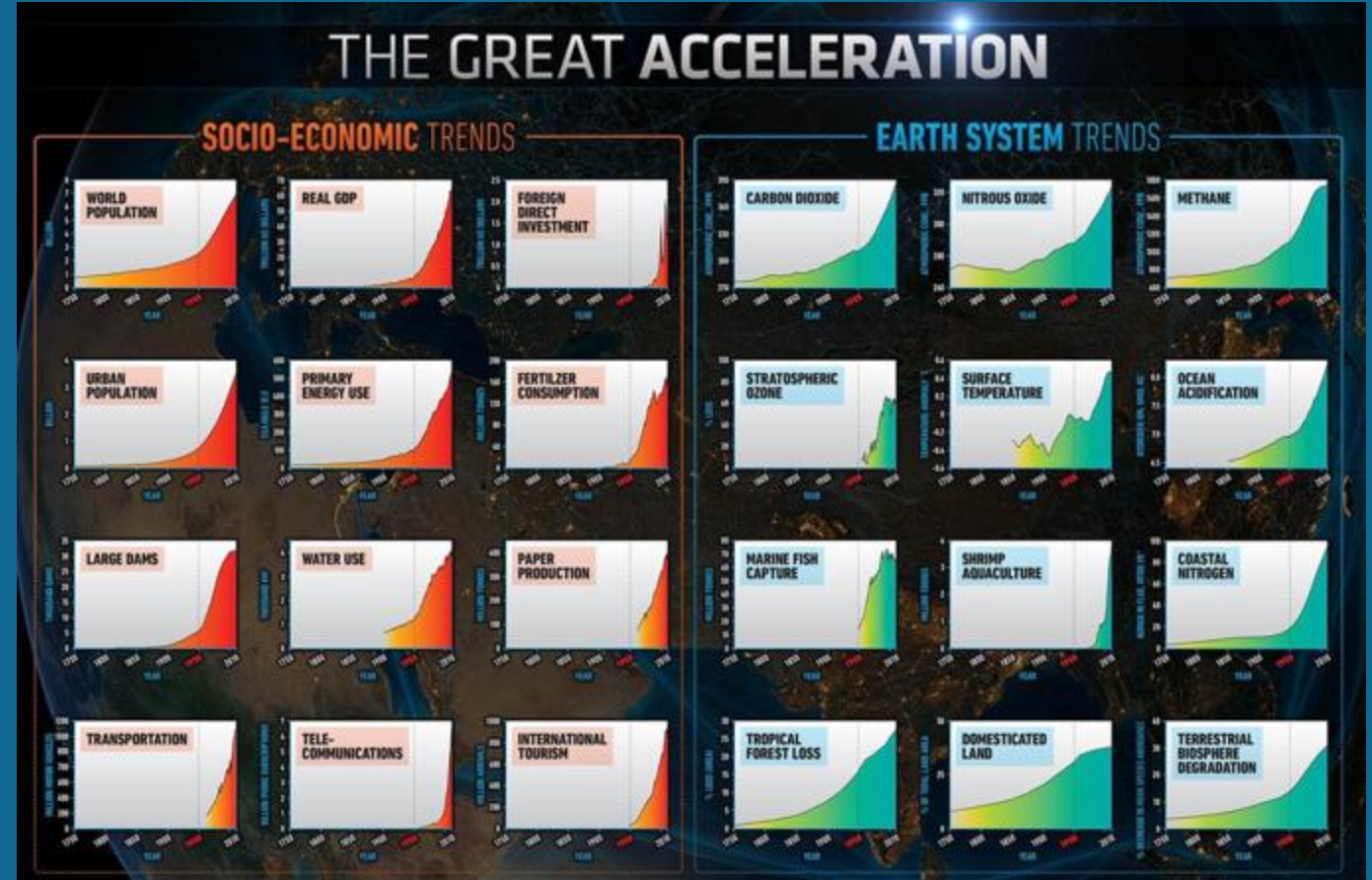
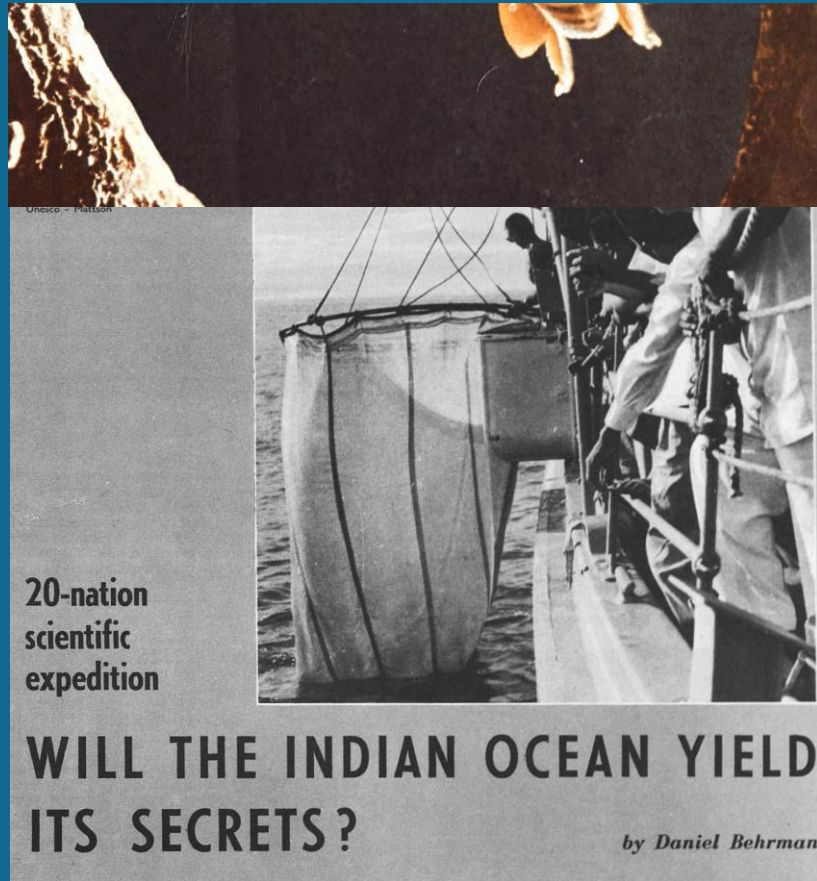
Varna, Bulgaria  
19<sup>th</sup> March 2012



1960s

# IOC Evolving Agenda

Now



Intergovernmental UN platform for dialogue and cooperation in ocean science



Intergovernmental UN Platform to enable ocean science for addressing **existential** issues

# Relevant UN Frameworks set objectives



Kunming-Montreal GBF

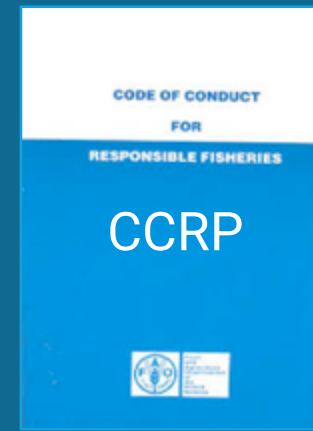
Ocean-Climate Dialogue



Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

2015 - 2030

+ ILBI on Plastic Pollution 2024



# How the System is organized



## Convention 1

Goals

Secretariat

National PoC

Commitments

Assessment 1

## Convention 2

Goals

Secretariat

National PoC

Commitments

Assessment 2

## Convention 3

Goals

Secretariat

National PoC

Commitments

Assessment 3

Ocean is most often “2<sup>nd</sup> priority” in many conventions

## Protocol A

Goals

Secretariat

National PoC

Commitments

Assessment A

## Protocol B

Goals

Secretariat

National PoC

Commitments

Assessment B

...

...

...

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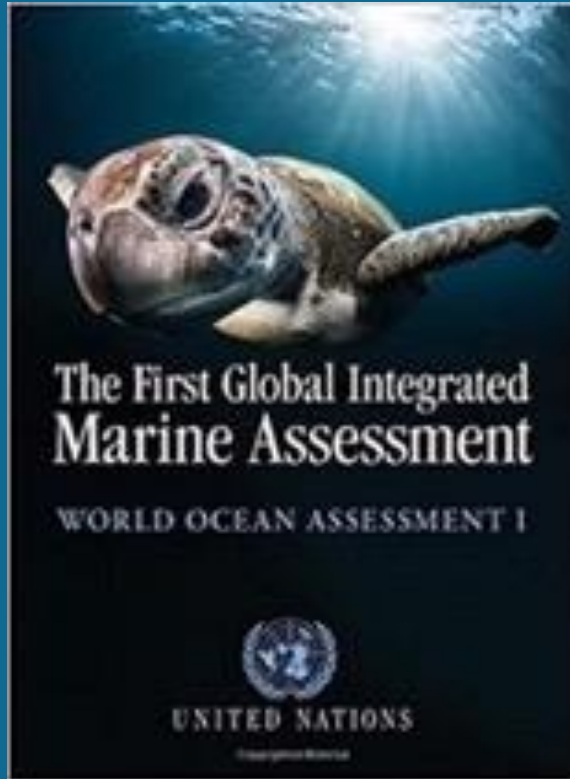
...

...

Patient, sick with multiple diseases, is treated by several specialized doctors who do not speak to each other

2016

# SDG14 of the 2030 Agenda



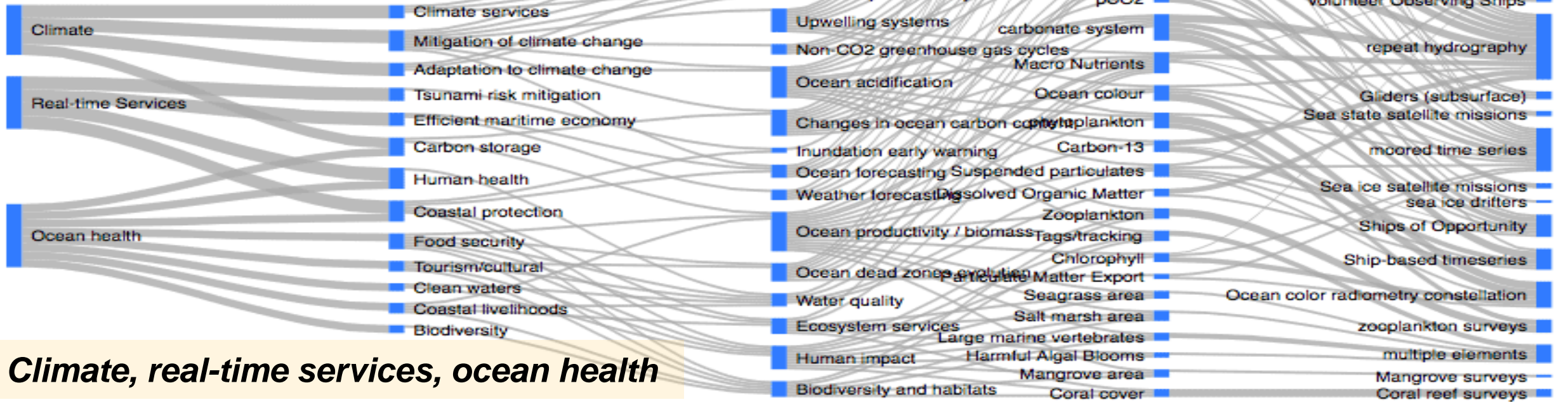
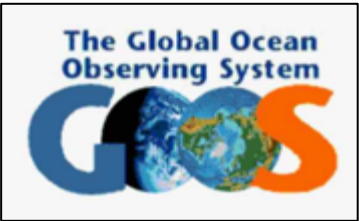
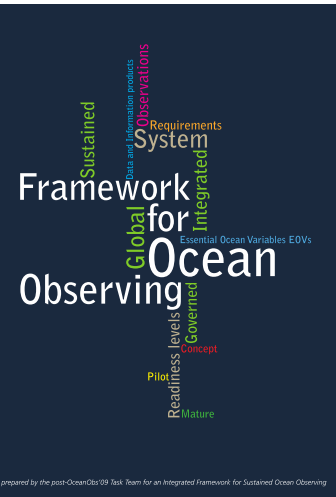
**Humankind is running out of time to start managing the ocean sustainably**





REQUIREMENTS

Theme      Societal Benefit      Scientific Issue, process      EOV      Network



**Climate, real-time services, ocean health**

Is there an approach to create enabling environment for ocean knowledge products generation that would facilitate their efficient use?  
Yes!

***“Sustainable Ocean Planning”***



**climate-smart, ecosystem-focussed, ethical & equitable ocean management on the basis of science-supported planning for a sustainable blue economy**

**But: much still needs to be constructed!**

# Key Ocean Management Domains



Coastal zone management and adaptation



*Marine Spatial Planning,*  
sustainable  
ocean economy



BBNJ, MPAs,  
reserves, LMEs,  
heritage sites,  
UCH



Management of fisheries and aquaculture



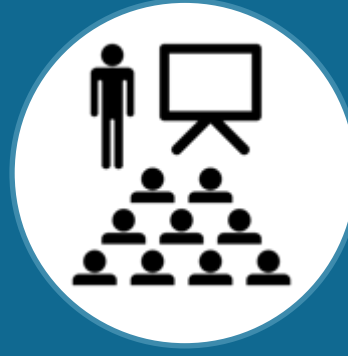
Adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, NDCs



Development of national R&D strategies & ocean policies



Real-time oceanographic, weather/climate services



Regional and national capacity development



Early warning Systems,  
Sendai

# IOS Evaluation of IOC strategic positioning

**Sustainable delivery and expansion of IOC activities:  
estimate of required budget, including human resource needs**

*(Document distributed by IOC Circular Letter No. 2912)*



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**Conclusions:**

**workforce: 60 -> 90,  
budget: 30M\$ -> 50M\$**

**Expect soon:**

**Increase in regular  
programme budget**

# What is missing in the pot? Or, what has not been developed enough?

*(list is not inclusive and not in any order)*

- **Use of climate predictions and projections for ocean management**
- Framework to adapt to sea-level rise
- **Research on ocean chemical pollution -> multiple stressors**
- Return on investments in ocean research/observations -> *ocean economics*
- **Valuation of ecosystems and benefits of ocean life-supporting services**
- Ocean reanalysis
- **ODIS: enabling environment for knowledge products!**
- Mainstreaming reanalysis with use of remote sensed data
- **Biogeochemistry - ecological observations and models**
- Ocean science – policy interface
- ...

The Assembly,

Having examined document IOC/A-32/5.Doc(1),

Noting the key role of ocean science, data, observations, services, and related policy interface in addressing the global challenges of our time,

Taking into account the IOS Evaluation of the strategic positioning of the IOC and the corresponding Action Plan as a significant step forward and a framework for reporting on progress to the UNESCO Executive Board and the IOC Governing Bodies,

Agrees to initiate a consultation on how IOC could on the basis of its purpose as defined in its Statutes optimally facilitate activities of Member States and other stakeholders in science-based sustainable ocean planning, ocean science support to implementation of UN environmental conventions and frameworks, and development of a sustainable ocean economy;

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to prepare and initiate the consultation involving Member States via Circular Letter and appropriate stakeholders and present a progress update to the IOC Executive Council in 2024.

## **S T A T U T E S**

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## **S T A T U T S**

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## **E S T A T U T O S**

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## **Y C T A B**

### **Article 1 - The Commission**

1. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, hereafter called the Commission, is established as a body with functional autonomy within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
2. The Commission defines and implements its programme according to its stated purposes and functions and within the framework of the budget adopted by its Assembly and the General Conference of UNESCO.

### **Article 2 - Purpose**

1. The purpose of the Commission is to promote international cooperation and to coordinate programmes in research, services and capacity-building, in order to learn more about the nature and resources of the ocean and coastal areas and to apply that knowledge for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making processes of its Member States.