

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION**  
(of UNESCO)

**INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

**COMPENDIUM OF IOC MEMBER STATE INPUTS TO IOC CIRCULAR LETTER 2968  
(IOC-WIDE STRATEGY ON SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT)**

Summary. Through IOC Assembly decision A-32/4.7 of 2023, Member States requested the Executive Secretary to collect further inputs on document [IOC/A-32/4.7.Doc\(1\)](#): 'Proposal for IOC Wide-Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management from Member States, IOC programmes and technical bodies'. Inputs were solicited through IOC Circular Letter [2968](#) of 24 November 2023. This document presents a compilation of inputs received by 17 May 2024.

This information should be supplemented by reading the brief produced by the Sustainable Development Reform Hub: '*Survey and interviews to inform initiatives on sustainable ocean planning and management: Ocean Decade results*'.

Algeria

Germany

Italy

Peru

Russian Federation

Spain

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

USA

# ALGERIA

# Survey to inform initiatives on sustainable ocean planning and management

## Start of Block: Default Question Block

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO's (IOC-UNESCO) survey on sustainable ocean planning and management. We value your input, and your responses will play a crucial role in shaping future initiatives to promote the health and sustainability of our ocean.

The aim of this Survey is to better understand the existing landscape in terms of sustainable ocean planning and management and identify needs of stakeholders in terms of technical and scientific support. We are interested in views from all working along the whole value chain from research, observation, data, services and relevant information products to inform policy/management actions, and capacity development.

Your insights and perspectives are paramount as IOC-UNESCO seek to develop two initiatives:

- an Ocean Decade Programme on Sustainable Ocean Planning, and
- an IOC-UNESCO-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management to be considered by the IOC-UNESCO Member States in 2024.

Your responses will help us better understand the user needs, technical requirements, challenges and opportunities involved in sustainable ocean planning and management, then guiding us in formulating evidence-based solutions. Please note that some questions may be relevant for you to answer as an individual stakeholder, while others may be more appropriate for you to answer as a representative of your institution or organisation. Therefore, please indicate your capacity for each question before answering it.

IOC-UNESCO want to assure you that the information you provide will be valuable for the success of these initiatives. As such, IOC-UNESCO will collect participant data to understand better the perspectives of various stakeholders involved in sustainable ocean planning and management. Rest assured that the data collected will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and used solely for research and decision-making purposes related to these initiatives.

IOC-UNESCO understand that your time is precious, and we have designed this survey to be as flexible as possible. Most questions are optional, and you can submit your responses anytime without completing the entire survey. Your feedback will be highly valuable, regardless

Additionally, for your convenience, we have attached a link to a PDF copy of the survey. If you would like to have a quick look at the overall questions in the survey before completing it, you can access the PDF here: [Insert PDF Survey Link].

Importantly, please be aware that when you click the "Next" button, your responses are automatically saved. If you need to continue at another time, simply reopen the survey in the same browser, and you can pick up right where you left off.

Once again, we sincerely appreciate your active involvement in this endeavour. Together, we can work towards safeguarding the ocean for future generations.

End of Block: Default Question Block

Start of Block: Block 1

There are four sections to this survey. First some basic information will be asked about yourself and your organisation, second your thoughts on the Decade Programme will be requested, the third section focuses on the IOC-wide strategy and finally, more detailed information regarding your organisational needs will be requested.

End of Block: Block 1

Start of Block: Block 3

### **Section 1: Basic information**

This section asks basic information about you and your organisation. To allow IOC-UNESCO to contextualise your answers later in this survey, we also ask briefly about the sustainable ocean planning and management journey that your country and/or organisation is on.

Page Break

Q1 We may need to follow up with individual discussions to understand responses in more detail. Would you be willing to be contacted by those developing the Ocean Decade programme and the IOC-UNESCO wide strategy?

Yes

No



Q2 Title

▼ Mr ... Mx

Q3 Family Name

LOURGUIOUI

Q4 First name

Hichem

Q5 Email address

Hichem.Lourguioui@gmail.com

Q6 Job title

Assistant professor

Q7 Organisation name

Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Sciences de la Mer et de l'Aménagement du Littoral (ENSSMAL)

Q8 Select the area that best describes your organisation's

- operations  Local government
- National government
- International/Regional organisation
- Research
- Technical and scientific advice/consultancy
- Non-government organisation or civil society organisation
- Education
- Industry or private sector
- Other (please specify)

Q9 Please select the options that best represent your personal area of expertise. Select all that apply.

- Conservation and Biodiversity

- Data and technology
  - Education, Capacity Development and Ocean Literacy
  - Energy
  - Fisheries and Aquaculture
  - Industry and Business
  - Maritime Transport
  - Natural Science
  - Ocean Planning and Management
  - Social Science
  - Tourism
  - Other (please specify)
- 



Q10 In which country are you based?

▼ Afghanistan ... Zimbabwe ALGERIA



Q11 Which region(s) do you operate in? Select all that apply

- North Africa
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Central Asia
- Eastern Asia
- Southern Asia
- Western Asia
- South-eastern Asia
- Eastern Europe
- Southern Europe
- Northern Europe
- Western Europe
- Caribbean
- Central America
- South America
- North America

Australia and New Zealand

Melanesia

Micronesia

Polynesia

Arctic

Antarctica

Page Break

We will now ask four basic questions about sustainable ocean planning and management in the country in which you work and within your organisation. More in depth questions are included later in this survey.

End of Block: Block 3

Start of Block: Block 4

Q12 What approach or framework is used by your organisation for sustainable ocean planning and management? Select all that apply.

- Blue Economy Strategy/policy/plan
  - Ecosystem-based management (EBM)
  - Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)
  - Large Marine Ecosystem (LME)
  - Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
  - Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)
  - Other effective area-based conservation measures' (OECMs)
  - Sustainable Ocean Planning (SOP)
  - Don't know
  - Other (please specify)
-

Q13 Are there appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks available to support the implementation of sustainable ocean planning and management in your country?

- Yes
- Partially
- No
- Don't know

Q14 In your opinion, how far along the journey of sustainable ocean planning and management is the country or region where you operate?

- Completed planning and implemented management measures.
- Completed planning but yet implementing management measures.
- In progress with planning and management measures but yet to introduce these.
- In the early stages, scoping and understanding possibilities.
- We have done some activities that could be classed as sustainable ocean planning and management but not yet brought these under one umbrella.
- Yet to start activities for planning and management.
- I don't know
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Q15 What is the most needed to improve sustainable ocean planning and management from

your experience? Select all that apply.

- Tailored policy frameworks and regulations
- Collaboration and coordination with relevant stakeholders
- Institutional support and capacity development
- Data collection and management systems
- Access to ocean data and information
- Tools and technologies for data analysis and decision-making support
- Awareness campaigns and training programs
- Communication and engagement strategies
- Collaboration with relevant institutions and organisations
- Funding opportunities and financial support
- Partnerships with industry and government for funding and resources
- Sustainable financing mechanisms

End of Block: Block 4

Start of Block: Block 5

## **Section 2: Ocean Decade Programme on Sustainable Ocean Planning** The Ocean

Decade Programme on Sustainable Ocean Planning (SOP) is envisaged as a

global scientific and technical facility for SOP practitioners. When answering the following

questions please think about the Ocean Decade and potential components to be included in the programme for sustainable ocean planning.

*Definitions:*

- *A Decade Programme is a large-scale and long-term initiative that works as a programmatic and coordinated framework for focused projects.*
- *As per the definition of the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, SOP “provides a unifying ‘umbrella’ for ocean-related governance. It can include a range of mechanisms such as regulatory reform, strategic investments in emerging sectors, marine spatial planning, integrated coastal and watershed management, and the establishment and implementation of marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures”*

End of Block: Block 5

Start of Block: Block 6

addressed by a future Ocean Decade Programme on Sustainable Ocean Planning. These are listed below. Please rank these in order of importance for inclusion in the programme.

Moderately

Important Important Highly Important

Accelerate the development

Not important Somewhat Important

and implementation of Sustainable Ocean Plans.

Consolidate the work of international partners and actors in supporting nations around the world on sustainable ocean planning.

Identify scientific needs for sustainable ocean planning.

Transform science to action for sustainable development and ocean planning.

Create a common global scientific and technical framework for sustainable ocean planning.

Develop user

knowledge,      driven

skills and human and institutional capacities to deliver sustainable ocean planning.

global network for ocean planning stakeholders.

Create a

Co-design contextualized approaches to geographic,

social, and cultural contexts.

Q17 Are there other objectives and components you would like to see as part of the Ocean Decade Programme on Sustainable Ocean Planning?

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18 The Ocean Decade has ten challenge areas, which challenge areas do you think are priorities for the Ocean Decade Programme on Sustainable Ocean Planning to contribute to? Select three options maximum.

- Changing humanity's relationship with the ocean
- Creating a digital representation of the Ocean
- Develop a sustainable and equitable ocean economy



- Expand the Global Ocean Observing System
- Increase community resilience to ocean hazards
- Protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity
- Skills, knowledge and technology for all
- Sustainably feed the global population
- Understand and beat marine pollution
- Unlock ocean-based solutions to climate change

Q19 Are you interested in collaborating or contributing your expertise to any of the identified challenge areas in question 18 above?

- Yes
- Maybe
- No
- Don't know



Q20 Which challenge areas would you be more interested to collaborate? Please select up to three areas from the following list. Select three options maximum.

- Changing humanity's relationship with the ocean
- Creating a digital representation of the Ocean
- Develop a sustainable and equitable ocean economy
- Expand the Global Ocean Observing System

- Increase community resilience to ocean hazards
- Protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity
- Skills, knowledge and technology for all
- Sustainably feed the global population
- Understand and beat marine pollution
- Unlock ocean-based solutions to climate change

Q21 Any further suggestions or comments that you would like to make in regard to the Ocean Decade Programme on sustainable ocean planning?

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End of Block: Block 6

Start of Block: Block 7

### **Section 3: IOC-wide strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management**

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Alongside the Ocean Decade Programme the IOC is considering the development of an institutional strategy to guide its work on sustainable ocean planning and management, considering how elements of the IOC value chain can contribute. This new strategy would incorporate and advance IOC's work in various approaches and scales, such as Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM), Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), Sustainable Ocean Planning (SOP), and Large Marine Ecosystems (LME). This section asks questions specific to this strategy and its development.

Page Break

Q22 Please indicate the extent to which your organization is familiar with and has utilized the following IOC functions.

Very Familiar/Extensive Utilisation	Ocean Not Familiar/Not Utilized	Somewhat Familiar/Limited Utilization	Moderately Familiar/Moderate Utilisation	Familiar/Comprehensive Utilisation
			research	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Observing				
management system / data	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>			
Early services	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	warning and		
Assessment				
and Information			for policy	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Sustainable				
management and		governance	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
Capacity Development	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>			

Q23 Which specific IOC-UNESCO initiatives and expertise (i.e., programmes, projects, products and services) have you been engaged or used in the context of sustainable ocean planning and management? In case you are not directly involved in Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (SOPM), please indicate your perception of what IOC-UNESCO initiatives may be most relevant to SOPM implementation. Select all that apply.

- Ocean Deoxygenation
- Microplastics
- Blue Carbon
- Ocean Acidification
- Ocean Carbon Research
- Phytoplankton
- Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas
- Ocean Interventions for Climate Change Mitigation
- The Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)
- Data and Information - The International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE)
- Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS)
- The General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) /Seabed 2030
- Joint Centre for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology in situ Observations Programmes Support (OceanOPS)

- The Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS)
- Harmful Algal Bloom Programme and related work on nutrients/coastal eutrophication
- Global Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation Programme
- Tsunami Ready Programme
- Global Ocean Science Report
- Assessment of SDG 14 targets
- State of the Ocean Report
- Contribution to the World Ocean Assessment
- GESAMP assessments
- Marine Spatial Planning programme
- GEF International Water: LEARN products
- Other Marine Policy guidance and tools
- OceanTeacher Global Academy and other IOC Capacity development services/facilities (eg Regional Training and Research Centers, Ocean CD-Hub, etc)
- Ocean Literacy programme
- UNESCO Category 2 Centres d. Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) network

Q24 During an initial review and discussions, a number of potential areas for the strategy to address were identified. These are listed below. Please rank these in order of importance for inclusion in the strategy for sustainable ocean planning and management.

Moderately

Strengthening

Important Important Highly Important

Not Important Somewhat Important

frameworks      policy

Enhanced

and sharing      data collection

Capacity

and training      development

Integration of climate change adaptation, mitigation and coastal resilience aspects

Collaboration with indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs)

Technology

digital tools      innovation and

Cross-sector collaboration

Increased

support      financial

Transboundary collaboration

Any other

specify)      area? (please

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Q25 What additional areas do you think could be included in the IOC-wide strategy?

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Q26 Any further suggestions or comments you would like to make in regard to the development of the IOC-UNESCO wide strategy on sustainable ocean planning and management?

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End of Block: Block 7

Start of Block: Block 8

#### **Section 4: Status quo and needs assessment for Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management**

This section focuses on evaluating the capacity and resources available for effective sustainable ocean planning and management. It explores the tools, skills, and technical requirements necessary for informed decision-making and implementation, while also assessing the financial and institutional support required to drive successful initiatives.

Page Break



*Section 4.1: Capacity and resources*

In this section, we are interested in understanding the capacity to aid in decision making for sustainable ocean planning and management.

Page Break

Q27 Do you have access to knowledgeable personnel with expertise in any of the following areas?

Access to Full Access to

Highly Knowledgeable Staff and Experts in the Relevant	Areas	Access	Access to Some Knowledgeable Staff Access to A	Significant Number of Knowledgeable Staff Some Highly	Knowledgeable Staff and Experts in Relevant Areas
and tools	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marine sciences.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
sciences.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ocean management.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marine regulations.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marine legal frameworks.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
and governance					
ocean issues.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Any other					
specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
area? (please					

Q28 Is there dedicated funding available to your organisation for sustainable ocean planning and management initiatives?

- No funding is available
  - Limited amount of funding is available
  - Some, but insufficient, funding is available
  - Sufficient funding is available to at least meet priority needs
  - A good amount of funding available to work on priority needs
  - A good amount of funding is available to work on priority needs and long term needs.
  - Other (please specify)
- 

Q29 Is the funding one-off or regular and recurring funding?

- One-off, project funding
- Regular, recurring funding.
- Other (please specify) No funding is available

Q30 Are there sufficient financial and human resources available to enable your government to effectively engage with international conventions and agreements related to sustainable ocean planning and management?

- Yes
- Partially
- No
- Don't know

Q31 If there are gaps in resources that hinder full engagement with international conventions and agreements, please provide more details about these specific challenges and limitations.

I don't know

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Q32 What other resources are available to enable you and your organisation to undertake sustainable ocean planning and management?

Availability of experts and scientists in ocean planning and management

Page Break

We are interested in understanding the current journey of sustainable ocean planning and management within your country and the tools you have to support your decision making.

End of Block: Block 8

Start of Block: Block 10

Section 4.2: Supporting analysis and decision making

*We are interested in understanding the current journey of sustainable ocean planning and management within your organisation and the tools you have to support your decision making.*



ocean planning and management? Please select up to three most important areas from the list below.

- Analysis and interpretation of data, research findings, and relevant information
  - Active engagement with stakeholders for inclusive decision-making  Existing policies, legal frameworks, and governance structures  Balancing environmental, social, and economic considerations  Experiences and lessons learned from previous initiatives
  - Ecosystem-based management principles
  - Availability of funding and resources, ensuring effective implementation and long term success
  - Other (please specify)
- 

Q34 In your opinion, what specific research or knowledge gaps need to be addressed to improve decision-making and implementation in sustainable ocean planning and management?

Marine Protected Area, Marine Renewable Energy

Q35 Which of the following are available to you for considering and integrating spatial considerations into decision making? Select all that apply. Select all that apply

- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
  - Mapping tools
  - Modelling and forecasting/prediction tools
  - Specific tools for environmental assessments
  - Specific tools for social assessments
  - Specific tools for economic assessments
  - Specific tools for sectoral assessments
  - I don't know
  - Other (please specify)
-

country/institution?

- Very Poor
- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Very Good
- Excellent

Q37 What challenges, if any, do you encounter regarding the availability and accessibility of scientific data and information for supporting sustainable ocean planning and management?

I don't know

*Section 4.3: Stakeholder engagement and collaborations*

In this section we are interested in collaboration, stakeholder engagement and integration of Indigenous and local knowledge into decision making processes.

Q38 How actively does your organisation collaborate and engage with other organisations and



stakeholders in the sustainable ocean planning and management area?  Not at all

- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Very regularly

Q39 How would you rate the capacity of your organisation to engage with stakeholders in the process of sustainable ocean planning and management?

- Low
- Lower than average
- Average
- Higher than average
- High

Q40 What do you think is needed to improve stakeholder engagement and collaboration opportunities in the context of sustainable ocean planning and management? Select all that

apply.

- Enhanced networking and knowledge exchange platforms
  - Strengthened partnerships between research institutions and stakeholders
  - Increased funding for collaborative research projects
  - Integration of stakeholder perspectives in research design and implementation
  - Capacity development programs on stakeholder engagement and collaboration
  - Other (please specify)
- 

Q40 What do you think is needed to improve stakeholder engagement and collaboration opportunities in the context of sustainable ocean planning and management for your organisation? Select all that apply.

Enhanced communication and coordination with other NGOs and stakeholders

Increased resources and funding for stakeholder engagement initiatives

Development of participatory decision-making processes

Capacity development programs on effective stakeholder engagement

Establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms for collaboration  Inclusion of local communities and indigenous groups in decision-making processes

Public awareness campaigns on the importance of stakeholder involvement

Other (please specify)

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Q40 What do you think is needed to improve stakeholder engagement and collaboration opportunities in the context of sustainable ocean planning and management? Select all that apply.

Development of inclusive policy-making processes involving stakeholders

Creation of dedicated forums for stakeholder consultation and feedback

Increased transparency and access to information for stakeholders  Capacity development programs for government officials on stakeholder engagement

Strengthened partnerships between government and stakeholders

Other (please specify)

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Q40 What do you think is needed to improve stakeholder engagement and collaboration opportunities in the context of sustainable ocean planning and management? Select all that apply.

Establishment of industry-wide sustainability standards and practices

Engagement with local communities and indigenous groups  Collaboration with

- NGOs and research institutions for shared goals  Integration of stakeholder perspectives in decision-making processes  Capacity development programs for industry professionals on stakeholder engagement
- Other (please specify)
- 

Q40 What do you think is needed to improve stakeholder engagement and collaboration opportunities in the context of sustainable ocean planning and management? Select all that apply.

- Integration of stakeholder perspectives in curriculum development  Collaboration between educational institutions and stakeholders for practical experiences
- Enhanced community engagement programs and partnerships  Capacity

development programs for educators on stakeholder engagement  Creation of  
platforms for knowledge exchange between educators and stakeholders

Other (please specify)

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Q40 What do you think is needed to improve stakeholder engagement and collaboration opportunities in the context of sustainable ocean planning and management within your specific sector? Select all that apply.

Development of sector-specific stakeholder engagement frameworks

Increased resources and support for stakeholder collaboration initiatives

Improved communication channels between stakeholders

Capacity development programs for sector professionals on stakeholder engagement

Creation of multi-stakeholder platforms for sector-specific collaboration

Other (please specify)

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Q41 Is Indigenous and local knowledge integrated into science and data relevant to sustainable ocean planning and management in your organisation/country of work?

Yes

Partially, Indigenous and local knowledge is considered but not fully

integrated  No

Not applicable, my organisation has no interaction with Indigenous and local

knowledge.  Unsure or prefer not to answer.

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Q42 How is Indigenous and local knowledge integrated into scientific information and data relevant to sustainable ocean planning and management in your organisation/country of work?

i don't know

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Q43 How is indigenous and local knowledge integrated into scientific information and data relevant to sustainable ocean planning and management in your organisation? Select all that apply.

Indigenous and local knowledge is systematically incorporated into research methodologies and data collection processes

Indigenous and local knowledge informs research questions and hypotheses

Indigenous and local knowledge is integrated into analysing and interpreting scientific data

Indigenous and local knowledge is utilised in collaborative research projects with communities and indigenous groups

Unsure or prefer not to answer

Other (please describe)

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Q43 How is Indigenous and local knowledge integrated into scientific information and data relevant to sustainable ocean planning and management in your organisation? Select all that apply.

Indigenous and local knowledge is utilised in advocacy efforts and policy development

Indigenous and local knowledge is incorporated into project design and implementation

Indigenous and local knowledge is integrated into research and assessment activities

Indigenous and local knowledge guides community engagement and



participation

Unsure or prefer not to answer

Other (please specify)

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Q43 How is Indigenous and local knowledge integrated into scientific information and data relevant to sustainable ocean planning and management in your organisations programmes and initiatives? Select all that apply.

Indigenous and local knowledge informs the development of policies and regulations

Indigenous and local knowledge is incorporated into decision-making processes

Indigenous and local knowledge is utilised to assess and monitor marine resources

Indigenous and local knowledge guides community-based initiatives and interventions

Unsure or prefer not to answer

Other (please specify)

---

Q43 How is Indigenous and local knowledge integrated into scientific information and data relevant to sustainable ocean planning and management in your organisation? Select all that apply.

Indigenous and local knowledge is considered in sustainable resource extraction practices

Indigenous and local knowledge informs corporate social responsibility initiatives

Indigenous and local knowledge is incorporated into environmental impact assessments

Indigenous and local knowledge guides the development of sustainable business strategies

Unsure or prefer not to answer

Other (please specify)

---

Q43 How is Indigenous and local knowledge integrated into scientific information and data relevant to sustainable ocean planning and management in your organisation? Select all that apply.

Indigenous and local knowledge is incorporated into curriculum development and teaching materials

Indigenous and local knowledge is used to enhance student learning experiences and fieldwork

Indigenous and local knowledge is integrated into research projects and student dissertations

Indigenous and local knowledge guides community engagement and outreach activities

Other (please specify)

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Q43 How is Indigenous and local knowledge integrated into scientific information and data relevant to sustainable ocean planning and management in your organisation? Select all that apply.

Indigenous and local knowledge informs specific projects or initiatives.

Indigenous and local knowledge is incorporated into decision-making processes

Indigenous and local knowledge is utilised in research and assessment activities

Indigenous and local knowledge guides community engagement and participation

Unsure or prefer not to answer

Other (please specify)

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Q44 Are there any specific challenges that you have faced when integrating Indigenous and local knowledge into sustainable ocean planning and management?

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Q45 How important are the following options for transboundary cooperation and coordination in sustainable ocean planning and management? Please rate each option on a Likert scale from 0 to 5, where 0 represents "Not important at all" and 5 represents "Extremely important."

Moderately

Important Important Highly  
Important

Bilateral

Not Important Somewhat Important

collaborations      research

Joint research  
projects

Knowledge  
networks      sharing

Academic  
programs      exchange

Research  
platforms      data-sharing

Collaborative  
research

opportunities      funding

Cross-border  
partnerships

Collaborative

initiatives      conservation

Information  
and expertise

networks      sharing

Joint advocacy

campaigns

Capacity  
development

NGOs      programs for

Collaboration

engagement      on community

and outreach

Transboundary

mechanisms

policy  
coordination

Bilateral or

agreements      multilateral

Joint

plans      management

Information  
and data-

platforms      sharing

Cooperative

efforts      enforcement

Collaborative

processes       
decision-making

Cross-border

partnerships      industry

Sustainable  
business  
practices  
sharing  
networks

environmental standards and regulations

Joint research and

Collaboration on

projects      development

Supply chain

initiatives      transparency

Shared  
infrastructure

management      and resource

International  
student

programs      exchange

Collaborative

development      curriculum

Cross-cultural

initiatives      education

Joint capacity  
development workshops and training  
programs

Research  
collaborations between  
educational institutions

Knowledge

educators

sharing  
platforms for

Other (please  
specify)

Q46 What are the factors that you consider most important in enabling transboundary cooperation and coordination in sustainable ocean planning and management?

Equitable benefit for different parties

Q47 Do you face any challenges regarding transboundary cooperation in sustainable ocean planning and management?

Yes

Partially

No



Don't know

Q48 Please explain your option in the previous question.

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End of Block: Block 10

Start of Block: Block 9

Thank you for your time spent taking this survey. If you want further information, please contact [I.CHAVEZ@unesco.org](mailto:I.CHAVEZ@unesco.org)

End of Block: Block 9

**GERMANY**

## Development of a new IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management

### Comment Germany

In IOC Circular No. 2968, the Executive Secretary asks the IOC member states for comments on IOC/A-32/4.7.Doc(1) following IOC Decision A/32/4.7.

The deadline was extended to 10 December.

In line with the intervention during the General Assembly Germany welcomes in general the development of an IOC wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (SOP-Strategy).

Germany also welcomes the plans to create an Ocean Decade Project for Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management.

#### General remarks:

Germany recognizes that observation, data and services are key elements of every management decision. Germany therefore welcomes a strategy that defines how the IOC programmes can best work together to support Member States in science based management of their marine areas.

The Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) as the German federal authority for inter alia Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) has a similar portfolio as the IOC. BSH established a separate department for MSP some years ago and thus had to define the necessary working arrangements and interfaces with the existing departments dealing inter alia with ocean observation, data products and warning services. If required, BSH would be happy to pass on these experiences.

#### Specific Comments

While it is clear that "Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management" goes beyond MSP and includes elements of "Integrated Coastal, area Management "(ICAM) such as "science based management tools", Germany would welcome a clear definition of Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management" in the future strategy. In particular para 16 mentions that IOC could "[...] reach into blue economy discussions". While Germany agrees that these discussions are helpful and that IOC is capable to assist such discussions with data and scientific input, it is also important that the strategy clearly defines possible contributions and limits to IOC's engagement.

Germany has so far missed a reference to the BBNJ Treaty. The section on "political drivers for a strategy" would have been a perfect opportunity to mention the new treaty. So far the treaty mentions IOC in the context of Transfer of Marine Technology. However, as the treaty also includes management instruments, such as area-based management tools, an SOP-strategy should define its own (possible) interfaces with the treaty.

Paragraph 19 mentions an initial gap analysis, which is included in Annex 1. Unfortunately, Annex 1 was not shared with the Circular letter or in the documents of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the IOC General Assembly.

In general, Germany welcomes the three outcomes and the eight preliminary areas outlined in para 19-21 and would like to propose the following two amendments:

- Germany would like to suggest adjusting the formulation of outcome (i) in paragraph 19. As IOC has no direct influence on the national policy and legislation, the objective could focus more on providing the best possible support to Member States to facilitate the integration of ocean planning.

**Development of a new IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management**  
**Comment Germany**

- The development of “legally binding instruments” might not be the right formulation in paragraph 21 (i). IOC can play a central role in the setting of standards, currently by providing criteria and guidelines. Germany does not see how the development of legally binding instruments on the area of SOP could be a task for IOC. SOP falls either in the scope of the BBNJ-treaty or in the responsibility of Member States. It seems more important to define the contributions IOC can provide in both areas.

The strategy development process described in paragraph 22 seems sensible. Although two rounds of consultation between February 2024 and June 2024 seems ambitious. In this context, priority should be given to the timely availability of the documents for the 57th session of the IOC Executive Council so that Member States can make an informed decision.

**ITALY**

# Survey to inform initiatives on sustainable ocean planning and management

## Start of Block: Default Question Block

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO's (IOC-UNESCO) survey on sustainable ocean planning and management. We value your input, and your responses will play a crucial role in shaping future initiatives to promote the health and sustainability of our ocean.

The aim of this Survey is to better understand the existing landscape in terms of sustainable ocean planning and management and identify needs of stakeholders in terms of technical and scientific support. We are interested in views from all working along the whole value chain from research, observation, data, services and relevant information products to inform policy/management actions, and capacity development.

Your insights and perspectives are paramount as IOC-UNESCO seek to develop two initiatives:

- an Ocean Decade Programme on Sustainable Ocean Planning, and
- an IOC-UNESCO-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management to be considered by the IOC-UNESCO Member States in 2024.

Your responses will help us better understand the user needs, technical requirements, challenges and opportunities involved in sustainable ocean planning and management, then guiding us in formulating evidence-based solutions. Please note that some questions may be relevant for you to answer as an individual stakeholder, while others may be more appropriate for you to answer as a representative of your institution or organisation. Therefore, please indicate your capacity for each question before answering it.

IOC-UNESCO want to assure you that the information you provide will be valuable for the success of these initiatives. As such, IOC-UNESCO will collect participant data to understand better the perspectives of various stakeholders involved in sustainable ocean planning and management. Rest assured that the data collected will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and used solely for research and decision-making purposes related to these initiatives.

IOC-UNESCO understand that your time is precious, and we have designed this survey to be as flexible as possible. Most questions are optional, and you can submit your responses anytime without completing the entire survey. Your feedback will be highly valuable, regardless

Additionally, for your convenience, we have attached a link to a PDF copy of the survey. If you would like to have a quick look at the overall questions in the survey before completing it, you can access the PDF here: [Insert PDF Survey Link].

Importantly, please be aware that when you click the "Next" button, your responses are automatically saved. If you need to continue at another time, simply reopen the survey in the same browser, and you can pick up right where you left off.

Once again, we sincerely appreciate your active involvement in this endeavour. Together, we can work towards safeguarding the ocean for future generations.

End of Block: Default Question Block

Start of Block: Block 1

There are four sections to this survey. First some basic information will be asked about yourself and your organisation, second your thoughts on the Decade Programme will be requested, the third section focuses on the IOC-wide strategy and finally, more detailed information regarding your organisational needs will be requested.

End of Block: Block 1

Start of Block: Block 3

### **Section 1: Basic information**

This section asks basic information about you and your organisation. To allow IOC-UNESCO to contextualise your answers later in this survey, we also ask briefly about the sustainable ocean planning and management journey that your country and/or organisation is on.

Page Break

Q1 We may need to follow up with individual discussions to understand responses in more detail. Would you be willing to be contacted by those developing the Ocean Decade programme and the IOC-UNESCO wide strategy?

Yes

No



Q2 Title

▼ Dr.

Q3 Family Name

\_Barbanti\_\_\_\_\_

Q4 First name

\_Andrea\_\_\_\_\_

Q5 Email address

\_andrea.barbanti@cnr.it\_\_\_\_\_

Q6 Job title

Research Manager\_\_\_\_\_

Q7 Organisation name

\_COI – Italian Oceanographic Commission\_\_\_\_\_



Q8 Select the area that best describes your organisation's

- operations  Local government
- National government
- International/Regional organisation
- Research
- Technical and scientific advice/consultancy
- Non-government organisation or civil society organisation
- Education
- Industry or private sector
- Other (please specify)

Q9 Please select the options that best represent your personal area of expertise. Select all that apply.

- Conservation and Biodiversity

Data and technology

Education, Capacity Development and Ocean Literacy

Energy

Fisheries and Aquaculture

Industry and Business

Maritime Transport

Natural Science

Ocean Planning and Management

Social Science

Tourism

Other (please specify)

Science-to-Policy-to-Society\_\_\_\_\_



Q10 In which country are you based?

▼ Italy

Q11 Which region(s) do you operate in? Select all that apply

North Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa

Central Asia

Eastern Asia

Southern Asia

Western Asia

South-eastern Asia

Eastern Europe

Southern Europe

Northern Europe

Western Europe

Caribbean

Central America

South America

North America

Australia and New Zealand

Melanesia

Micronesia

Polynesia

Arctic

Antarctica

Page Break

We will now ask four basic questions about sustainable ocean planning and management in the country in which you work and within your organisation. More in depth questions are included later in this survey.

End of Block: Block 3

Start of Block: Block 4

Q12 What approach or framework is used by your organisation for sustainable ocean planning and management? Select all that apply.

- Blue Economy Strategy/policy/plan
  - Ecosystem-based management (EBM)
  - Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)
  - Large Marine Ecosystem (LME)
  - Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
  - Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)
  - Other effective area-based conservation measures' (OECMs)
  - Sustainable Ocean Planning (SOP)
  - Don't know
  - Other (please specify)
-

Q13 Are there appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks available to support the implementation of sustainable ocean planning and management in your country?

Yes

- Partially
- No
- Don't know

Q14 In your opinion, how far along the journey of sustainable ocean planning and management is the country or region where you operate?

- Completed planning and implemented management measures.
- Completed planning but yet implementing management measures.
- progress with planning and management measures but yet to introduce these.
- In the early stages, scoping and understanding possibilities.
- We have done some activities that could be classed as sustainable ocean planning and management but not yet brought these under one umbrella.
- Yet to start activities for planning and management.
- I don't know
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Q15 What is the most needed to improve sustainable ocean planning and management from

your experience? Select all that apply.

- Tailored policy frameworks and regulations
- Collaboration and coordination with relevant stakeholders
- Institutional support and capacity development
- Data collection and management systems
- Access to ocean data and information
- Tools and technologies for data analysis and decision-making support
- Awareness campaigns and training programs
- Communication and engagement strategies
- Collaboration with relevant institutions and organisations
- Funding opportunities and financial support
- Partnerships with industry and government for funding and resources
- Sustainable financing mechanisms

End of Block: Block 4

Start of Block: Block 5

## **Section 2: Ocean Decade Programme on Sustainable Ocean Planning** The Ocean

Decade Programme on Sustainable Ocean Planning (SOP) is envisaged as a

global scientific and technical facility for SOP practitioners. When answering the following questions please think about the Ocean Decade and potential components to be included in the programme for sustainable ocean planning.

*Definitions:*

- *A Decade Programme is a large-scale and long-term initiative that works as a programmatic and coordinated framework for focused projects.*

- *As per the definition of the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, SOP “provides a unifying ‘umbrella’ for ocean-related governance. It can include a range of mechanisms such as regulatory reform, strategic investments in emerging sectors, marine spatial planning, integrated coastal and watershed management, and the establishment and implementation of marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures”*

End of Block: Block 5

Start of Block: Block 6



Q16 An initial needs assessment identified potential scope and objectives that could be addressed by a future Ocean Decade Programme on Sustainable Ocean Planning. These are listed below. Please rank these in order of importance for inclusion in the programme.

Q16 An initial needs assessment identified potential scope and objectives that could be addressed by a future Ocean Decade Programme on Sustainable Ocean Planning. These are listed below. Please rank these in order of importance for inclusion in the programme.

	Not important	Somewhat Important	Moderately Important	Important	Highly Important
Accelerate the development and implementation of Sustainable Ocean Plans.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Consolidate the work of international partners and actors in supporting nations around the world on sustainable ocean planning.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Identify scientific needs for sustainable ocean planning.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transform science to action for sustainable development and ocean planning.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Create a common global scientific and technical framework for sustainable ocean planning.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Develop user-driven knowledge,	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

skills and human and institutional capacities to deliver sustainable ocean planning.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Create a global network for ocean planning stakeholders.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Co-design contextualized approaches to geographic, social, and cultural contexts.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

---

Q17 Are there other objectives and components you would like to see as part of the Ocean Decade Programme on Sustainable Ocean Planning?



18 The Ocean Decade has ten challenge areas, which challenge areas do you think are priorities for the Ocean Decade Programme on Sustainable Ocean Planning to contribute to? Select three options maximum.

- Changing humanity's relationship with the ocean
- Creating a digital representation of the Ocean
- Develop a sustainable and equitable ocean economy
- Expand the Global Ocean Observing System
- Increase community resilience to ocean hazards
- Protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity
- Skills, knowledge and technology for all
- Sustainably feed the global population
- Understand and beat marine pollution
- Unlock ocean-based solutions to climate change

Q19 Are you interested in collaborating or contributing your expertise to any of the identified challenge areas in question 18 above?

- Yes
- Maybe
- No
- Don't know



Q20 Which challenge areas would you be more interested to collaborate? Please select up to three areas from the following list. Select three options maximum.

- Changing humanity's relationship with the ocean
- Creating a digital representation of the Ocean
- Develop a sustainable and equitable ocean economy
- Expand the Global Ocean Observing System
- Increase community resilience to ocean hazards
- Protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity
- Skills, knowledge and technology for all
- Sustainably feed the global population
- Understand and beat marine pollution
- Unlock ocean-based solutions to climate change

Q21 Any further suggestions or comments that you would like to make in regard to the Ocean Decade Programme on sustainable ocean planning?

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End of Block: Block 6

Start of Block: Block 7

### **Section 3: IOC-wide strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management**

Alongside the Ocean Decade Programme the IOC is considering the development of an institutional strategy to guide its work on sustainable ocean planning and management, considering how elements of the IOC value chain can contribute. This new strategy would

incorporate and advance IOC's work in various approaches and scales, such as Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM), Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), Sustainable Ocean Planning (SOP), and Large Marine Ecosystems (LME). This section asks questions specific to this strategy and its development.

Page Break

Q22 Please indicate the extent to which your organization is familiar with and has utilized the following IOC functions.

Q22 Please indicate the extent to which your organization is familiar with and has utilized the following IOC functions.

	Not Familiar/Not Utilized	Somewhat Familiar/Limited Utilization	Moderately Familiar/Moderate Utilisation	Familiar/Comprehensive Utilisation	Very Familiar/Extensive Utilisation
Ocean research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Observing system / data management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Early warning and services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assessment and Information for policy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sustainable management and governance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Capacity Development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

-----

Q23 Which specific IOC-UNESCO initiatives and expertise (i.e., programmes, projects, products and services) have you been engaged or used in the context of sustainable ocean planning and management? In case you are not directly involved in Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (SOPM), please indicate your perception of what IOC-UNESCO initiatives may be

most relevant to SOPM implementation. Select all that apply.

Ocean Deoxygenation

Microplastics

Blue Carbon

Ocean Acidification

Ocean Carbon Research

Phytoplankton

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas

Ocean Interventions for Climate Change Mitigation

The Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)

Data and Information - The International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE)

Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS)

The General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) /Seabed 2030

Joint Centre for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology in situ Observations Programmes Support (OceanOPS)

The Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS)



- Harmful Algal Bloom Programme and related work on nutrients/coastal eutrophication
- Global Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation Programme
- Tsunami Ready Programme
- Global Ocean Science Report
- Assessment of SDG 14 targets
- State of the Ocean Report
- Contribution to the World Ocean Assessment
- GESAMP assessments
- Marine Spatial Planning programme
- GEF International Water: LEARN products
- Other Marine Policy guidance and tools
- OceanTeacher Global Academy and other IOC Capacity development services/facilities (eg Regional Training and Research Centers, Ocean CD-Hub, etc)
- Ocean Literacy programme
- UNESCO Category 2 Centres d. Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) network

Q24 During an initial review and discussions, a number of potential areas for the strategy to address were identified. These are listed below. Please rank these in order of importance for

inclusion in the strategy for sustainable ocean planning and management.

Q24 During an initial review and discussions, a number of potential areas for the strategy to address were identified. These are listed below. Please rank these in order of importance for inclusion in the strategy for sustainable ocean planning and management.

	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Moderately Important	Important	Highly Important
Strengthening policy frameworks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Enhanced data collection and sharing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Capacity development and training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Integration of climate change adaptation, mitigation and coastal resilience aspects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Collaboration with indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Technology innovation and digital tools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Cross-sector collaboration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Increased financial support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Transboundary collaboration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Any other area? (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Q25 What additional areas do you think could be included in the IOC-wide strategy?

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Q26 Any further suggestions or comments you would like to make in regard to the development of the IOC-UNESCO wide strategy on sustainable ocean planning and management?

End of Block: Block 7

Start of Block: Block 8

#### **Section 4: Status quo and needs assessment for Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management**

This section focuses on evaluating the capacity and resources available for effective sustainable ocean planning and management. It explores the tools, skills, and technical requirements necessary for informed decision-making and implementation, while also assessing the financial and institutional support required to drive successful initiatives.

Page Break

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##### *Section 4.1: Capacity and resources*

In this section, we are interested in understanding the capacity to aid in decision making for sustainable ocean planning and management.

Page Break

Q27 Do you have access to knowledgeable personnel with expertise in any of the following areas?

Q27 Do you have access to knowledgeable personnel with expertise in any of the following areas?

	No Access	Limited Access to External Professionals	Access to Some Knowledgeable Staff	Access to A Significant Number of Knowledgeable Staff	Access to Some Highly Knowledgeable Staff and Experts in Relevant Areas	Full Access to Highly Knowledgeable Staff and Experts in the Relevant Areas
Ocean data and tools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marine natural sciences.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marine social sciences.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ocean planning and management.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marine policies and regulations.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marine legal and governance frameworks.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Advocacy for ocean issues.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Any other area? (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q28 Is there dedicated funding available to your organisation for sustainable ocean planning and management initiatives?

- No funding is available
- Limited amount of funding is available
- Some, but insufficient, funding is available
- Sufficient funding is available to at least meet priority needs
- A good amount of funding available to work on priority needs
- A good amount of funding is available to work on priority needs and long term needs.
- Other (please specify)

---

Q29 Is the funding one-off or regular and recurring funding?

- One-off, project funding
- Regular, recurring funding.
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Q30 Are there sufficient financial and human resources available to enable your government to effectively engage with international conventions and agreements related to sustainable ocean planning and management?

- Yes
- Partially
- No
- Don't know

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Q31 If there are gaps in resources that hinder full engagement with international conventions and agreements, please provide more details about these specific challenges and limitations.

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Q32 What other resources are available to enable you and your organisation to undertake sustainable ocean planning and management?

\_ From research projects and other institutional funds \_\_\_\_\_ Page Break

*Section 4.2: Supporting analysis and decision making*

We are interested in understanding the current journey of sustainable ocean planning and management within your country and the tools you have to support your decision making.

End of Block: Block 8

Start of Block: Block 10

Section 4.2: Supporting analysis and decision making

*We are interested in understanding the current journey of sustainable ocean planning and management within your organisation and the tools you have to support your decision making.*



Q33 What is the primary basis for decision-making in your organisation regarding sustainable ocean planning and management? Please select up to three most important areas from the list below.

Analysis and interpretation of data, research findings, and relevant information

Active engagement with stakeholders for inclusive decision-making

Existing policies, legal frameworks, and governance structures

Balancing environmental, social, and economic considerations

Experiences and lessons learned from previous initiatives

Ecosystem-based management principles

Availability of funding and resources, ensuring effective implementation and long term success

Other (please specify)

---

Q34 In your opinion, what specific research or knowledge gaps need to be addressed to improve decision-making and implementation in sustainable ocean planning and management?

\_Transdisciplinary research\_\_\_\_\_

Q35 Which of the following are available to you for considering and integrating spatial considerations into decision making? Select all that apply. Select all that apply

- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
  - Mapping tools
  - Modelling and forecasting/prediction tools
  - Specific tools for environmental assessments
  - Specific tools for social assessments
  - Specific tools for economic assessments
  - Specific tools for sectoral assessments
  - I don't know
  - Other (please specify)
-



Q36 How would you rate the current availability and accessibility of scientific data and information relevant to sustainable ocean planning and management in your country/institution?

- Very Poor
- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Very Good
- Excellent

Q37 What challenges, if any, do you encounter regarding the availability and accessibility of scientific data and information for supporting sustainable ocean planning and management?

\_Discovery and access to certain types of data is still an issue\_\_\_\_\_

#### *Section 4.3: Stakeholder engagement and collaborations*

In this section we are interested in collaboration, stakeholder engagement and integration of Indigenous and local knowledge into decision making processes.

Q38 How actively does your organisation collaborate and engage with other organisations and stakeholders in the sustainable ocean planning and management area?  Not at all

- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Very regularly

Q39 How would you rate the capacity of your organisation to engage with stakeholders in the process of sustainable ocean planning and management?

- Low
- Lower than average
- Average
- Higher than average
- High

Q40 What do you think is needed to improve stakeholder engagement and collaboration opportunities in the context of sustainable ocean planning and management? Select all that apply.

- Enhanced networking and knowledge exchange platforms
  - Strengthened partnerships between research institutions and stakeholders
  - Increased funding for collaborative research projects
  - Integration of stakeholder perspectives in research design and implementation
  - Capacity development programs on stakeholder engagement and collaboration
  - Other (please specify)
-

Q41 Is Indigenous and local knowledge integrated into science and data relevant to sustainable ocean planning and management in your organisation/country of work?

- Yes
- Partially, Indigenous and local knowledge is considered but not fully integrated
- No
- Not applicable, my organisation has no interaction with Indigenous and local knowledge.  Unsure or prefer not to answer.

Q42 How is Indigenous and local knowledge integrated into scientific information and data relevant to sustainable ocean planning and management in your organisation/country of work?

\_\_Public consultation processes, Research projects\_\_\_\_\_

Q43 How is indigenous and local knowledge integrated into scientific information and data relevant to sustainable ocean planning and management in your organisation? Select all that apply.

- Indigenous and local knowledge is systematically incorporated into research methodologies and data collection processes
- Indigenous and local knowledge informs research questions and hypotheses
- Indigenous and local knowledge is integrated into analysing and interpreting

scientific data

Indigenous and local knowledge is utilised in collaborative research projects with communities and indigenous groups

Unsure or prefer not to answer

Other (please describe)

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Q44 Are there any specific challenges that you have faced when integrating Indigenous and local knowledge into sustainable ocean planning and management?

\_\_\_Need for continuous long-term processes, building trust\_\_\_\_\_

Q45 How important are the following options for transboundary cooperation and coordination in sustainable ocean planning and management? Please rate each option on a Likert scale from 0 to 5, where 0 represents "Not important at all" and 5 represents "Extremely important."

Q45 How important are the following options for transboundary cooperation and coordination in sustainable ocean planning and management? Please rate each option on a Likert scale from 0 to 5, where 0 represents "Not important at all" and 5 represents "Extremely important."

	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Moderately Important	Important	Highly Important
Bilateral research collaborations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Joint research projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Knowledge sharing networks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Academic exchange programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research data-sharing platforms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Collaborative research funding opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cross-border partnerships	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Collaborative conservation initiatives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information and expertise-sharing networks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Joint advocacy campaigns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Capacity development programs for NGOs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Collaboration on community engagement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

and outreach					
Transboundary policy coordination mechanisms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bilateral or multilateral agreements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Joint management plans	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information and data-sharing platforms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cooperative enforcement efforts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Collaborative decision-making processes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cross-border industry partnerships	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sustainable business practices sharing networks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Collaboration on environmental standards and regulations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Joint research and development projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Supply chain transparency initiatives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Shared infrastructure and resource management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
International student exchange programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Collaborative curriculum development	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cross-cultural education initiatives	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Joint capacity development workshops and training programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research collaborations between educational institutions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Knowledge-sharing platforms for educators	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Q47 Do you face any challenges regarding transboundary cooperation in sustainable ocean planning and management?

- Yes
- Partially
- No
- Don't know



Q48 Please explain your option in the previous question.

\_\_\_It is normal, since problems are complex in many aspects.\_\_\_\_\_

End of Block: Block 10

Start of Block: Block 9

Thank you for your time spent taking this survey. If you want further information, please contact I.CHAVEZ@unesco.org

End of Block: Block 9

**PERU**



**unesco**

Délégation permanente  
du Pérou

NOTE: U/004/2024

The Permanent Delegation of Peru to UNESCO presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and is pleased to refer to the circular letter No 2968 (Ref: IOC/VR/JB/ic) related to the Development of a new IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management and deployment of user-needs survey.

In this regard, this Delegation has the honor to send attached the inputs provided by the Directorate of Hydrography and Navigation (DHN) of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Peru.

The Permanent Delegation of Peru to UNESCO takes the opportunity to reiterate to the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission the assurances of its high esteem and consideration.

Paris, January 17th, 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.



**To**  
**Secretariat of the Intergovernmental**  
**Oceanographic Commission**  
**Paris.-**

## APORTES AL DESARROLLO DE UNA NUEVA ESTRATEGIA PARA LA COI SOBRE PLANIFICACIÓN Y GESTIÓN SOSTENIBLE DEL OCÉANO

1. Respecto a efectuar la encuesta para el diseño del Programa del Decenio sobre la planificación sostenible de los océanos, no fue posible responder debido a que el enlace respectivo no se encuentra activo.
2. Con respecto al documento IOC/A-32/4.7.Doc(1) "Elaboración de una Nueva Estrategia para la COI sobre la Planificación y Gestión Sostenible del Océano", se presentan nuestros alcances:

### a. Factores normativos impulsores de una estrategia

En el Perú se ha establecido la tendencia a la oficialización de las normativas, como por ejemplo la actualización de la creación del Centro Nacional de Datos Oceanográficos que permitirá contar con una base de datos ordenada, con controles de calidad, etc., con la finalidad de promover la investigación científica especialmente en los alumnos de las universidades.

Por otro lado, la Planificación Espacial Marina (PEM) es un mecanismo que permite evaluar un área potencialmente creciente para diversas actividades que trabajen en forma coordinada y ayuden a sostener el océano colindante. Por esta razón es importante su divulgación a los tomadores de decisión y la población costera.

### b. Promoción por la COI de la gestión integrada de las zonas costeras y planificación espacial marina en favor de la planificación y gestión sostenibles del océano

En el Perú, debido al alto índice del crecimiento en el área costera, se ha proyectado realizar por un piloto en la zona de Pisco, relacionado a la Planificación Espacial Marina-Costera, que permitirá identificar la normativa relacionada a esta actividad, la cual podría servir como base a la gestión sostenible del océano y al desarrollo de las estrategias por la COI.

Por otro lado, entre los años 2018 y 2020, en Sudamérica, se desarrolló un proyecto Transfronterizo en la Bahía Histórica de Guayaquil entre el Perú y el Ecuador, donde se obtuvieron los Informes relacionados a la PEM, denominados "Condiciones actuales y compatibilidad de los usos marítimos en el Golfo de Guayaquil" y "Condiciones futuras y escenarios de planificación espacial marina y las oportunidades para una economía azul sostenible en el Golfo de Guayaquil"; ambos trabajos fueron publicados por la Unesco/COI en el año 2021, aunque no se pudo implementar debido a la pandemia del COVID-19. Cabe indicar que estos informes cuentan con Consideraciones Finales y Lecciones Aprendidas que pueden servir como documentos bases para las estrategias a plantearse.



**c. Estrategias para toda la COI sobre la planificación y gestión sostenible del océano: primeras reflexiones**

- i. Mayor integración e incorporación de la planificación del océano: En el Perú, se cuenta desde el 2020 con la Política Nacional Marítima, documento base que tiene como objetivo responder a la necesidad de integrar la acción del estado en el mar y contribuye a fortalecer la articulación de las políticas sectoriales en el ámbito marítimo, para una mejor y oportuna toma de decisiones consensuadas a nivel del Estado que fortalezca el bienestar general, considerando los enfoques de género e interculturalidad, en el análisis del problema público. En tal sentido, esta política nacional constituye el deseo colectivo tanto de hombres como mujeres de la nación de usar y proteger el ámbito marítimo y aprovechar sus recursos, que implican los espacios, actividades y factores vinculados a ella, para su desarrollo de una manera eficiente.
- ii. Mejora en los datos, los marcos de datos y la gestión de la información para la gestión basada en los ecosistemas y aplicaciones sectoriales: La mejora en los datos y la gestión de la información son muy importantes, y para ello se debe contar con un centro legamente reconocido, tanto nacional e internacionalmente, que pueda obtener aportes de datos y el trabajo estadístico en ellos sea reconocido en calidad y precisión necesaria para elaborar los productos requeridos para la investigación del océano y poner a disposición información de calidad a los tomadores de decisiones a un corto periodo de tiempo.
- iii. Fortalecimiento de la integración intersectorial: Es ampliamente reconocido que cuando éste se plantea claramente funciona muy bien, como por ejemplo los convenios facultan el intercambio de experiencias, conocimientos, etc., que se ven reflejados en los productos obtenidos.

Por la experiencia obtenida a través de los años como Punto Focal del Perú, reconocemos que debemos trabajar conjuntamente con otras instituciones, además que la legislación ambiental sea primordial como guía de trabajo en lo relacionado a la sostenibilidad del océano, debiendo ser esta última el soporte para su manejo sostenible.



**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**





**ПОСТОЯННОЕ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬСТВО  
Российской Федерации при ЮНЕСКО**

**DELEGATION PERMANENTE  
de la Fédération de Russie  
auprès de l'UNESCO**

*8, rue de Prony, 75017 Paris  
Tel.: 01. 42.12.84.30  
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No. 2561*

Paris, December 25, 2023

Dear Mr. Executive Secretary,

Referring to your letter No 2968 of 18 October, 2023 I have the honor to inform you that Russian relevant authorities have reviewed the document related to the development of a new Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management and accept the concept as presented, but would like to share the following considerations.

While developing the Strategy, it should be taken into account that a purely ecosystem model of planning and management is not only hardly acceptable, but may also contradict national legislation for countries with long coastlines and with all types of maritime activities, such as Russia.

Recognizing the role of international commitments for the development of marine activities, we assume that each specific situation requires careful analysis and a combination of regional (sectoral) and ecosystem approaches.


It also seems appropriate to include an additional section in the Strategy on obtaining ocean data about aquatic areas, especially coastal areas, and to add

**Mr. Vladimir RYABININ  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
UNESCO  
Paris**

a description of methods for predicting the future state of aquatic areas based on mathematical modelling and identified trends in long-term variability associated with climate change to this section.

Bearing this in mind, the Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to UNESCO would appreciate if the IOC Secretariat could kindly take into account the above comments.

Please accept, dear Mr. Executive Secretary, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely Yours,  
  
**Dmitry DARCHENKOV**

Chargé d'Affaires a.i.



**SPAIN**



MINISTERIO  
DE CIENCIA  
E INNOVACIÓN



Rafael González-Quirós  
Punto Focal de España en la COI-UNESCO  
Coordinador del Comité Nacional del Decenio de las  
Ciencias Oceánicas.  
Director del centro Oceanográfico de Gijón, IEO-CSIC

Dear Mr. Julian Barbier,

Please consider below the comments in response to the IOC Circular Letter 2968 about the document “Development of a new IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management and deployment of user-needs survey”.

The response is structured in a section of general comments and another of referred to specific paragraphs or text.

Sincerely,

Rafael González-Quirós Focal Point of Spain at IOC-UNESCO

#### 1) General Comments

We agree with the general approach proposed. The current situation in which the ocean is offering important opportunities of economic growth and social wellbeing, but at the same time it is experiencing important threats due to human impacts, fosters the need for accelerating and facilitating the transference of ocean scientific knowledge towards political decisions.

Therefore, we consider appropriate to structure the activity of IOC towards this objective, although “basic” science should not be left out of the IOC framework, as it will be the basis for future, yet to be identified challenges.

In addition, the need to advance in the Science-Policy process is not the only aspect that needs to be analysed in the context of IOC structure and functioning for an appropriate transference of science towards policies. There is also a need for the strategic analysis of the scientific research lines that are needed for a sustainable ocean planning and management. It must be considered that these needs do not necessarily emerge from the policy demand. In many cases, they are Science-driven. It is science that identifies the need for certain policies.

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Therefore, reorganising IOC following a framework of Ocean Sustainable Planning, as an expansion of the MSP framework, does not seem to take in appropriate consideration the role of Science to identify critical aspects of the functioning of the ocean and as a driver of policies.

In this regard, the document on the Strategic Position of IOC does not analyse the needs of scientific knowledge for future ocean sustainable planning and management. We understand that this was the case due to the scenario of financial difficulties that IOC was undergoing at the time, without any perspective of change in the short or medium term. Therefore, the analysis focusses on the existing IOC activities and sections with low insights into deep changes in functioning and structure.

We understand that the current document on Ocean Sustainable Planning emerges from the perspective of change in the financial situation that IOC has experience during the last decade. Otherwise, it would have no sense.

As well as this strategy is presented, there is a need to re-evaluate to what extent the Science programmes coordinated by IOC are adequate for the demand of ocean sustainability and the overall understanding of the ocean. It must be considered that scientific knowledge is the main role of IOC, from which emerges the capacity to advice ocean policies.

We welcome the concept of Ocean Sustainable Planning, which is more inclusive and takes a step beyond Marine Spatial Planning. In this regard, there are some specific processes and aspects, that clearly affect ocean (and global) sustainability, which may not necessarily be related with a spatial approach. This is for instance the case of the role of the ocean as a carbon sink and on its role on heat exchange with the atmosphere. The study and understanding of the role of the ocean in the process of Climate Change is critical for future political decisions, and it is not directly accounted for by MSP. For instance, the role of the biological pump in the open ocean or the uptake of CO<sub>2</sub> or heat from the atmosphere. The current MSP approach to Climate Changes focusses on how to take CC into consideration for the process of spatial planning, but it does not to consider the role of the ocean in the process of climate change and its transference to policy (at least not in a global perspective; it does for the conservation objectives of certain coastal ecosystems). These highly relevant research lines and their transference to political decisions could be left out or marginalized if the proposed strategy emerges exclusively from MSP perspectives. This skewness towards MSP perspectives is evident in several specific comments or sections of the document.

A general look over the IOC programs, particularly over those in the Science Section, reflects a fragmented and partial coverage of the scientific knowledge needed for the current need of ocean



sustainability. For instance, there is a general lack of programs related with biodiversity and the functioning of marine ecosystems, which are critical for many policies such as the implementation of MPAs or the evaluation of the impacts of anthropogenic activities including Climate Change. It is true that OBIS holds important information, but the knowledge for biodiversity and ecosystem functioning does not just emerge from the data in OBIS. Another example is physical oceanography. Similarly, GOOS coordinates ocean observations, but IOC should also coordinate international programs on physical oceanography science, which in fact should shape future operational oceanography frameworks.

In summary, there is a need for an evaluation of the coordination role of IOC in the research fields that are critical for ocean sustainability, as the main ocean science provider for other UN agencies and for Member States, and to promote international cooperation.

In relation to the latter, and as a general comment, also included in the Specific comments, the role of IOC is biased to its capacity to provide knowledge and information to Member States, whereas we believe that its most valuable role is its capacity to promote and coordinate international cooperation in ocean science (including data, technology, etc.)

## 2) Specific comments.

Paragraph 3: The role and compromise of IOC towards Member States is not only to transfer scientific, technical and data competencies, it is also to act as a platform for facilitating international cooperation and knowledge exchange between countries. We suggest to add this aspect in the paragraph and in the whole document in general (see more comments below).

Paragraph 4, last sentence. Again, the role of IOC as an institution that, through several programs, facilitates the exchange of knowledge and experiences between nations, is even more important than the specific access to specific specialised scientific and technical knowledge that IOC may hold itself.

Paragraph 16: Add “services” to “natural resources”. The ocean provides services, such as its role in carbon capture and heat absorption (and many others), which are consider a service more than a resource.



Paragraph 17. This is appropriately reflecting what we addressed in several of the comments above. Herein, the role on international cooperation is referred in the first place, and we think this is the main role of IOC, not the direct provision of knowledge from IOC towards Member States.

Paragraph 21. ii) . “real-time information” – There are many ocean processes and their associated management actions for which real-time data is not needed. The availability of real-time data has been critical in many services such as meteorological predictions. However, it is not critical in other operational services like fish stock management, for which the annual scale is the most relevant. This idea about the need of real-time data is mainly driven by operational oceanography. However, real-time data is not so critical for biodiversity conservation, fisheries, etc. Moreover, most relevant biological variables cannot be incorporated onto real-time frameworks, due to methodological constraints. If real-time is included as a priority across the strategy it will generate a bias in the services it will provide, mainly those related with ecological and socioeconomic aspects. This misunderstanding has generated very apparent conflicts in the framework and implementation of research projects with the objective of transposing or extending physical operational oceanography frameworks towards biological and ecological processes.

Rafael González-Quirós

**UNITED KINGDOM OF  
GREAT BRITAIN AND  
NORTHERN IRELAND**

## **UK Response to Circular letter 2968 - Development of a new IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management**

The UK has concerns that the substantive parts of this proposed strategy lay outside the remit and mandate of the IOC-UNESCO. We also believe that the most suitable approach would be to focus attention on delivering the existing Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2029, which aims to deliver the supporting evidence and technical capabilities that Member States should draw upon to develop their respective ocean planning management positions and policies. For example, the IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2023-2030) already includes an Output where development of ocean research policies in support of sustainable development objectives (Output 4) can be supported through IOC efforts to compile and compare information on existing ocean research policies, and disseminate to Member States for their use (Action 4.1.1) and assist and enable Member States with the development of ocean research policies, making use of the results of 4.1.1 (Action 4.1.2).

The UK Delegation appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposal to develop a strategy on sustainable ocean planning and management. However, as acknowledged at the 2023 Assembly the reason why a meaningful debate was not held was because the report provided as IOC/A-32/4.7.Doc(1) was late and furthermore was incomplete, in that key information relating to an initial gap analysis, that was to be provided as an annex, was not included. And we note this is still the case. In order for Member States to provide meaningful feedback it would be useful to have sight of all relevant information.

The UK Delegation also recalls the Assembly agenda discussion where several Member States were confused as to where the concept had originated or in fact its intended purpose, and warning against any duplication of effort and unnecessary use of resources. Furthermore, this consultation only (reluctantly) came about because of discussions relating to the USA request to enable Member States to provide adequate input and feedback on the proposal, where those discussions centered around requiring feedback prior to any further development of a strategy, as reflected in Decision A-32/4.7 (we note the draft Assembly Action Plan draft Decision on this item did not allow for Member State input).

However, we also recall that Decision A-32/4.7 includes a request for the Executive Secretary to present a draft strategy to the Executive Council at its 57<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mindful of the on-going efforts that the Secretariat has instigated to work in partnership with the University of New South Wales, no decision has been agreed as to whether a new strategy is in fact required. It is the UK Delegation's view that development of a draft strategy is contingent on Member States feedback, supported by the outcomes of this consultation and Member States views shared at IOC governing bodies.

The UK believes there needs to be clarity on the intended purpose of the IOCs role in ocean management where we believe its niche is in science and science-based tools to inform Ocean Management, not ocean management itself, and we need to caution against mission drift. The IOC already has its strategic mission captured in its Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2029, where integration across its function will deliver the high-level objectives within which we already see initiatives that support ocean planning and management. These include: improving scientific understanding [...] underpinning sustainable ocean economy (Objective 1); improved ocean governance (Objective 1); developing ecosystem-based management (Objective 1); knowledge-based ocean management tools (Objective 4); coastal zone management (Objective 4); and enhance ocean governance through a shared knowledge base and improved regional (Function E).

Given this the UK Delegation wish to understand why a parallel strategy is required, when the IOCs mission to support sustainable ocean planning and management can be achieved through the provision of scientific information and knowledge delivery by way of its core programmes and functions. Management of the ocean is the purview of its Member States, the IOCs role is to facilitate them through the advancement of science and its applications to develop knowledge and capacity.

The UK Delegation recognizes several IOC programmes and projects that can facilitate Member States in the management of their marine estates, as reflected also in the proposal (IOC/A-32/4.7.Doc(1), para 18). The UK also recognizes existing frameworks that provide overarching ocean governance and strategic plans, such as the UNCLOS and its Implementing Agreements, the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and Convention Protocols, as well as efforts by initiatives such as the High Level Panel for A Sustainable Ocean Economy (Ocean Panel). Such instruments have a mandate that Member States recognize in the development of their strategic plans to manage their marine estates and the marine environment beyond national jurisdiction.

We note the circular letter request was to provide feedback on document IOC/A-32/4.7.Doc(1), which is a document that *provides information on recent advancement in the area of ocean management as well as the rationale and process for IOC and its Member States to consider adopting an IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning & Management*. In which case the document is an outline of a concept to be considered. The absence of the outcomes of the gap analysis intended to justify the need for an organization-wide strategy, in addition to the Medium-Term Strategy, is unhelpful. However, we note the top three outcomes as identified by the SDR Hub, namely: Increased integration and mainstreaming of ocean planning; Improved data, data frameworks and information management for ecosystem-based management and sectoral applications; Strengthened cross-sectoral integration. Where these are to be facilitated through the eight preliminary areas.



Within these preliminary areas it is suggested the IOC will: *support[ing] the development of legally binding instruments or frameworks that facilitate the integration of planning into national legislation and policies; promote[ing] the investment in advanced monitoring technologies; IOC could lead the integration of climate change adaptation and mitigation considerations into ocean planning; IOC can assist countries in effectively managing the risks and vulnerabilities associated with climate change in their marine planning efforts; IOC could invest in the development and dissemination of innovative data, digital tools and technologies; fostering partnerships with sectors such as energy, tourism, shipping, and fisheries, ensuring their active involvement in planning processes; IOC could advocate for increased financial support for countries, particularly those with limited resources, to develop and implement ocean planning processes and frameworks.*

It is the UK Delegations opinion that such activities go beyond the mandate of the IOC to promote (not enact) and coordinate (not deliver) research and services. Neither do we understand why it is necessary to develop a separate strategy if the intent is to amplify and make more use of IOCs outputs. If there is need to better coordinate across IOC programmes and projects, to fully realize the IOCs potential in supporting Member States develop ocean planning and management, then conflating this with a need for a stand-alone strategy is arguably not the most suitable way to maximize the usefulness of IOC outputs to support Member States.

If there is value in developing a coherent IOC framework that could support ocean planning and management, this needs to be presented as a (technical) template that Member States could use if they wanted to. Not a framework for the IOC to take ownership of management.

A template should be framed around what it is the IOC can offer (an umbrella that brings together IOC offerings of relevance to governance), such that if adopted by a MS the necessary supporting information and evidence is readily available via IOC projects and programmes.

The UK welcomes a collaborative approach, so an IOC framework should be developed in such a way as to compliment others, where the combined offering by the various specialist agencies, delivering on their respective strengths, ultimately leads to a robust global governance structure. It is not clear to the UK what is intended by reference to increased integration. Is this integration within the IOC, or more broadly, integration of other strategies? We believe it is unrealistic for the IOC to establish a one stop shop for ocean governance. Furthermore, if the IOC wanted to develop guidelines as to how its framework can align with those of other specialist agencies, this would be a useful tool to encourage a coordinated approach to domestic ocean management and global ocean governance.

**UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA**

## **U.S. Response to Circular letter 2968 - Development of a new IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management**

Dear Julian and Isabel,

The United States appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposal to develop a Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management. We also appreciate the additional time given to discuss and take the merit of this proposal into further consideration.

The United States agrees with the importance of sustainable ocean planning and coastal management and the relevance of a new IOC-wide Strategy to the work of the IOC and the UN Ocean Decade. However, we are concerned that resources spent on the development and implementation of such a Strategy would encumber limited resources otherwise needed to support already established priorities of IOC Member States, as well as specific priorities identified by the IOC Regional Subsidiary Bodies.

Specifically, at the 31st IOC Assembly in 2021, the IOC created a [Medium-Term Strategy](#) with five High Level Objectives and related priorities, some of which are similar to those included in the new IOC-wide Strategy. The five High Level Objectives contained within the IOC Medium-Term Strategy include: Healthy ocean and sustained ocean ecosystem services; Effective warning systems and preparedness for tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards; Resilience to climate change and contribution to its mitigation; Scientifically-founded services for the sustainable ocean economy; and Foresight on emerging ocean science issues. The United States does not support developing another, new document with likely similar outcomes when IOC's very limited resources are already stretched thin and where only marginal gains are likely due to considerable overlap between the High Level Objectives within the IOC's agreed-to Medium-Term Strategy and the objectives of a Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management.

The United States acknowledges that there is a diverse suite of interrelated ocean and coastal issues consistent with the work of the IOC, and that it is growing. How and to what extent the

IOC engages in these efforts will require the IOC's careful consideration regarding which new activities we undertake with our limited resources. This includes identification of whether or how to contribute to efforts that appear complementary or even aligned with IOC's work. The United States does not oppose the IOC taking on new work. However, with such limited resources, we must consider how any new activities would contribute to the delivery of the IOC's existing, agreed-to body of work. Moreover, the United States recognizes that the IOC will soon be in receipt of specific priorities identified by the Regional Subsidiary Bodies based on their specific, identified needs. We stand ready to receive these priorities and have concerns that the creation of a new plan, potentially redundant with the IOC's agreed to Medium Term Strategy, will divert limited IOC resources away from these specific, identified needs.

For these reasons, the United States maintains its support for these High Level Objectives and does not support the use of limited IOC resources, to be used to begin the development of a new IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management. Rather, the United States remains committed to fully supporting the work envisioned within the agreed objectives and priorities from the Medium-Term Strategy, including specific priorities identified by IOC by the Regional Subsidiary Bodies.

The United States appreciates the Secretariat taking time to distribute this survey to gather additional Member State input on the matter.

Sincerely,

Nicole LeBoeuf, U.S. Representative to the IOC

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