



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
Transformative Ocean Science



*A creative and inclusive forum bringing
together science and policy to shape the future
of Europe ocean research and innovation.*

24-27 March 2026
Venice, Italy



PROGRAMME

DAY I - March 24

Venue:
CNR-ISMAR Headquarters, Arsenale di Venezia

13:30 Lunch

14:30 **Introduction to the Symposium**

M. Sprovieri, Institute of Marine Sciences (CNR-ISMAR), Italy

[Video & slides](#)

14:45 **The Role of Science in the European Age of Ocean Pact**

J. Morrison, Director, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

[Video](#)

15:00 **Musing on the Future Ocean Science: a European perspective**

S. Speich, École Normale Supérieure (ENS-PSL)/Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique (LMD), France

[Video & slides](#)

15:45 Break

16:15 **A Global View on Future Ocean Science**

M. Leinen, Scripps Institution of Oceanography/University of California San Diego, USA

[Video & slides](#)

17:00 **Introduction to the Working Groups**

K. Schroeder and **E. Gissi** (CNR-ISMAR), Italy

[Video & slides](#)

17:30 **Working Groups - Session 1.1**

18:45 End of the first day

19:30 Welcome Reception (light buffet)



[PHOTOGALLERY of DAY I](#)



DAY II - March 25



Venue:
CNR-ISMAR Headquarters, Arsenale di Venezia

08:45 **Wrap-up from working groups session 1.1 and open discussion**

[Video & slides](#)

09:30 **The Role of AI in Marine Science**

A. Bracco, School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA, and Centro Euro Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici, Italy

[Video & slides](#)

10:15 **Transdisciplinarity and Ethics in Ocean Research and Innovation**

M. Kaiser, Centre for the Study of the Sciences and Humanities (SVT), University of Bergen, Norway

S. Granum Carson, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway

[Video & slides](#)

11:00 *Break*

11:30 **Working Groups - Session 2.1**

13:30 *Lunch*

14:30 **Foresight frameworks for the ocean economy: Exploring possible trajectories to 2050**

C. Jolly, Lead OECD Ocean Economy Programme, France

[Video & slides](#)

15:00 **The future of marine science graduate education and training in Europe**

D. Brophy, Atlantic Technological University (ATU), Ireland

[Video & slides](#)

15:30 **Marine science education**

E. Copejans, European Marine Science Educators, Belgium

[Video & slides](#)

16:00 **Working Groups - Session 2.2**

17:15 *Break*

17:45 **Wrap-up from working groups sessions 2.1.-2.2. and open discussion**

[Video & slides](#)

19:00 End of the second day





DAY III - March 26



Venue:
CNR-ISMAR Headquarters, Arsenale di Venezia

08:45 **Observing the Ocean from Space**

P. Bontempi, School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island, USA

[Video & slides](#)

09:30 **Observing and Exploring the Deep Sea**

M. Visbeck, OceanQuest, Saudi Arabia

[Video & slides](#)

10:00 **Mission Neptune: A Bold and Visionary Approach to Ocean Science**

J.M. Daniel, IFREMER, France

[Video & slides](#)

10:15 *Break*

10:45 **Marine Biodiversity and Genetic Resources: from Exploration to Biotech**

C. Bowler, Institut de Biologie de l'École Normale Supérieure (IBENS), France

[Video & slides](#)

11:30 **Working Groups - Session 3.1**

13:00 *Lunch*

14:00 **Wrap-up from working groups session 3.1 and open discussion**

[Video & slides](#)

15:15 *Break*

15:45. **The Three Ages of the Ocean in Western Culture**

R. Serrão Santos, Institute OKEANOS, University of the Azores, Portugal

[Video & slides](#)

16:15 **Wrap-up from the Symposium and open discussion**

[with slido session on key take-aways]

17:30 **Basilica San Marco: a brief introduction**

P. Campostrini, CORILA

17:45 End of the third day



[PHOTOGALLERY of DAY III](#)





DAY IV - March 27

Venue:
La Sala degli Squadratori dell'Arsenale di Venezia

8:30 Registration

9:30 **Welcome and Opening remarks**

Mario Sprovieri

Director of the Institute of Marine Sciences of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR-ISMAR)

9:35 **Institutional Greetings**

Rear Admiral Domenico Guglielmi

Italian Navy, Institute for Maritime Military Studies (Venice), Commander, Italy

Prof. Andrea Lenzi

President of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR), Italy

10:00 **Chromosomes, Nerves, Cell Division: Fundamental Discoveries In Biology At Marine Stations. What Next?**

Tim Hunt - Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2001- followed by Q&A

[Slides](#)

10:45 **Contribution of the Mission Ocean&Waters to the Ocean R&I Strategy**

Pascal Lamy - Chair of the Board for the European Union's Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030

11:00 **From the European Mission Starfish to the European Ocean Act**

Geneviève Pons - President and DG of Europe Jacques Delors, Brussels

11:10 Break

11:40 **Highlights and Key Takeaways from the Symposium**

Elena Gissi and **Giuseppe Suaria** - CNR-ISMAR, Italy

[Slides](#)

12:00 **Questions & discussion** (Moderated Discussion with audience interaction via Slido)

12:45 Light lunch

13:45 **Roundtable 1 - Stakeholders perspectives: Transformative Ocean Science Contributions to the Ocean R&I Strategy:**

Jean-François Doussin – Deputy Director, Institut National des Sciences de l'Univers (CNRS-INSU), France

Anna Rindorf – Director, National Institute of Aquatic Resources (AQUA-DTU), Denmark

Aris Karageorgis – Director and President, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR), Greece

Bjørn Egil Asbjørnslett – Director, NTNU Ocean and Coast, NTNU, Norway

Adrian Stanica – Director, GeoEcoMar, Romania

Baris Salihoglu – Director, Middle East Technical University, Turkey

Emma Huertas – Deputy Director, Institute of Marine Science of Andalusia (ICMAN) Spanish Research Council, Spain

Rosa Figueroa – Director, Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO), Spain

15:00 Questions & discussion



15:15 **Roundtable 2 - Stakeholders perspectives: Transformative Ocean Science**

Contributions to the Ocean R&I Strategy:

Sheila Heymans – Executive Director of the European Marine Board

Adam Soule – Director, Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute, USA

Giuseppe Magnifico – Steering committee member, EurOcean

Simonetta Frascchetti – Secretary General, EuroMarine Association

Peter Haugan – Chair JPI Oceans

Alan Deidun – SEA-EU Rector's Delegate at UM and Malta's Ocean Ambassador

15:45 Questions & discussion

16:00 *Break*

16:30 **Roundtable 3 - From the Ocean Pact to the Ocean R&I Strategy and the Ocean Act**

James Morrison – Director, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

Delilah Al Khudhairi – Director, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), European Commission

Katja Matthes – Director, GEOMAR, Germany

John Siddorn – CEO, National Oceanography Centre, UK

François Houllier – CEO, IFREMER, France

Francesco Petracchini – Director, Department of Earth System Sciences and Environmental Technologies (CNR), Italy

17:15 Questions & discussion

17:30 **Conclusion and Closing Remarks**



PHOTOGALLERY

VIDEO of DAY IV - pt.1

VIDEO of DAY IV - pt.2

*Photos and videos: G. M. Macrì, V. Tulli (CNR)
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