



EXPLORING MARINE MANAGEMENT AND POLICY RESPONSE TO OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

Held on the margins of European Maritime Day 2023

 Wednesday 24th of May, 2023

 7:30am-9:30am

 The Club House at [Marina du Chateau](#) (Quai Eric Tabarly, 29200)
Located near Musée National de la Marine, Brest, France.

Transportation will be provided from the Club House to the Brest Expo Center following the meeting's conclusion.



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE TO
COMBAT OCEAN ACIDIFICATION



OSPAR
COMMISSION



OVERVIEW:

To support the integration of climate change information across key EU marine management frameworks, the [International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification \(OA Alliance\)](#), [OSPAR Convention](#) Intersessional Correspondence Group on OA (ICG-OA), and [NE Atlantic Hub of the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network \(GOA-ON\)](#) will convene a 2-hour workshop, “Exploring Marine Management and Policy Response to Ocean Acidification.”

The meeting is being held in response to the recently released [OA assessment and recommendations](#) by OSPAR’s Intersessional Correspondence Group on OA (ICG-OA) appearing as part of OSPAR’s Quality Status Report 2023.

At the meeting, we will summarize the assessment and explore opportunities for incorporating increasingly available OA information across various EU directives or national marine management strategies, with an emphasis on the Marine Strategic Framework Directive.

MEETING FOCUS:

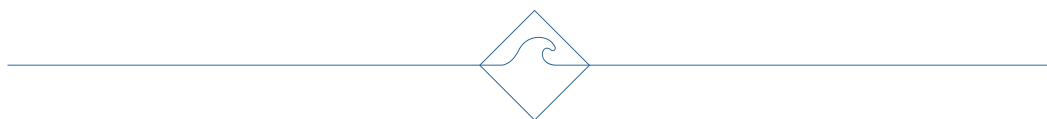
The meeting will bring together policy and decision-makers across Europe for brief presentations and breakout discussions of:

- OA trends, biological impacts and threats to keystone fisheries and aquaculture within the Arctic, North Atlantic and Mediterranean.
- Findings and recommendations by OSPAR's Intersessional Correspondence Group on OA (ICG-OA) in OSPAR's Quality Status Report 2023 as well as national response strategies.
- EU and national ocean and marine policy frameworks that can be leveraged to characterize, address, and minimize ocean and coastal acidification, with an emphasis on the Marine Strategic Framework Directive.

OUTCOMES OF MEETING:

As the science, research and observed impacts of climate-ocean continue to grow, there is a need for increased knowledge exchange and expertise on the substance and process for developing local, regional, and national marine management and policy responses in the face of cumulative change.

- Specific outcomes of this meeting include:
- Exploring what role OA information should play in the updated Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
- Improving understanding of ecosystem-based management and Good Environmental Status in the context of climate-ocean change.
- Leveraging European (national or EU) management and policy frameworks to take-up regional seas conventions recommendations, such as those by OSPAR's ICG-OA, and further prioritize ongoing Convention mandates or reporting on OA.
- Mapping of relevant European marine management and policy landscapes that support national governments and the European Commission in further integrating climate-ocean change information across myriad blue economy targets, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture goals, nature-based solutions, and coastal management decision frameworks.





AGENDA

Welcome; overview of meeting themes and outcomes (5 minutes)

Jessie Turner, Director, International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification

Presentations (30 minutes)

The importance of understanding OA trends and impacts in NE Atlantic and Mediterranean (10 minutes)

Dr. Helen Findlay, Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network NE Atlantic Hub Coordinator, Plymouth Marine Laboratory

- Why is it important to monitor OA regionally and nationally?
- What is the importance modelling and coupling chemical and biological information?
 - Examine impacts to keystone species
 - Understand ecosystem-wide impacts
 - Target coastal pollution pressures
- How is the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (NE Atlantic Hub/ Mediterranean Hub) advancing this work?

OSPAR Convention ICG-OA Mandate, OA Assessment Findings, Recommendations and Opportunities (10 minutes)

Dr. Jos Schilder, Rijkswaterstaat, the Netherlands

- Key findings of the OSPAR OA Assessment
- Brief overview of case studies: cold water coral; Atlantic cod
- Review of key recommendations:
 - Understanding of trends, variability, drivers and ecological impacts are needed.
 - Management objectives that aim to protect and restore ecosystems can play an important role in enhancing ecosystem resilience.
 - Climate change mitigation and adaptation responses are in many cases also effective against OA.
- Role of OSPAR Convention in advancing and applying recommendations.

Leveraging Domestic Management Schemes and Frameworks (10 minutes)

Jessie Turner, Director, International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification

- Brief overview of EU and European convention and marine policy landscape that has relevance to OA information.
- Examining the role of the Marine Strategic Framework Directive (MSFD) in taking up and utilizing OA information.
- Relevance of OA information to Directive aims, objectives, and evaluation.



AGENDA

Focused Interventions and Discussion (90 minutes)

How is the European Commission approaching updates to the Marine Strategic Framework Directive and the Marine Spatial Planning Directive in the context of climate change?

Interventions:

- Alice Belin, Policy Officer, European Commission DG Environment (remote)
- Policy Officer, European Commission DG MARE (in-person)

Are countries including ocean acidification (OA) within annual reports?

From your perspective, how does OA information support evaluations of good environmental status or taking an ecosystem – based approach to marine management strategies?

Interventions (additional governments invited to intervene):

- Office of the Director General of Maritime Affairs Fisheries and Aquaculture, France
- Mr. Peter Haugan, Policy Director, Norwegian Institute of Marine Research, Norway
- Mr. Lodewijk Abspoel, Senior policy officer for European Integrated Maritime Policy and North Sea, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Netherlands
- Dr. Anita Kunitzer, German Environment Agency, Germany

Group Discussion

Is OA information adequately represented across the MSFD?

What are the opportunities for incorporating OA monitoring and information more uniformly across MSFD? What are the challenges?

What other Conventions or Directives should be examined or utilized to accelerate OA information and reduce impacts?