



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

AtlantOS 

Atlantic Ocean Observing

Ambitions and Opportunities feeding into
the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)



First International AtlantOS Symposium

25-28 March 2019 at UNESCO headquarters, Paris
Local host: IOC/UNESCO

This high level symposium will celebrate the success of the Horizon 2020 EU Research and Innovation Action AtlantOS and at the same time will mark the beginning of the international AtlantOS (Atlantic Ocean Observing System) as the All Atlantic part of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and contribution to the Group on Earth Observations Blue Planet Initiative.

During the symposium the "AtlantOS Blueprint", a high level strategy for Atlantic Ocean Observing will be formally released. Moreover, the symposium will bring together scientists, policy makers, users, funders and other stakeholders and articulate and refine the joint ambition for ocean observing. It will provide input to the G7-Ocean group, the inter-

national OceanObs'19 conference and feed into the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).

The first two days (25 – 26 March) of the symposium, the scientific segment, will be more targeted to the scientific technical community to showcase success, articulate opportunities, needs and benefits arising from the work of the EU project AtlantOS. Day three and four are the high level segment of the symposium, with day 3 (27 March) focussing on perspectives from national and international ocean policy processes and national ocean observing ambitions and day 4 (28 March) focuses on societal benefits from the user, private sector and civil society perspective.

1. Evolution and Impact of Atlantic Ocean Observing enabled by the EU H2020 Project AtlantOS

The Scientific Segment

Day 1 25 March 2019 (Monday)

13:00 – 13:30 Overall welcome

Presentation of the AtlantOS BluePrint Strategy and Implementation.

13:30 – 15:00 Session 1: The Atlantic observing system: status, requirements, gaps, and governance

A guidance to improve existing Ocean Observing elements and to implement new components.

15:45 – 17:15 Session 2: Ocean Observing Networks - achievements and future plans

How can we ensure the long-term sustainability of in-situ ocean observing networks and what can the networks contribute to the international AtlantOS?

17:15 – 18:15 Session 3: Regional and coastal specificities

Integration of regional and coastal observing systems to build sustainable and long-term international partnerships.

Day 2 26 March 2019 (Tuesday)

9:15 – 10:15 Session 4: Sensors development and best practices

How can improved technologies and best practices contribute to and ensure the sustainability of the Atlantic Ocean Observing System?

10:45 – 12:15 Session 5: From data integration to information products and services – showcasing societal benefit

Enhancement of the Atlantic Data System through integration and harmonization - impact of AtlantOS information products and services.

13:45 – 15:45 Session 6: Towards a sustained All Atlantic Ocean Observing System (AtlantOS) as a part of GOOS

How the H2020 project AtlantOS supported the Galway and Belém Statements - the importance of the heritage of AtlantOS for the future.

2. Atlantic Ocean Observing enabling Societal Benefits

The High Level Policy Segment

Day 3 27 March 2019 (Wednesday)

10:30 – 11:00 **Welcome to High Level Political Segment**

11:00 – 12:15 **Ocean Observing and the Global Ocean Agenda**

The added value of integrated Atlantic Ocean Observing to science, policy and society.

13:45 – 15:00 **Ocean Observing as a critical element of the UN Ocean Decade**

What can integrated Atlantic Ocean Observing contribute to the Decade of Ocean Science (2021- 2030)?

15:30 – 16:45 **Ocean Observing - National Ambitions and Benefits**

National perspectives on sustained ocean observing.

Evening reception at UNESCO

The High Level Stakeholder Segment

Day 4 28 March 2019 (Thursday)

10:00 – 10:10 **Welcome to Stakeholder Segment**

10:10 – 12:30 **Ocean Observing - User and Private Sector Engagement**

Needs and trends in ocean observing - the users and supporters perspective.

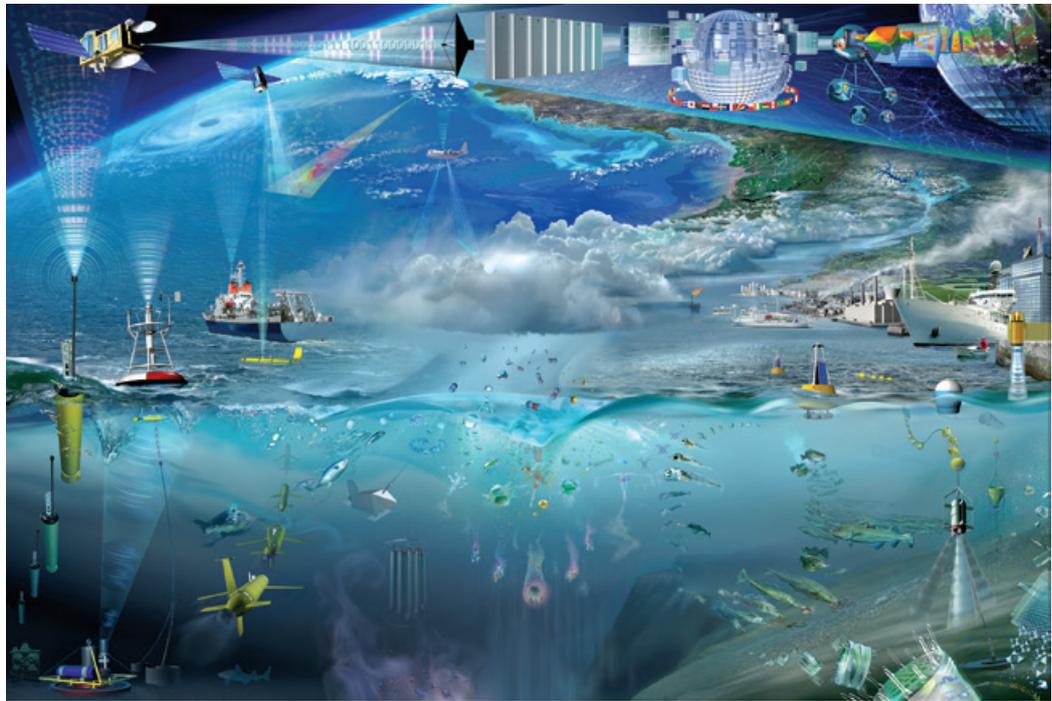
14:00 – 15:00 **Ocean Observing - Role of Civil Society**

Practical needs and ways forward to foster science-industry-civil society interactions.

15:00 – 16:00 **Charting the way forward towards a fit-for-purpose AtlantOS**



Artwork by Glynn Gorick depicting the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)



2021 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2030

The United Nations has proclaimed a Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)

to support efforts to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health and gather ocean stakeholders worldwide behind a common framework that will ensure ocean science can fully support countries in creating improved conditions for sustainable development of the Ocean. The Decade will strengthen the international cooperation needed to develop the scientific research and innovative technologies that can connect ocean science with the needs of society. It will also contribute to the UN processes protecting the ocean and its resources, such as the Aichi Biodiversity targets, the SAMOA Pathway to address climate change, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Decade will require the engagement of many different stakeholders to create new ideas, solutions, partnerships and applications. These include: scientists, governments, academics, policy makers, business, industry and civil society. The AtlantOS Symposium will inform the planning for the UN Ocean Science Decade with regards to ocean observing and information needs.

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO),

established in 1960 as a body with functional autonomy within UNESCO, is the only competent organization for marine science within the UN system. The purpose of the Commission is to promote international cooperation and to coordinate programmes in research, services and capacity-building, in order to learn more about the nature and resources of the ocean and coastal areas and to apply that knowledge for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making processes of its Member States. In addition, IOC is recognized through the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as the competent international organization in the fields of Marine Scientific Research and Transfer of Marine Technology. Specifically, the IOC supports and hosts the project office of GOOS and has been entrusted to plan the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).

The AtlantOS Project Optimising and Enhancing the Integrated Atlantic Ocean Observing Systems

is a large scale EU Horizon 2020 research and innovation project contributing to the Trans-Atlantic Research Alliance, GOOS (Global Ocean Observing System), and GEO (Group on Earth Observations). Together with its international partners the H2020 project produced a 'Blue Print for Atlantic Ocean Observing' that articulates the vision of AtlantOS, the All Atlantic Ocean Observing System as the Atlantic part of GOOS. AtlantOS will continue to improve and innovate Atlantic observing guided by the Framework of Ocean Observing to sustain and grow an increasingly international, more sustainable, more efficient, more integrated, and fit-for-purpose system. AtlantOS observations and information will contribute to realising societal, economic and scientific benefits by promoting an integrated implementation approach. Specific areas of focus include: value for money, extent, completeness, quality and ease of data access, supporting the needs of, the private sector, scientists and citizens.



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