

**OFF-SITE
SATELLITE EVENT:
9 APRIL 2024**

DIVING FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL OCEAN LITERACY:

**150 APPROX.
PARTICIPANTS**

EXPLORING, SHARING, AND DEVELOPING SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES TO KNOW, FEEL AND JOIN THE LIVING OCEAN

This satellite event took a deep dive into global to local success stories, showcasing a wide range of innovative ocean literacy initiatives. A collection of special guests were invited to share their solutions in overcoming challenges, as well as the best practices. Four interactive panels were designed to explore the lived experiences of project coordinators across diverse sectors: Removing Barriers for Ocean Literacy, Ocean Literacy in Local Communities, Ocean Literacy in Science, and Ocean Literacy & Water Sports.

This event was co-organized and co-hosted by 14 partners. The introductions set the intentions for the event and provided guidance in generating the outcomes of this collaborative effort.



MEET THE CO-HOSTS



Maria Vittoria Marra
Galway Atlantaquaria National Aquarium of Ireland



Begoña Vendrell-Simón
Escola Galí Bellesguard, Universitat de Barcelona



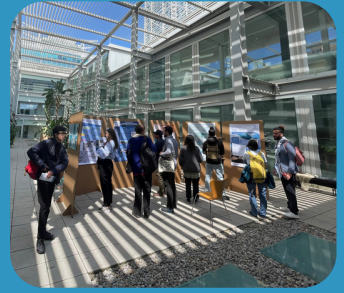
Evgeniia Kostianaia
Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOP) Programme

THE OCEAN LITERACY SERIES

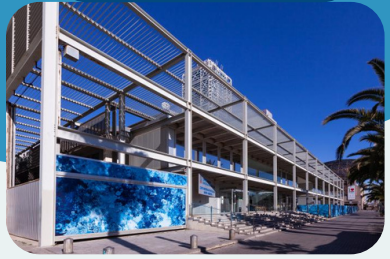
Prior to the panels, a short film was screened by the ECOP Programme's Ocean Literacy Task Team and the Ocean Literacy Asia Hub to share success stories from around the globe. Through this series, the aim is for innovative practices from diverse regions and methods of fostering collaboration among people and institutions worldwide, to help inspire and provide guidance for emerging ocean literacy projects. The series ensures representation from many corners of the world, featuring stories in local languages and leveraging local resources.



**POSTER DISPLAY
COURTESY OF INSTITUT DE CIÈNCIES DEL MAR (CSIC).**



Venue: Institut de Ciències del Mar (ICM) - CSIC, Barcelona



OCEAN LITERACY EVENT

REMOVING BARRIERS FOR ADDRESSING OCEAN LITERACY GLOBALLY

Removing barriers is crucial to fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of marine environments yet challenges such as financial constraints, limited access to educational resources and cultural barriers can hinder effective communication and engagement with diverse communities.

This panel highlighted innovative approaches, such as citizen science projects and local community engagement efforts, able to bridge gaps in knowledge and empower individuals to actively participate in ocean conservation, by removing these barriers. The panelists emphasized the critical role of funding in supporting marine education initiatives, they suggested local solutions for global challenges; with Guardians of the Blue and the IOI Ocean Academy highlighting the importance of culturally relevant and locally anchored approaches to address such challenges. Oceanogami and Turquoise Ecology highlighted the significance of engaging diverse stakeholders, including the private sector, policymakers, and decision-makers, in marine conservation efforts. The panelists discussed innovative methodologies such as the ESRA methodology, which effectively measures the internalization of ocean literacy concepts within coastal communities and explored strategies to overcome language barriers, enhance the visibility of ocean literacy efforts, and address generational gaps. Through innovative approaches, collaboration, and inclusivity, the panel discussed how these initiatives are empowering individuals to actively participate in ocean conservation and safeguard our oceans for future generations.



PANEL 1

Moderator



KARINA HIGA



ALICIA PEREZ-PORRO



ANTONELLA VASSALLO



LAURA KHATIB



PATRICIA PUIG



DANIELA HILL



YOLANDA SANCHEZ

PANEL 2



OCEAN LITERACY IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

There is still much to improve about ocean literacy, as well as overcoming the challenge of communicating about it. The panelists emphasized the relevance of communication and working closely with communities and local networks in order to improve ocean literacy. Providing direct contact with the ocean was regarded as a positive way of not only communicating but of building a more positive human-ocean relationship.

It was agreed that knowledge, not only theoretical but also practical, and not only scientific but also traditional should be enhanced. Listening to all the different voices within local communities is challenging but necessary. Stakeholders, users of the ocean and citizens in general may have different conceptions, beliefs and perceptions of the ocean and although they may face similar issues, the best solution will always depend on the stakeholders involved, and consensus should be sought. Citizen engagement can be encouraged through the use of diagnostic methodologies that highlight cultural backgrounds and personal relationships with the ocean, and endorsing participatory processes is particularly beneficial to all parties. The panelists commented on the importance of getting to know the ocean, in a real context, to establish a bond which may prelude caring about it deeply. Moreover, common “users” are proving to be active guardians of the sea and powerful ocean literacy agents. However, the lack of contact with the ocean is still a heavy load even in coastal cities, as much of society lives far from it (in mind and proximity). We should emphasize the wonder and awe of the sea, in its broadest sense. Also, and linked to the previous highlight, knowing what most impacts our emotions may provide the necessary motivation to bring forth engagement and healthy relationships with the ocean.



NOEMÍ FUSTER



BEATRIZ PATRACA



JOSEPH MENDOZA



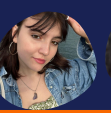
MAR, ARNAU, BERTA, ADA AND CANDELA



MAR



ARNAU



BERTA



ADA



CANDELA



EMILIO BELADIEZ

Moderator

STUDENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA

OCEAN LITERACY EVENT

OCEAN LITERACY IN SCIENCE

PANEL 3



Ocean science is often viewed as a difficult field that is accessible only to researchers that are used to specialized concepts and techniques, using the so-called scientific method. This session discussed challenges and solutions related to ocean literacy in the context of ocean research.

Ocean literacy holds enormous strategic potential to promote the relevance of science for society and policy development. It is a key tool to engage not just the public, but also scientists, youth, stakeholders, policy, and funding agencies and is possible to integrate scientific and creative perspectives as well as traditional knowledge. Yet, ocean literacy activities tend to be underfunded and suffer from the lack of impact assessment and long-term planning. This panel emphasised multi- and cross-disciplinary approaches to strengthening engagement in science and questioned the notions of knowledge in the modern world. Creativity, philosophy, sociology, and behaviour sciences should all be considered in the context of ocean literacy. The discussion addressed the pursuit of ocean intelligence which should include qualitative aspects beyond purely quantitative scientific methods. Traditional and non-traditional approaches, from mythology to artificial intelligence, can provide meaningful ways to reconnect public with the environment and marine knowledge.

Moderator



JOSEP LLUIS PELEGRI LLOPART



DINA EPARKHINA



CARMEN GARCIA



DONATA CANU



SILVIA GOMEZ

PANEL 4



OCEAN LITERACY AND WATER SPORTS

This panel included four advocates of ocean literacy in sports, sharing their four very different projects across scuba diving, sailing and stand-up paddle boarding. Through their initiatives they enable ocean users to understand the ocean ecosystem on a much deeper level, and incorporate ocean literacy learning into their activities and impact. The panel featured projects taking place globally, regionally, locally, as well as online.

The discussion began by looking at the culture of professional sports and how this can be a huge opportunity to help shift the focus towards collaboration and collective action for the ocean. "The Ocean Race" has invested heavily into a comprehensive ocean literacy program, providing resources for schools, and been developed into 11 languages, in 80 different countries, with over 250,000 students participating - an example of how designing projects with scaling up in mind can increase impact. "Surfing for Science" showcases how using different tools to engage ocean users in marine citizen science, can utilize their marine citizenship and contribute to data collection. "Buceo Conciencia" is committed to transforming the consciousness of divers, as their research found divers wanted to participate in marine citizen science but felt they didn't have enough knowledge. An online platform was developed to teach them about marine biology. The "TransforMAR" Project is highlighting intersectoral barriers inherent in water sports, tackling accessibility barriers through funded diving programmes, and helping increase equitable participation of youth communities in Brazil who are particularly vulnerable in the face of climate change impacts. The panel concluded that by utilising the access sports have to the wider and broader audiences, the message of ocean literacy could reach the masses - that we are all connected to the ocean in one way or another.



LUCY HUNT



ANNA SANCHEZ-VIDAL



MAIBE HERMOSO



GIOVANNA SCAGNOLATTO



NATALIE FOX

Moderator



MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The full event was live-streamed, and the recording can be found [here](#). The organizers are currently working together to develop further ways to increase the impact and disseminate the outcomes of the event to a broader audience.