Declaration of support

Scientists call for the prohibition of all destructive fishing methods and industrial activities in Marine Protected Areas

12 September 2022

Marine protected areas (MPAs) with high levels of protection have proven the most effective mechanism to restore marine life and all the benefits it provides to humanity, from food security to carbon sequestration, jobs and economic gains. However, EU waters, especially around continental Europe, are in a dismal state of conservation, with only 31% of the stocks studied in the Northeast Atlantic considered in a good state in 2020, while most are not even assessed. The EU currently has less than 1% of true MPAs, meaning that over 99% of continental EU waters fail to be adequately protected from high-impact activities such as industrial extractions or bottom trawling. As a result, the abundance of marine life inside many EU MPAs is lower than in unprotected areas nearby, which undermines any conservation goal. As they stand, EU MPAs fail to provide conservation benefits. If the EU aims at restoring marine life as part of its Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and intends to use MPAs as a tool to help replenish depleted fisheries, it must immediately prohibit bottom trawling and other industrial activities within its MPAs.

The facts

The impacts of bottom trawling

- The strongest and most widespread disturbance of marine ecosystems is caused by bottom trawling, considered as the most destructive and fuel-intensive fishing practice, which has been compared to forest clear-cutting. Bottom-trawling kills one million tons of organisms as bycatch every year, accounting for 93% of EU discards.
- Bottom-trawling disturbs the carbon stored on the seafloor and contributes to significant CO₂ emissions, exacerbating global warming.
- As of today, bottom trawling is conducted in 59% of the EU’s so-called ‘MPAs’, ironically depleting vulnerable species within their boundaries even faster than in nearby unprotected areas. Allowing bottom trawling and other industrial extractive activities undermines conservation goals and depletes the natural capital that MPAs are supposed to grow.

The benefits of highly/fully protected MPAs

- MPAs that ban fishing restore marine life within their boundaries, with 6-fold increases in fish biomass and 20% increases in diversity.
- Once predator abundance recovers sufficiently, no-take MPAs can trigger indirect effects that restore the structure and complexity of the ecosystem as it was before overexploitation.

1 Grorud-Colvert et al. (2021) The MPA Guide: a framework to achieve global goals for the ocean.
2 Sala et al. (2021) Protecting the global ocean for biodiversity, food and climate.
7 Sala et al. (2022) Energy audit and carbon footprint in trawl fisheries.
8 Watling and Norse (1998) Disturbance of the seabed by mobile fishing gear: a comparison to forest clearcutting.
9 Lester et al. (2009) Biological effects within no-take marine reserves: a global synthesis.
• No-take MPAs can increase adjacent fishery catches, ensure the sustainability and increase the long-term profitability of local fisheries. 12,13,14,15

• Every Euro invested in a highly protected MPA generates at least 10 Euros in economic output, 16 in some cases exceeding the economic revenue of fishing 25-fold. 17,18 However, MPAs that allow commercial fishing typically do not provide more social or economic benefits than unprotected areas. 19,20,21

The opportunity for the European Union

Governining over the world’s largest maritime zone, the EU is in a unique position to lead the way by banning bottom trawling from its network of supposedly ‘protected’ areas. The IUCN provides a clear definition of the activities, which should be prohibited within MPAs in order to qualify as ‘MPAs’: “Any industrial activities and infrastructural developments (e.g. mining, industrial fishing, oil and gas extraction) are not compatible with MPAs and should be excluded from such areas if they are to be considered as MPAs.” 22

It is important to note that, to achieve the greatest ecological and economic benefits, the bottom-trawling fishing effort currently occurring in MPAs should not be relocated elsewhere. This would reduce CO₂ emissions from bottom trawling, 2 and net benefits from restored ecosystem services would start to occur as soon as four years after the bottom trawling ban. 23

The transition to low-impact fisheries, and the protection of 30% of the EU’s EEZ in MPAs by 2030 (including 10% in strictly protected (no-take) zones, which is a key mandate of the EU’s Biodiversity Strategy), would help restore European marine biodiversity, replenish depleted European fisheries, resuscitate exhausted small-scale coastal fisheries and the livelihoods they support, and be easily financed by redirecting EU’s harmful fisheries subsidies.

1 SALA, Enric (National Geographic Society, Explorer in Residence - USA)
2 HIRIART-BERTRAND, Luciano (Costa Humboldt, Ceo - Chile)
3 VERGES, Adriana (UNSW, Professor - Australia)
4 BURT, April (Seychelles Islands Foundation, Marine Management Consultant - Seychelles)
5 VERA - DUARTE, Javier (Universidad Católica de la Santísima Concepción, Researcher - Chile)
6 SUAREZ, Anna (Ports de la Generalitat de Catalunya, Environmental officer - Spain)
7 TEMPESTA, Milena (DeTa NGO, Independent consultant - Italy)
8 MENDRIK, Freija (University of Hull, PhD candidate - UK)
9 OLIVA PÉREZ, Silvia (University of La Laguna, Postdoctoral researcher - Coastal and Marine Ecology - Spain)
10 SCHLEIMER, Anna (Odyssea, President - Luxembourg)

14 Harrison et al. (2012) Larval export from marine reserves and the recruitment benefit for fish and fisheries.
15 Lynham et al. (2020) Impact of two of the world’s largest protected areas on longline fishery catch rates.
16 Duarte et al. (2020) Rebuilding marine life.
17 Sala et al. (2016) Fish banks: An economic model to scale marine conservation.
18 Sala et al. (2013) A general business model for marine reserves.
19 Aburto-Oropeza et al. (2011) Large recovery of fish biomass in a no-take marine reserve.
21 Turnbull et al. (2021) Evaluating the social and ecological effectiveness of partially protected marine areas.
22 Day et al. (2012) Guidelines for applying the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories to Marine Protected Areas.
23 Davies et al. (2021) Valuing the impact of a potential ban on bottom contact fishing in EU Marine Protected Areas.
CALCINAI, Barbara (Università Politecnica delle Marche, professor - Italy)
ALMansa Berro, Eduardo (IEO-CSIC, Senior researcher - Spain)
Masseret, Estelle (University of Montpellier. Associate Professor Marine Ecology - France)
RICCARDI, Agnese (Università Politecnica delle Marche, PhD Student - Italy)
LEYs, Sally (University of Alberta, Professor - Canada)
NOBRE Montenegro Ventura, Patricia Alexandra (Universita Degli Studi di Palermo, Post-doc - Italy)
BatiSTA, Marisa (MARE, Universidade de Lisboa, Junior researcher (PhD) - Portugal)
Campos, Luiza (ESCI, Project Manager - Germany)
Labrière, Arch'hantael (IMBRSea, Marine biologist and Master student - Belgium)
COTTIER PÉREZ, Alexandre (IMBRSea Consortium, Graduate student - Belgium)
ASAR, Daniela Anahi (IMBRSea, Higher education student - Belgium)
Van VlAsSelaer, Jasper (Flemish research institute for agriculture, fisheries and food, Researcher - Belgium)
CATALÁ, Myriam (Rey Juan Carlos University, Associate Professor - Spain)
De Benito Abelló, Carmela (CCMAR, Research Assistant - Portugal)
WILKINSON, Emily (Operation Wallacea, Researcher - UK)
LeeB, Katharina (OceanoS-UAc, University of the Azores, PhD Candidate - Portugal)
CATALÁ, Rafael (CSIC, Tenured Scientist - Spain)
HAMMOND, Emily (Marine Biology, Divemaster - UK)
Christoforou, Eleni (Cyprus University of Technology, Post doctoral researcher - Cyprus)
Georgieva, Simona (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Postdoc - Bulgaria)
González, José M. (Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Assistant professor - Spain)
RUocco, Miriam (Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, Postdoc - Italy)
Chefaoui, Rosa M. (Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Postdoctoral Researcher - Spain)
Stoltenberg, Ina (University of Southern Denmark, PhD Student - Denmark)
KINDS, Arne (University of Santiago de Compostela, Postdoctoral researcher - Spain)
FORTUNA, Vera (MARE, Science Communication - Portugal)
Ferreira, Verónica (University of Coimbra, Assistant researcher - Portugal)
Villasante, Sebastian (University of Santiago de Compostela, Professor - Director of the EqualSea Lab - Spain)
Rodenas, Aíran (Universidad de La Laguna, Professor Researcher - Spain)
Medina Sánchez, Juan Manuel (Universidad de Granada, Associate Professor - Spain)
Peiffer, Friederike (MARE-ISPA, PhD student - Portugal)
Rodrigues, Diana (MARE-NOVA, PhD student - Portugal)
Ritter, Fabian (M.E.E.R. e.V., President - Germany)
Yilmaz, Rümeysa (Helmholtz-Zentrum Hereon, Student - Germany)
Watling, Les (University of Hawai, Professor Emeritus - USA)
Palomares, Deng (Quantitative Aquatics, Science Director - Philippines)
Casati, Roberto (CNRS, EHESS, Senior Researcher, CNRS - France)
Tenbrink, Thora (Bangor University, Professor of Linguistics and Director of the Places of Climate Change Research Centre - UK)
Bowler, Chris (Ecole normale supérieure, Director of Research CNRS - France)
Schmidt Di Friedberg, Marcella (University of Milano-Bicocca, Professor - Italy)
MIRAMBEAU, Gilles (Sorbonne Université, MCU - France)
PAULY, Daniel (Sea Around Us; Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries & Department of Zoology, Professor - Canada)
PENCO, Carlo (University of Genoa, Full Professor - Italy)
FERRIERE, Regis (University of Arizona, Professor and Director, IGLOBES International Research Laboratory - USA)
GIARDINO, Valeria (CNRS, Researcher - France)
HANZ, Ulrike (Alfred Wegener Institute, Post-Doc - Germany)
VOLTOLINI, Alberto (University of Turin, Full Professor - Italy)
SCHWENKE, Theresa (Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research, PhD candidate - Germany)
KLINKE, Annabelle (Leibniz-Zentrum für Marine Tropenforschung (ZMT), Research assistant - USA)
TAPPOLET, Christine (Université de Montréal, Full Professor - Canada)
WIDDER, Edith (Ocean Research & Conservation Association, CEO and Senior Scientist - USA)
BONATTI, Luca Lorenzo (Icrea and Universitat Pompeu Fara, ICREA Professor - Spain)
DERRICK, Brittany (UBC, Research Assistant - Canada)
MATSUMOTO, George (blank, scientist and concerned citizen - USA)
STEITZ, Matthias (Federal Ministry for the Environment, Senior Advisor - Germany)
BAXTER, Sydney (University of British Columbia, Research Assistant - Canada)
SENT, Giulia (MARE-ULisboa, PhD student - Portugal)
SHEA, Lauren (University of British Columbia, Graduate Student in Oceans and Fisheries - Canada)
DRAZEN, Jeffrey (University of Hawaii at Manoa, Professor - USA)
BROTZ, Lucas (University of British Columbia, Honorary Research Associate - Canada)
EFFORD, Meaghan (Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries, University of British Columbia, PhD Candidate - Canada)
DAHMOUNI, Ilyass (The university of British Columbia, Faculty member - Canada)
SADOVY, Yvonne (University of Hong Kong, Professor (retired) - Hong Kong)
NEWELL, Dianne (University of British Columbia, Interim Director, Centre For Indigenous Fisheries - Canada)
ROGERS, Alex (REV Ocean, Science Director - Norway)
SQUARCINA, Enrico (Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca, Professor - Italy)
PITA, Pablo (University of Santiago de Compostela, Scientific researcher - Spain)
TUBIO, Ana (University of Santiago de Compostela, Project manager - Spain)
BARAÑANO, Carlota (University of Vigo, Project manager - Spain)
GÓMEZ, Silvia (Autonomous University of Barcelona, Associate Professor and Researcher - Spain)
AINSWORTH, Gillian (University of Santiago de Compostela, PI - Research Associate - Spain)
OLIVE, Irene (Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, Researcher - Italy)
LAZZARI, Natali (University of Barcelona, Margarita Salas Postdoctoral Fellow - Spain)
ROBERTS, Callum (University of Exeter, Professor of Marine Conservation - UK)
SANABRIA-FERNANDEZ, Jose A. (University of Barcelona, Postdoctoral Researcher - Spain)
MAUD, Jacqueline (University of British Columbia, Postdoctoral Research Fellow - Canada)
HELMKAMPF, Martin (Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research, Senior Scientist - Germany)
BEILFUSS, Svenja (BUND Schleswig-Holstein, Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin - Germany)
CORREIA, Miguel (University of British Columbia, Research Associate - Canada)
PONS BUADES, Guillem (University of the Balearic Islands, University professor - Spain)
RODRÍGUEZ, Jose (Instituto Español de Oceanografía, Researcher - Spain)
GIAKOUMI, Sylvaine (Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, Senior Researcher - Italy)
HODGINS, Nicola (Whale and Dolphin Conservation, Researcher - UK)
MORENO CASTILLO, Isabel (University of Balearic Islands and Friend of the Earth, Former Marine Biology professor and Board Member of Amics de la Terra Mallorca - Spain)
LABROUSSE, Sara (CNRS, Researcher - France)
TRATHAN, Philip (University of Southampton, Visiting Professor - UK)
D’VIDIO, Francesco (LOCEAN-IPSL, CNRS senior researcher - France)
ROPERT-Coudert, Yan (CNRS, Director of research - France)
SCHILLER, Laurene (Calerton University, Postdoctoral researcher - Canada)
FAVREAU, Aurélien (IFREMER, Phd student - France)
CAILLIET, Gregor (Moss Landing Marine Laboratories of the California State University System, Professor Emeritus - USA)
DAYTON, Paul (Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Distinguished Professor Emeritus - USA)
LINDSAY, Dhugal (Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, Senior Staff Scientist - Japan)
RICHER DE FORGES, Bertrand (Ex-IRD, Retired marine biologist - France)
HOYT, Erich (IUCN SSC-WCPA Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force, Co-chair - Switzerland)
GRAS, Michael (JRC, Scientist - France)
BARNES, James (Antarctic & Southern Ocean Coalition, Board Chair - USA)
ANDREWS, Samantha (Ocean Oculus, Researcher - France)
KÜHN, Ingolf (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Professor for Macroecology - Germany)
AULIYA, Mark (The Leibniz Institute for the Analysis of Biodiversity Change, postdoc - Germany)
MONK, Hazel (Springlands School, Teacher - New Zealand)
OBAIDULLAH, Farah (Women4Oceans, Ocean Advocate - Netherlands)
JOHNSON, Rory (University College Dublin, Associate Professor - Ireland)
COUSTEAU, Alexandra (Oceans 2050, President, Oceans 2050 - Germany)
Oomen, Rebekah (University of Oslo, Researcher - Norway)
DZIADEK, Ricardo (Former AWI and MARUM, Postdoctoral Researcher - Germany)
EMAM, Wasseem (Ethical Seafood Research | University of Stirling, Director & Lead Researcher - UK)
EVANS, Alice (The Royal Parks, Volunteer Officer - UK)
STEINER, Zvi (GEOMAR Helmholtz Center for Ocean Research Kiel, Scientist - Germany)
JAKOBI, Tobias (Georg-August University Goettingen, Senior Researcher - Germany)
HALVORSEN, Kim (Institute of marine research, Marine scientist - Norway)
EISEN, Olaf (Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz-Centre for Polar and Marine Research, Professor - Germany)
HORTA E COSTA, Barbara (CCMAR; University of the Algarve, Researcher - Portugal)
THIELE, Torsten (Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Potsdam, Affiliate Scholar - Germany)
MACPHERSON, Enrique (Spanish Research Council (CSIC), Research Professor - Spain)
GALBRAITH, Eric (Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona, Research Professor - Spain)
HADDOCK, Steven (Self, Senior Scientist - USA)
SCHMIDT, Susanne (UFZ, Senior Researcher - Germany)
MICHELI, Fiorenza (Stanford University, Professor - USA)
TEIXIDOR, Patricia (University of Bern, scientific officer - Switzerland)
BARÓ, Francesc (Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Asst. Professor - Belgium)
AUSTER, Peter (Mystic Aquarium & University of Connecticut, Senior Research Scientist
& Research Professor Emeritus - USA)
EKELAND, Ivar (Université Paris-Dauphine, Former President, Université Paris-Dauphine PSL - France)
FRIEDLANDER, Alan (National Geographic Society, Chief Scientist - USA)
GILI, Josep-Maria (CSIC (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas), Research Professor - Spain)
GUÉT, Jerome (UCLA, Assistant Researcher - USA)
SUMAILA, Rashid (University of British Columbia, Professor - Canada)
FERRETTI, Francesco (Virginia Tech, Assistant Professor - USA)
JACKSON, Jeremy (Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Professor of Oceanography, Emeritus - USA)
POERTNER, Hans (Alfred-Wegener-Institute, Professor - Germany)
PEDACCINI, Marie (CCMAR, MSc student - Portugal)
BROWN, Eric (National Park of American Samoa, Marine Ecologist - USA)
ATWOOD, Trisha (Utah State University, Associate Professor - USA)
GUAL DE TORRELLA, Cristina (Sanidad, Fisioterapeuta - Spain)
CORRAL GARCÍA, Lara Silvia (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, University lecture - Spain)
ROUSSET, Clement (CNRS, Ingénieur de Recherche - France)
ALMÓN, Bruno (GEMM, PhD Student - Spain)
SCHWEMMER, Henriette (Dachverband Deutscher Avifaunisten e.V., Diplom Biologist - Germany)
ROESSGER, Julia (CCMAR, Research assistant - Portugal)
CHEN, Emily (Institute of Oceanography, Polish Academy of Sciences, PhD candidate - Poland)
MELO, Ricardo (MARE - Marine and Environmental Research Centre, Researcher - Portugal)
SANTOS, Romana (Science Faculty University of Lisbon, Professor - Portugal)
CORREIA, Otilia (University of Lisbon, Professor - Portugal)
KNOWLTON, Nancy (Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries, Board Member - USA)
MONTOTO, Pablo (Fundación Blue Life, Marine biologist technician - Spain)
COSTA, Maria José (MARE.Faculty of sciences Lisboa, Full professor Retired - Portugal)
MASIANO, Graciela (Plataforma Pitiüsa en Defensa d’unes Pensions Públiques Dignes , Movimiento pensionista - Spain)
BORSÁ, Philippe (Institut de recherche pour le développement, researcher - France)
MARTINEZ, Pablo (None, Teacher - Spain)
COSTA, Mélanie (University of Evora, Technician - Portugal)
RIBES BEAUDEMOULIN, Sonia (Muséum d’Histoire naturelle de La Réunion, Biologiste marin (à la retraite) - France)
DOMINGOS, Isabel (Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon /MARE - Ulisboa, Assistant Professor - Portugal)
BERNAT, Hereu (University of Barcelona, Tenired-track - Spain)
FORTES, Ana Margarida (FCUL, Assistant Professor - Portugal)
MOUILLOT, David (University of Montpellier, Professor - France)
COLL, Marta (Institut of Marine Science (ICM-CSIC), Senior Researcher - Spain)
MOLAND, Even (University of Agder, Associate Professor - Norway)
ERZINI, Karim (Universidade do Algarve and Centre of Marine Sciences of the Algarve, Full Professor - Portugal)
HENEGHAN, Ryan (Queensland University of Technology, Lecturer - Australia)
AUGUSTO, Rodríguez (Spanish Institut of Oceanography, Researching assistant - Spain)
TIMO, Moritz (Deutsches Meeresmuseum, Head of Science Department - Germany)
BAS, Maria (Institut de Ciències del Mar (ICM-CSIC), Postdoctoral Researcher - Spain)
OLSEN, Esben (University of Agder, Professor - Norway)
MARTÍN-SOSA, Pablo (Canary Islands Oceanographic Centre, IEO-CSIC, Researcher - Spain)
RELANO, Veronica (University of British Columbia, PhD Candidate - Canada)
SCHERRER, Kim (UIB, Postdoc - Norway)
SUISSE, Rute (Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa, Laboratory Technician - Portugal)
ENGELEN, Aschwin (CCMAR, Researcher - Portugal)
NAVARRO, Patricia (University of Ghent, Marine Biology graduate - Belgium)
BOAVENTURA, Diana (Escola Superior de Educação João de Deus / MARE, Professora coordenadora equiparada - Portugal)
KOESTNER, Nicole (GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, Project manager - Germany)
HURET, Martin (AFH, Research Scientist - France)
MARÇALO, Ana (CCMAR, Research assistant - Portugal)
SALES HENRIQUES, Nuno (CCMAR - University of Algarve, PhD Fellow - Portugal)
FENBERG, Phillip (University of Southampton, Marine Biologist - UK)
BÄKER, Maria (University of Southampton, Senior Enterprise Fellow - UK)
FUSTER ALONSO, Alba (Instituto de Ciencias del Mar (ICM-CSIC), PHD Student - Spain)
HIEBENTHAL, Claas (Geomar, Scientist - Germany)
SEQUEIRA, Vera (MARE - Marine and Environmental Sciences Center, Assistant Researcher - Portugal)
BASTARI, Azzurra (MedReAct, Scientific Advisor (PhD) - Italy)
STÉPHAN, Beaucher (MedReAct, Senior consultant - Italy)
RANGEL, Mafalda (Centre for Marine Sciences, Post doc researcher - Portugal)
BELACKOVA, Adela (Centre of Marine Sciences, PhD student in Marine, Earth and Environmental Sciences - Portugal)
BARTOLI, Alex (Alex Bartoli (Freelance fisheries consultant), Marine biologist - Spain)
BECKENSTEINER, Jennifer (UBO, Postdoctoral researcher - France)
GIMÉNEZ, Joan (ICM-CSIC, Postdoctoral Researcher - Spain)
MAYORGA, Juan (National Geographic Society, Marine scientist - USA)
KANGUR, Külli (Estonian University of Life Sciences, senior researcher - Estonia)
LUTA, Albana (Republic of Kosovo Assembly The Committee on Economy, Industry, Entrepreneurship and Trade, Chair of Review Committee-Water Services Regulatory Authority, Republic Of Kosovo)
LAKEL, Warda (Carbon and Hydrocarbon Technologies, Student - Algeria)
COURROYE, Mathilde (SOAS, student - France)
BELAY, Kibrewosen (University of Gondar, Lecturer - Ethiopia)
SANABRIA, Miguel (Thames21, River restoration officer - UK)
LUNDAHL KALISZ, Juan (Water Science Policy, Social Media Manager - Germany)
SANDOVAL, Angel (Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, Consultant - Ecuador)
GOODELL, Whitney (National Geographic Society, Marine Ecologist - USA)
GOLONGA DOMO, Ngai (IMI, Water and sanitation Engineer - Chad)
HERNANDEZ, Noelia (Vellmari, Marine Conservation Director - Spain)
IMRAN, Muhammad (Hazara University Mansehra, Assistant Professor - Pakistan)
ZENG, Yuhan (KIT, China - Germany)
TEJEDOR, Alberto (Diving Menorca, Scuba Instructor - Spain)
DUQUE, Natalia (Eawag, Researcher - Switzerland) 
VIGNONDO, Beatriz (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, PhD - Spain) 
CHEN, Wei Jen (National Taiwan University, Professor - Taiwan) 
LOBRY, Jérémy (INRAE, Directeur de Recherches/Senior Scientist - France) 
CASTRO CADENAS, María Dolores (ICM-CSIC, PhD candidate - Spain) 
BIERNE, Nicolas (CNRS Montpellier, Director of Research - France) 
BONNICI, Iago (ISEM, CNRS, Research Engineer - France) 
GUINAND, Bruno (Institut des Sciences de l'Evolution de Montpellier (ISEM), Université de Montpellier, Associate Professor - France) 
MEYER, Laura (University of Montpellier, PhD student - France) 
MOLODTSOVA, Tina (P.P.Shirshov Institute of Oceanology RAS, Leading researcher - Russia) 
DESTEFANI, Arianna (Ghent university, M.Sc. student - Belgium) 
CERQUEIRA, Frédérique (CNRS, Assistant ingenieur - France) 
NEO, Hsueh Yen (Water Science Policy, Software Developer - Germany) 
JENOUVRIER, Stephanie (WHOI, marine ecologist - USA) 
SUN, Ruijiao (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Student - USA) 
VENTURA, Francesco (Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon, PhD, researcher at University of Lisbon - Portugal) 
CORON, Mathilde (Master in marine environment, Student - Spain) 
MIÑARRO, Sara (Autonomous University of Barcelona, Independent researcher - Spain) 
ISAIAS, Evagoras A (Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics- OGS Trieste, biologist - oceanographer - Italy) 
PUERTA, Patricia (Save The Med Foundation, Researcher - Spain) 
LA BIANCA, Giulia (University of Plymouth, PhD student - UK) 
TAMBURINI, Christian (CNRS, Director of research - France) 
LEBLANC, Karine (MIO CNRS, Oceanographer - France) 
FÖLSTER, Anne-Sophie (BremenZero, Member - Germany) 
BOUDOURESQUE, Charles-François (Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography (MIO), Aix-Marseille University, Professor emeritus - France) 
FILELLA, Alba (Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography, PhD STUDENT - France) 
OURGAUD, Melanie (CNRS, PostDoctoral Researcher - France) 
ESCAÑO ROEPSTORFF, José (Cleanwave Foundation, Coordinator - Spain) 
FONVIEILLE, Nadege (Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography (MIO), PhD Student - France) 
QUÉGUINER, Bernard (Public University of France, Retired professor of Oceanography - France) 
IZARD, Lloyd (Sorbonne University, CNRS, IRD, MNHN, Oceanography and Climate Laboratory: Experiments and Numerical Approaches (LOCEAN-IPSL), PhD Student - France) 
VOGT, Linus (LOCEAN, IPSL, Sorbonne Université, PhD student - France) 
CHABERT, Pierre (LOCEAN-IPSL, PhD student - France) 
MOUTIN, Thierry (MIO Aix-Marseille University, Professor - France) 
MATTHEWS, Katie (Oceana, Chief Scientist - USA) 
GOMIS, Melissa (Université Paris Saclay, Environmental scientist - France) 
ETIENNE, Pauthenet (LOPS / IFREMER, Postdoctoral researcher - France) 
SPIEGEL, Timo (GEOMAR Helmholtz Zentrum für Ozeanforschung Kiel, Doctoral candidate - Germany) 
WALLMANN, Klaus (GEOMAR, Professor at Kiel University and head of research unit Marine Geosystems at GEOMAR - Germany) 
AUGER, Matthis (Sorbonne Université, PostDoc - France)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Institution/University/Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ROLLAND, Robin</td>
<td>(Sorbonne Université/LOCEAN, PhD)</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AKHOUDAS, Camille</td>
<td>(Stockholm University, Postdoc)</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAMPION, Giulia</td>
<td>(The University of Warwick, Research Assistant)</td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEOGH, Poppy</td>
<td>(DFO, Aquatic Science Technician)</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOERRES, Matthias</td>
<td>(BUND / Friends of the Earth Germany, Spokesperson for Marine Conservation)</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAUEN, Cornelia</td>
<td>(Mundus maris - Sciences and Arts for Sustainability asbl, President)</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOREN, Michael</td>
<td>(Swedish Museum of Natural History, Curator)</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILLIAMS, Stella</td>
<td>(Obafemi Awolowo University, Vice President)</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR. ZIEGLER, Iris M.</td>
<td>(Sharkproject International, Head International Cooperation)</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VERMILYE, Antoinette</td>
<td>(Gallifrey Foundation, co-founder)</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANCELOT, Christiane</td>
<td>(ULB, Emeritus)</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REIS, Fernando</td>
<td>(Sharks Educational Institute Portugal, President)</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BANARU, Daniela</td>
<td>(MIO / Aix-Marseille University, Assistant Professor / MCF HDR)</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCOBAR, Elva</td>
<td>(UNAM ICML, Prof)</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLATT-TILL, Verena</td>
<td>(Society for Dolphin Conservation, Projectlead)</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORAL, Munevver</td>
<td>(Faculty of Fisheries and Aquatic Science, Research fellow)</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KAYA, Cüneyt</td>
<td>(Recep Tayyip Erdogan University, Assoc. Prof. Dr.)</td>
<td>Türkiye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARANDA BARRANCO, Sergio</td>
<td>(University of Granada, PhD Student)</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALVAREZ-MANZANEDA SALCEDO, Maria Inmaculada</td>
<td>(Queen's University, Postdoctoral fellow)</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATON, Julia</td>
<td>(Queen's University, MSc)</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KANE, Zoe</td>
<td>(Queen's, Grad Student)</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAM, Yasmine</td>
<td>(Queen's University, Biology Masters Student)</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMORÓS, Lot</td>
<td>(University of Granada, Researcher)</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMOL, John</td>
<td>(Queen's University, Professor)</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEREZ MARTINEZ, Carmen</td>
<td>(university of granada, professor)</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FERNANDEZ, Alejandra</td>
<td>(Universidad de Granada, researcher)</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BONIZZONI, Silvia</td>
<td>(Dolphin Biology and Conservation, Executive director)</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARTÍNEZ-LÓPEZ, Javier</td>
<td>(University of Granada - Ecology Department, Postdoctoral researcher)</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISAIAS, Evagoras A.</td>
<td>(National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics - OGS, University of Trieste - UniTS, Sustainable Blue Economy Expert, Researcher, biologist - oceanographer)</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FÖLSTER, Anne</td>
<td>(BremenZero, Environmental Engineer)</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GONÇALVES, Rodrigo J.</td>
<td>(University of Granada, Postdoctoral Researcher)</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>