

## Report from the third meeting of the EU4Ocean Platform Working Group on Food from the Ocean

Date: 02/12/2021 14:00-16:00 CET

Meeting chair: Gesche Krause (AWI, Germany)

Meeting facilitator: Ángel Muñoz Piniella (EMB, EU4Ocean Platform facilitator)

Participants: see annex 1

Meeting agenda: see annex 2

Main outcomes:

The third meeting of the EU4Ocean Platform Working Group (WG) on Food from the Ocean focused on what the members of the Working Group have done in the framework of EU4Ocean during the year 2021 and on how and how much the Working Group has been useful to the members. In addition, input was sought for the next phase of the Working Group from January 2022 onwards.

Gesche Krause, the WG chair, opened the meeting by re-iterating her engagement as chair for the following months. She reminded the members that during the last meeting, discussions focused on the narratives on food from the Ocean, and the terrestrial bias humans have as land animals. She made the comparison between previous changes in narratives related to the Ocean, such as the former view of whales as monsters to be hunted, and now whales are appreciated and are considered as an animal to conserve. She also highlighted seaweed, as there was a time that they were considered dirty and something to be removed, but now they are appreciated as a source of food and as a tool to fight climate change. This was in line with the recent appreciation by the EU with its initiative on algae, so EU citizens can appreciate this Ocean resource.

The members also saw similarities with the change of narrative in the case of jellyfish, as currently these are not accepted as a source of food in Europe, but research also demonstrate that they can be useful for additional applications beyond food. Members re-iterated the need of having the input from the consumers of tomorrow (the youth). This kind of non-traditional sources of food (to Europeans) can be promoted and gathered in a recipe book. Some highlighted activities being conducted on schools on seaweed and that even a seaweed cookbook already exists. Sea plants were also highlighted as an Ocean resource that could be used beyond a source of food. All members agreed that these (new) Ocean resources should be considered not only for extracting for food, but it should be sustainable, expanding and diversifying their use. Links were made to the other EU4Ocean Working Groups, the Network of Blue Schools, the Youth4Ocean Forum and the “If Oceans could speak” podcast.

The members agreed to contribute to a concept note, to co-develop with the youth components of EU4Ocean, on activities related to the promotion of non-traditional sources of food from the Ocean,

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mainly seaweed, jellyfish and sea plants. They also agreed to explore the possibilities to present the outcomes of these activities at the EU4Ocean Ocean Literacy Summit in Spring 2022.

## Background and summary of the EU4Ocean Platform Working Group on Food from the Ocean third meeting

To operationalize the [EU4Ocean Platform](#), and bring its active group of organisations, initiatives and people closer together, three thematic Working Groups were established in September 2020. The themes of these Working Groups (WG) are Climate and Ocean, Food from the Ocean, and Healthy and Clean Ocean.

The third online meeting of the WG on Food from the Ocean, chaired and moderated by Gesche Krause (WG chair), took place on 2 December 2021.

WG members brainstormed on how the narrative could be changed for non-traditional sources of food from the Ocean, such as seaweed, jellyfish and sea plants. They highlighted the connections with the consumers of tomorrow and decided to investigate the possibility to launch an activity to present it at the EU4Ocean Ocean Literacy Summit in Spring 2022.

## Annex 1

### EU4Ocean Platform members participating at the third meeting of the Working Group on Food from the Ocean

WG member	First Name	Last Name
CSIC	Laura	Prieto
Nausicaa	Estelle	Soulet
Klaipeda University	Jurate	Lesutiene
Klaipeda University	Donata	Overlinge
AWI	Gesche	Krause
Genoa Aquarium Foundation	Antonio	Di Natale
ACTeon	Olga	Mashkina
Ecologic	Chiara	Mazzetti
EMB	Ángel	Muñiz Piniella
Seascope Belgium	Nathalie	Van Isacker
EurOcean	Margherita	Zorgno



## Annex 2

### Agenda

<b>13:50 – 14:00</b>	<i>Log in by participants</i>
<b>14:00 – 14:10</b>	Welcome, reflections and farewell by Gesche Krause (AWI) Chair of the Working Group on Food from the Ocean
<b>14:10 – 14:15</b>	Brief discussion on selecting a new Chair
<b>14:15 – 15:00</b>	Discussion: What's the added value of this Working Group? – <i>moderated by Ángel Muñiz Piniella, EU4Ocean WG facilitator</i>
	<i>Participants will be asked how they have contributed and benefited from participating in this Working Group, and reflect on previous meetings (see reports from previous meetings <a href="#">here</a>)</i>
<b>15:00 – 15:15</b>	<i>Comfort break</i>
<b>15:15 – 15:55</b>	Discussion: How would you like to see the future of this Working Group from January 2022 onwards? – <i>moderated by Ángel Muñiz Piniella, EU4Ocean WG facilitator</i>
	<i>Participants will be asked what kind of activities they would like to conduct as a Working Group for the new phase from January 2022 onwards, and their recommendations and willingness to continue these activities in the future.</i>
<b>15:55 – 16:00</b>	Final remarks and next steps - <i>Ángel Muñiz Piniella, EU4Ocean WG facilitator</i>
<b>16:00</b>	<i>Close</i>