

'PROTECTING THE OCEAN SO THAT IT CONTINUES TO PROTECT US' - EUROPE'S LEADING OCEAN SCIENTISTS LAUNCH ADVICE FOR GOVERNMENTS

Leading European Ocean scientists have launched *Navigating the Future VI (NFVI)*, a publication which provides governments, policymakers and funders with robust, independent scientific advice, focusing on the critical role the Ocean plays in the wider Earth system. *Navigating the Future VI* proposes the marine (natural and social) science research we need to help us address the challenges facing the planet, and with whom we need to collaborate to find solutions.

This is a flagship publication of the European Marine Board, an independent non-governmental advisory body that represents more than 10,000 marine scientists across Europe.

"Protecting the Ocean so that it continues to protect us, covering all its extent from the coast to the deep sea, requires a multidisciplinary approach and appropriate governance. Navigating the Future VI, with its four outward-facing chapters linking to topics that any audience can identify with (People, Climate, Fresh Water, and Biodiversity), takes the next step towards these challenges and considers the role of the Ocean and marine science in the wider Earth system", says Dr Gilles Lericolais, Chair of the publication working group and Chair of the European Marine Board (2019-2024) in the foreword.

Research requirements

At important junctures for the [UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development](#) (2021-2030) and the [EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and waters](#) (2021-2027), NFVI outlines key knowledge gaps, and research and policy recommendations to ensure we achieve the objectives of these important initiatives. It discusses how we can work together to manage our Ocean interactions, what is needed to achieve an Ocean that is no longer warming, how we can ensure that clean and safe waters are available to all communities, and how we can have a biodiverse Ocean that continues to provide ecosystem services.

Drawing together messages from the four thematic chapters, the publication concludes that to ensure the Ocean continues to provide the services the Earth and society require, we need:

- Specific research on the impact of multiple stressors on the Ocean and its inhabitants;
- Substantial private Ocean finance for projects that are really sustainable, avoiding greenwashing;
- Sustained and long-term research funding;
- Sustained Ocean observations, open, accessible and digitised data, and their integration into Digital Twins of the Ocean;
- Increased technical and financial resources to meet the growing monitoring requirements;

- Harmonised governance, standards, policies and monitoring across the land-coastal-Ocean interface; and
- Scientists and policymakers who are trained to work in cross-, inter-, and trans-disciplinary ways, as well as trained specialists in critical fields.

NFVI also takes an introspective look and recommends that the marine science community should operate in a more sustainable and equitable manner to lead by example.

Collaborative effort

The publication has been a collaborative effort over two years starting in October 2022. The Working Group comprises 33 experts from 16 European countries, covering a wide range of marine natural and social science backgrounds and career levels.

Launch of the publication

The in-person and livestreamed launch of the publication takes place in Brussels today at [Talk C.E.C.](#), an independent space dedicated to cultural and artistic experience. The event is open to all interested parties and will include a presentation of the document and its main messages and recommendations, as well as responses and reflections on the document from key stakeholders. More information and registration for online participation is possible using this link: https://www.marineboard.eu/NFVI_launch

The document can be access at: <https://www.marineboard.eu/publications/nfvi>

Notes to editors

For more information please contact:

Dr Paula Kellett, Science Officer, European Marine Board Tel: +32 (0)59 33 69 25, Email: pkellett@marineboard.eu

The European Marine Board (EMB) is a leading European think tank in marine science policy. EMB is a network with a membership comprising over 10,000 marine scientists from the major national marine/oceanographic institutes, research funding agencies and national networks of universities from countries across Europe. The Board provides a platform for its member organizations to develop common priorities, to advance marine research, and to bridge the gap between science and policy to meet future marine science challenges and opportunities.

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