

The background of the poster is a deep blue. At the top, there is a faint, light blue silhouette of a whale's head and eye. In the center, the words "OCEAN ACTION" are written in large, bold, white capital letters. To the right of the word "ACTION", there is a solid blue vertical bar. Below the main title, the hashtag "#oceanaction" is written in orange, followed by the date "05.02" and "2020" in white. At the bottom left, the "SEAS AT RISK" logo is visible, consisting of a blue circular icon and the text "SEAS AT RISK" in white. The bottom of the poster features a solid orange band with the words "Conference Report" in white. The entire design is overlaid with stylized, light blue and white illustrations of seaweed, bubbles, and a fish tail.

OCEAN ACTION

#oceanaction

05.02
—
2020

 SEAS AT RISK

Conference Report

FOREWORD by Monica Verbeek, Executive Director of Seas at Risk



Dear colleagues and friends,

I am pleased to present the report from the **Seas At Risk's Ocean Action! conference**.

Ocean Action! - and Ocean Week 2020 - were meant to be among the first events in Europe to open the 'Ocean Super Year'. What a strange yet warm feeling it is to look back on that day

today, when we could all still gather to discuss the actions needed to achieve the healthy and resilient ocean on which we depend.

While the focus now is naturally on the pandemic - its dramatic impact and the measures to deal with the health crisis and social and economic fallout - the biodiversity and climate crises must not be forgotten. These crises need to be dealt with together as they have the same root causes: the destruction and over-exploitation of the natural world.

More than ever, we need a healthy ocean and recovery investments provide opportunities to re-build the ocean's health and resilience. The financial support for recovery of maritime sectors, for example, provides an opportunity to secure green jobs and promote the sustainable use of marine natural resources within planetary boundaries. The Blue Manifesto, with its roadmap to achieve healthy seas by 2030, is very timely and should guide efforts for a green transition in the context of the European Green Deal. The many constructive and creative ideas you provided during the conference are a vital complement to the Blue Manifesto and we will keep pushing for all of it to be taken into account on the road to recovery.

I want to thank you once more for your enthusiastic participation and the valuable contribution that made it a truly unforgettable day and a worthy celebration of 30 years of Seas At Risk.

Monica Verbeek
Executive Director of Seas At Risk



AGENDA!

9:00-9:30

WELCOME

9:30-11:00
plenary

**WAKE-UP
CALLS**



11:00-11:30
BREAK
Check out
our Ocean
Exhibition

11:30-12:00
panel

**POWER AND
CHALLENGES
OF LOCAL
ACTION**

12:00-12:30
panel

**DOING THINGS
DIFFERENTLY**

12:30-13:45
LUNCH
Check out
our Ocean
Exhibition
12:45-13:15
**NGO Speed
-Pitching**

14:00-15:30
workshops

**SHAPE OUR
BLUE FUTURE**



13:45-14:00
prep talk

15:30-16:00
BREAK
Check out
our Ocean
Exhibition

16:00-16:10
plenary

**REPORTING BACK
ON YOUR IDEAS**

16:10-17:15
plenary

**SO WHAT NOW...?
TIME TO TAKE
ACTION!**

Speech by
Commissioner
Sinkevicius

High-level policy panel

17:15-17:45
plenary

**COMMUNICATING
THE URGENCY**

17:45-18:00
plenary

**CLOSING REMARKS
&
POETIC WRAP-UP**

18:00-21:30
**celebrating 30
years of
ocean activism**

cocktail
buffet dinner

PARTY

WAKE-UP CALLS: LISTENING TO THE EXPERTS

During the Wake-up Calls, our four speakers took stock of the state of the marine environment and the outlook for Europe's seas and ocean. They considered the effectiveness of EU marine policy and pinpointed the key challenges we are facing.

Monica Verbeek, Executive Director of Seas At Risk, opened the day with an impassioned speech about the crucial role of the seas and ocean in combating climate and nature breakdown. She pointed to the EU's failure to meet most of its 2020 targets to restore the seas to health, along with the relentless push for blue economic growth. Dr Verbeek presented the Blue Manifesto, developed by European blue NGOs and supported by over 100 organisations, as a blue answer to the European Green Deal. The Blue Manifesto sets out a vision to achieve healthy seas and ocean by 2030, together with a roadmap of the actions to make it happen.



"The ocean can only protect us against climate change if it is resilient, with thriving and diverse marine life and healthy ecosystems."

Hans Bruyninckx, Director of the European Environmental Agency, spoke about the deterioration of Europe's seas and ocean, the worrisome outlook and the urgent need to turn the tide. Overall, the European marine environment remains under pressure, with climate change and human activities all degrading ecosystem resilience. On a more hopeful note, he reminded us that ecosystems can recover when Europeans work together to reduce pollution, designate protected areas and manage fisheries activities more appropriately. For the first time, the European Green Deal recognises the systemic nature of the challenges we face, and the role of the ocean within those systems.



"If you want a strong Blue Economy, you need a strong Blue"

Professor Steve Fletcher, member of the Ocean Lead and the UN International Resource Panel, spoke about the need for system change to save the ocean, and the associated challenges. He explained that pressures on the ocean are largely determined by the ways our economies function, how we produce and consume. What we need is a new model of change that will allow us to live well within planetary boundaries, a model centred not only on efficiency but on ecosystem resilience and human wellbeing. We need to completely rethink our systems and their underlying business models and move to new systems that fulfil societal needs in an essentially sustainable way. A just, fair and inclusive transition.



"We need to change the fundamentals of the economic system. Trends must be turned around by 2030"

Dr Easkey Britton, member of the SOPHIE Project and the Whitaker Institute at NUI Galway, shared her experience of the vastness and power of the ocean, as well as her concerns about pollution and loss of biodiversity. In an inspiring speech, she used poetry to remind us of our lost emotional connection with the ocean. Dr Britton discussed the interconnection between the health of the ocean and people's health and wellbeing. She also presented the SOPHIE project, part of EU Horizon 2020, a pan-European multidisciplinary project that seeks to define future ocean and human health research priorities.



***“Water we love you. Water we thank you.
Water we respect you.”***

The wake-up calls were followed by a discussion inspired by questions from the audience. One of the issues raised by attendees was how to engage with the public and change the perception of environmental protection as a middle-class pursuit to a more inclusive movement. Dr Britton recognised the need for diverse voices in order to make the collaboration more meaningful, pointing out that ‘the public’ is not a single entity but a range of people with different needs. The speakers also discussed tipping points for the environment, policy implementation failures and the time left to reach environmental targets. Stéphane Isoard of the EEA acknowledged that tipping points are already underway and stressed the need for urgent action to tackle interconnected issues. The discussion on policy implementation challenges covered the need for better funding, improved policy coherence and enhanced cooperation across governance levels.



TESTIMONIES: LISTENING TO THOSE WHO ACT FOR A BETTER WORLD

The two morning panels featured grassroots activists and campaigners, each of whom shared their experiences. What are the drivers for local action? What challenges are encountered? Will incremental change be sufficient to restore the ocean to good health? Is a more fundamental 'system change' needed? If so, what action should be taken and by whom?

Power and challenges of local action

The first panel featured Dolf D'Hondt, campaigner from the Irish 'Bantry Bay - Protect Our Native Kelp Forest' project, Milena Ramov, manager of the Telascica Nature Park in Croatia, and Natalia Llorente-Nosti, senior campaigner of the Spanish NGO Ecologistas en Accion. They discussed their projects and the challenges on the ground.



Left to right: Milena Ramov, Natalia Llorente-Nosti, Dolf D'Hondt and panel moderator, Anya Sitaram

These activists' stories shared some common threads: local action and the power of raising awareness among local communities, challenges in dealing with local and national authorities, enduring commitment to lasting battles and finding passion in working with people with different backgrounds and interests.

As a diver, **Dolf d'Hondt** has experienced the beauty and diversity of marine life, particularly in the kelp forest of Bantry Bay, on the west coast of Ireland. The campaign to protect this ecosystem began in response to a company's plans to mechanically harvest kelp in the bay and received massive support from the local community. He recounted the challenges in dealing with the many government departments responsible for Ireland's coastal protection. **Milena Ramov**'s story of Telascica Nature Park in Croatia highlighted the importance of negotiation and engaging different stakeholders together to protect the environment. Ms Ramov described the long struggle to preserve local fish stocks in the absence of legislation and the challenge of earning the trust of local fishers. She discussed the importance of working closely with them, communicating the benefits of protected areas and finding solutions together. Closing the panel, **Natalia Llorente-Nosti** shared her experience of the 30-year campaign to protect the lagoon in Mar Menor, Murcia and the determination needed to fight such long battles. The lagoon has been under threat from algal growth caused by agricultural pollution, over-development and local administration inaction. She explained Ecologistas en Accion's struggles to challenge local government decisions in court and the difference that public awareness can make.

Doing things differently

The final panel of the morning explored new ways of campaigning for systemic change, Claire Nouvian, founder and Chair of Bloom, Liam Geary Baulch, artist and activist with Extinction Rebellion, and Lola Segers, an 18-year old climate activist from Youth for Climate Belgium discussed what makes their campaigns different, particularly their ability to mobilise the public and put pressure on governments.

Lola Segers, who helps to run Youth for Climate Belgium's social media channels and campaign strategy, gave some insights into the success of youth movements in putting climate action on the political agenda. She described how their determination in organising repeated Fridays for Future school strikes could not be ignored by politicians, and emphasised the power and legitimacy of concerted action led by young people, who will suffer most from climate change. **Liam Geary Baulch** talked about the power of mobilisation and explained how Extinction Rebellion's tactics differ from those of previous civil disobedience movements. He described the way the climate emergency was communicated - in emotive language and facing the grief that is already happening - which brought people to the movement and allowed them to connect deeply with the climate issue. The growing Extinction Rebellion movement and mobilisation prompted the first televised climate debate in the UK, where former Prime Minister Theresa May committed Britain to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2020. Finally, **Claire Nouvian** described how a small but determined marine NGO like Bloom was able to achieve a European ban on deep-

sea bottom trawling. She explained the key realisation that the sector's business model would not be profitable without subsidies, which raised public awareness that taxpayer money was contributing to ocean degradation. Ms Nouvian stressed that EU institutions should be working for citizens and should ban all harmful fisheries subsidies.



Liam Geary Baulch, Lola Segers, Claire Nouvian and panel moderator Anya Sitaram



Graphic recording - morning panels

PITCHES

Environmental NGOs shared their experience on the ground, success stories and concerns for the future of our ocean in 3-minutes pitches.



- **BUND** - Towards plastic-free coasts: what can be done at the local level?



- **Marevivo** - For the Sea every wash is a torture



- **Retorna** - Deposit systems: the best tool to avoid plastic bottles and can polluting our oceans



- **Legambiente - COMMON Project** - A network for Mediterranean Sea defence



- **Surfrider Foundation Europe** - Plastic Origins: monitoring and bringing solutions to river plastic pollution



- **IFAW** - Underwater noise: the case study of France



- **Ocean Care** - Quiet please! A loud call for quieter oceans





- **ENT Funcacio** - Moving forward on Fisheries Restricted Areas in the Mediterranean



- **Good Fish Foundation** - Save our Eel



- **Sciaena** - The power of art as an outreach tool for ocean conservation



- **Natuurpunt** - Belgian joint forces for biodiversity and climate



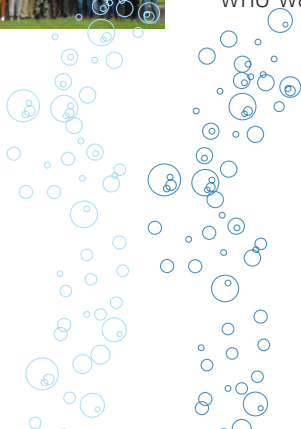
- **Marine Conservation society** - How useful are your MPAs?



- **High Seas Alliance** - High time for the high seas



- **John Armstrong, Ocean Youth Ambassador** - The All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Forum: building the capacity of Young Leaders who want to protect our ocean



WHALE FOR A MINUTE

Nicolas Entrup from the NGO OceanCare surprised the audience with an immersive performance on the devastating impact of underwater noise on marine mammals. Inviting attendees to imagine being a whale for one minute, he played the kind of loud sounds caused by oil and gas exploration, describing how they disrupt the lives of noise-sensitive species like whales.



"Imagine you are a whale. You live in a world of sound. Sound is vital for you to find prey, avoid predators and to communicate with your mates.

[Explosion]

This is an airgun. When searching for new hydrocarbon sites in the seabed, up to 48 airguns are emitting extreme, explosion-type sounds simultaneously. Around a million times louder underwater than a jack-hammer.

It's almost impossible to imagine.

[Explosion]

During a seismic survey air-guns are "fired" around every 10 to 15 seconds, 24 hours per day, for several weeks, sometimes even months.

[Explosion]

***It is devastating.
It's about time to make the ocean a quieter place"***

OUR BLUE FUTURE: LISTENING TO YOU

The afternoon workshops brought conference participants together in small groups to reflect on the actions that need to be taken in the coming years to restore seas to health. The objective was to complement the **Blue Manifesto** with ideas for concrete delivery actions to overcome various challenges related to the implementation of policies and legislation.

Participants chose from the following six challenges:

- **Challenge 1:** Communicating ocean emergency to the general public
- **Challenge 2:** Addressing governance obstacles (for ocean conservation and the sustainable management of human activities at sea)
- **Challenge 3:** Enforcing and controlling legislation at sea
- **Challenge 4:** Redirecting finance flows to support ocean conservation and restoration rather than activities harming the ocean
- **Challenge 5:** Overcoming unsustainable consumption and production patterns
- **Challenge 6:** Addressing the social aspects of the transition to a healthy ocean

The following pages present only a selection of the many constructive and creative ideas that came out of the workshops. For the full list of ideas, see the document “Annex - Workshop outcomes”



CHALLENGE 1



Chosen Action

What?

- Ocean reality show: celebrities, CEOs and NGO leaders on an island
- Campaigns and social media

Why?

- Quickest and easiest way to communicate to the public
- Bring the ocean to the mainstream public

How?

- On Netflix

Who?

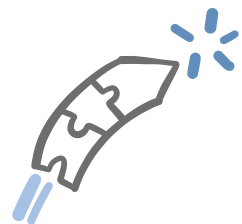
- Harrison Ford (voice of the ocean)
- Famous ocean scientists
- Emma Watson

When?

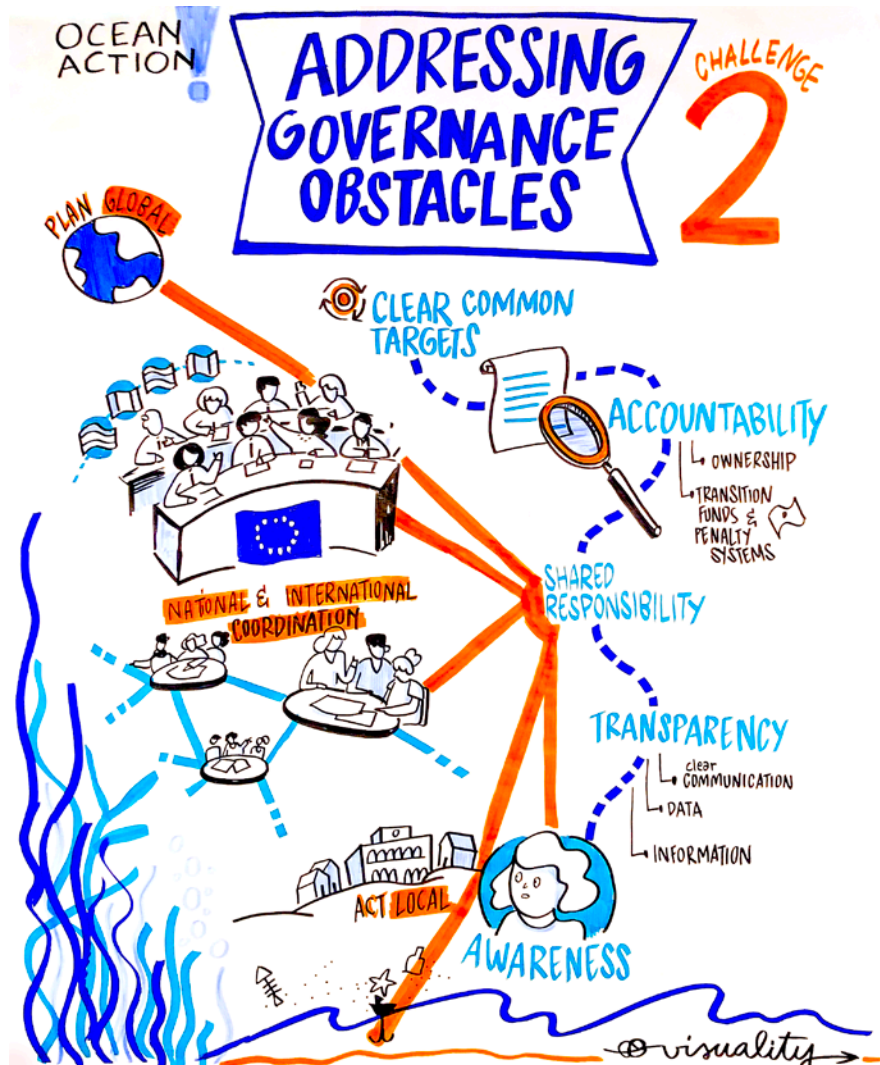
- 10 years ago

Post its:

- Engage influencers from outside the 'green community' and make the ocean trendy



CHALLENGE 2



Chosen Action

What?

- All government departments (EU and Member States) need to be held accountable for reaching environmental goals

Why?

- Different departments have different remits and powers

How?

- Public awareness
- Legal framework
- Funding
- Citizens to have the right to take governments to court
- Citizen assembly

Who?

- NGOs, EU commissioner, citizens

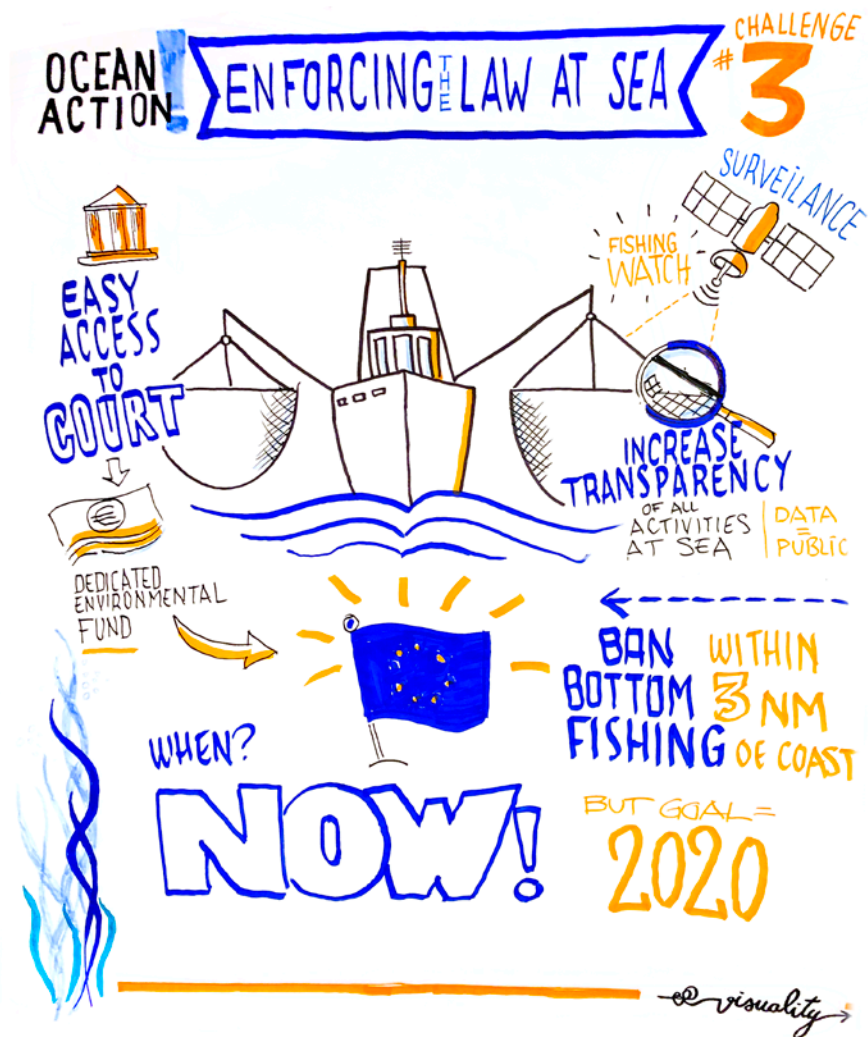
When?

- 2020

Action ideas:

- Empower governments' Departments of Environment
- More power to the Court of Justice of the European Union to ensure compliance
- Account for the loss of marine environment in monetary terms

CHALLENGE 3



Chosen Action

What?

1. Clearly indicate Marine Protected Areas on admiralty charts worldwide
2. Management plan for Marine Protected Areas to clearly indicate what is to be protected
3. Control management and law enforcement

Why?

- In order to reach 10% target for 2020 and 30% by 2030, we need to implement special measures

How?

- Clearly define location of Marine Protected Areas. Share management plans with stakeholders. Share law enforcement responsibility between EU and national agencies

Who?

- National and international identification of Marine Protected Areas. Different law enforcement agencies jointly ensuring protection

When?

- ASAP

Action ideas:

- ID on discarded fishing nets
- Democratic multi-stakeholder roundtable
- More funding for sea protection agencies



CHALLENGE 4

OCEAN
ACTION!

REDIRECTING FINANCE FLOWS to SUPPORT OCEAN CONSERVATION & RESTORATION

RATHER THAN ACTIVITIES HARMING the OCEAN

4
CHALLENGE



Chosen actions

What?

- Including environmental externalities in prices

Why?

- Collective vs individual benefits
- Long term gain for common good instead of short-term profit
- Polluter pays principle

How?

- Incentivise: refuse/reduce/reuse/recycle
- Review subsidies to eliminate harmful supports and direct them to conservation efforts
- Ring-fenced taxes
- Earmark taxes for conservation projects
- Green trade regimes

Who?

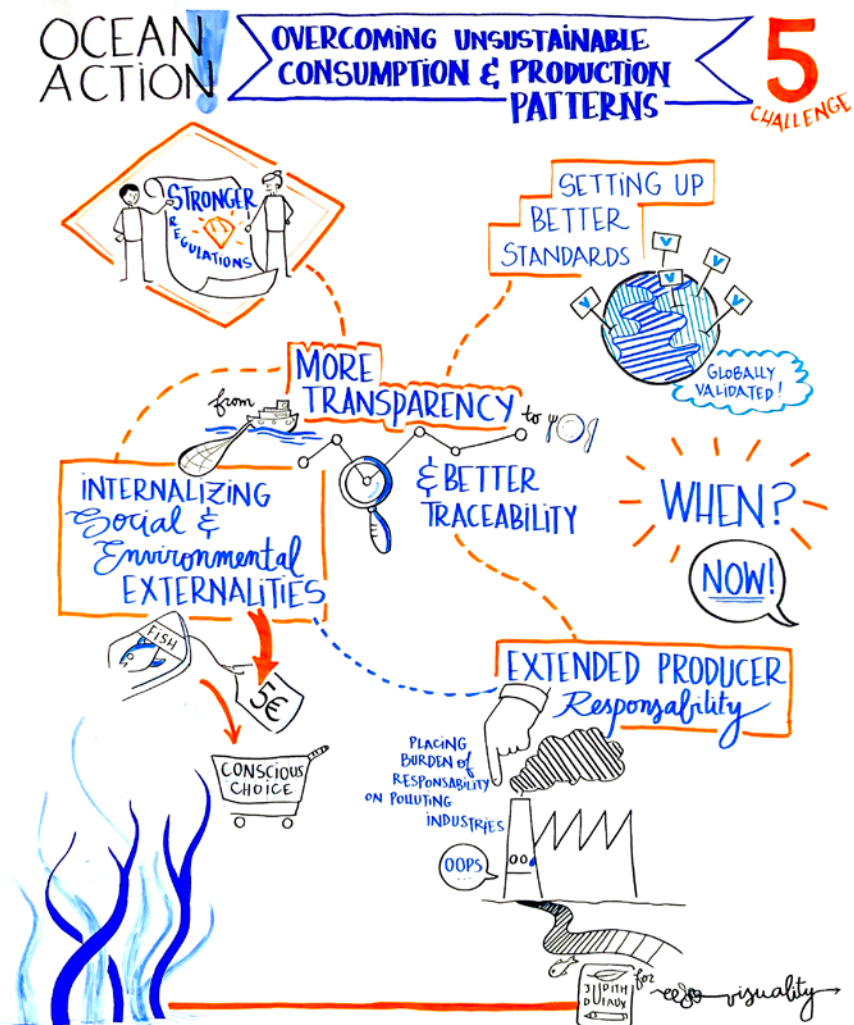
- Governments (particularly finance ministers), industry associations, society

When?

- Subsidies review can be done today, short transition period (three to five years) to be foreseen

Action ideas:

- Cap and trade
- Winner selection: marketing solutions
- Cost-efficiency calculations
- Investment horizons



Chosen actions

What?

- Stronger and smarter trade regulations

Why?

- Ensure that proper labour, environmental and health standards are reflected in prices
- No illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing
- No child labour/slave labour
- Incentives for more local and seasonal consumption
- Sustainable extraction of raw materials/production

How?

- Strong import control (+ financing)
- Environmental and labour provisions in trade agreements
- Provide financial/tech support to countries in need and communicate legal provisions on transparency
- Preferential tariffs for sustainable imports

Who?

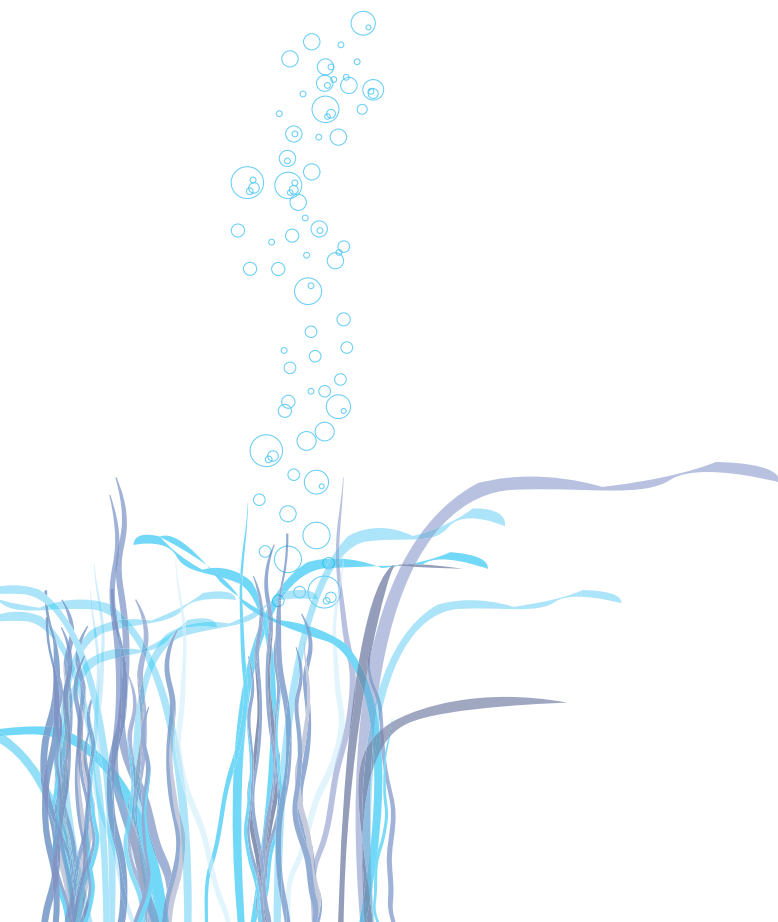
- Governments: national, EU, international
- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- NGOs
- Regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs)
- Civil society

When?

- Short-term

Action ideas:

- Engage market and retailers
- Stronger trade regulations
- Internalise externalities
- From linear to circular design
- More plant-based diet

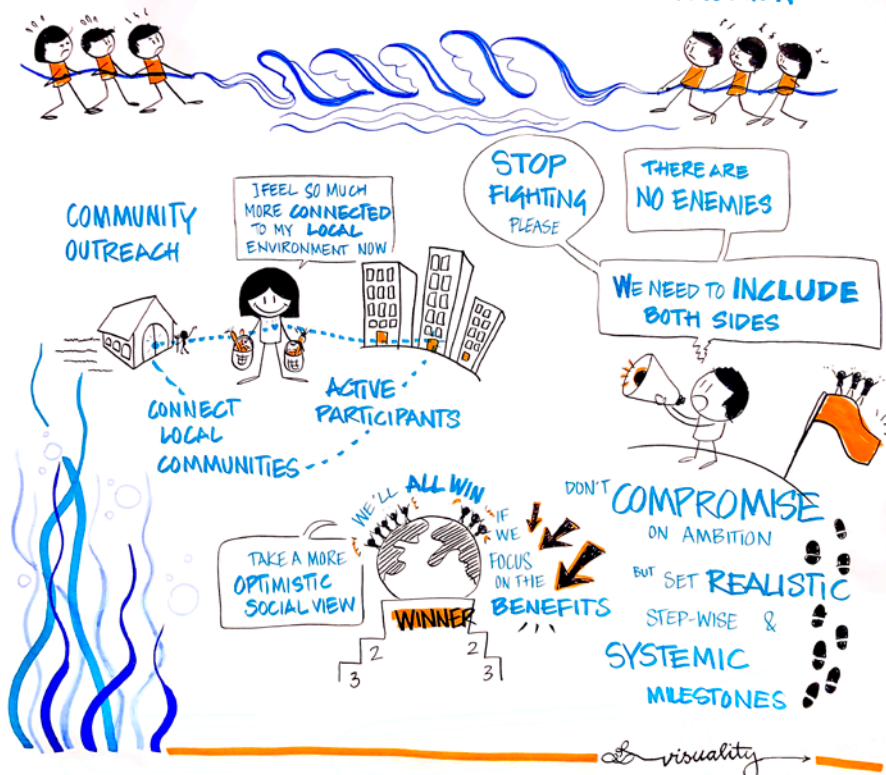


CHALLENGE 6

OCEAN
ACTION!

ADDRESSING THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE TRANSITION TO A HEALTHY OCEAN 6

EVERYBODY IS NEEDED FOR COMPLETE TRANSITION



Chosen actions

What?

- Community outreach to connect communities with the environment

Why?

- Reinforces and builds the commons movement
- Connect individuals to problems and solutions, making them active participants
- Hold producers and suppliers accountable

How?

- Shorter supply chains, e.g. a fish and vegetable box scheme
- Traceability
- Develop shared educational best practices
- Connecting grassroots projects and networks to increase growth

Who?

- Adding more participants to existing projects or movements
- Finding areas to start new projects

When?

- NOW

Action ideas:

- Treat fishing like a business and do not romanticise it
- Commoning above privatisation
- Get rid of Western ethnocentrism
- Find and invest in solutions that address environmental problems
- Support sectors to diversify out of high-impact methods
- Contradictions and myths when trying to find solutions to achieve healthy oceans
- Social gains from healthy oceans

SO NOW WHAT...? LISTENING TO THOSE WHO MAKE THE RULES

Message from Ambassador Peter Thomson, UN Special Envoy for the Ocean to conference participants



Peter Thomson's three recommendations for ocean action

1. 'The time has come for a global ban on single-use plastic. We must bring an end to the plastic plague we have unleashed upon the ocean and our planetary environment.'
2. 'Let us call for 100% coverage of exclusive economic zones (EEZs) globally by 2030 with Marine Spatial Plans.'
3. 'Before it's too late for millions of life forms, let us commit to the proposal that 30% of the ocean be covered by MPAs by 2030.'

'I urge you to be bold in your recommendations. [...] Now more than ever we need to gather together to agree on the joint and several actions needed to save the ocean's health.'

[Watch the video on YouTube](#)

Speech by the Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevičius



The Commissioner shared his views on the [Blue Manifesto](#) and explained how the [European Green Deal](#) can improve the state of the marine environment.

'Business as usual will not work. It would drive our planet towards greater danger. We need a different path.'

'Oceans will play a very important role in the Green Deal and in our transition towards a sustainable, carbon-neutral economy.'

'We will travel the path together, because many of the milestones presented in your Manifesto are actions already announced and scheduled by this Commission.'

'I fully agree with the first statement of your Manifesto: "We need thriving marine and coastal ecosystems to support a climate-resilient future". And so we are all on the path to get a genuine sustainable management of our seas and oceans.'

'The word "ocean" in my job title is not just a word. There is a firm intention behind it.'

Policy panel

The final panel of the day brought together ocean leaders from from European institutions, governments and civil society, who discussed the Blue Manifesto, including its roadmap, and the ideas and recommendations from the earlier workshops.

The panel featured Bernhard Friess, Acting Director-General of DG Mare, Heike Imhoff, German EU Marine Director, Pascal Lamy, Chair of the mission board for Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters, Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director of the European Environmental Agency, and Monica Verbeek, Executive Director of Seas At Risk.



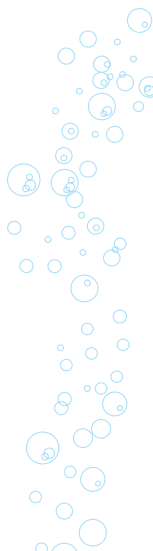
Left to right: Hans Bruyninckx, Heike Imhof, Pascal Lamy, Bernhard Friess and Monica Verbeek

The connection between ocean action, the Blue Economy and the need for system change was the overarching theme of the panel. The discussion opened with the possibility that a game-changing action could turn the tide on ocean health. **Dr Bruyninckx** stressed the importance of understanding that the ocean is not a separate entity but, rather, intrinsically connected with the land. **Dr Verbeek** noted that we need to change our consumption habits and the way our economies are set up, as well as creating a clear vision of a new economy. **Mr Friess** pointed to the European Green Deal as a paradigm shift by the Commission. Pointing out that fishers who employ sustainable fishing methods are still making a profit, he reminded the room that the Green Deal can build a more sustainable EU economy, with associated opportunities for growth.

Other panellists, however, observed the lack of consideration for marine issues in the Green Deal and the serious challenges to finance the plan. **Ms Imhoff** highlighted the plan's focus on the blue economy and blue growth, and the absence of any ocean protection action in its priorities. **Mr Lamy** then drew attention to the difficulties of finding money for ocean protection in the EU budget which was negotiated before the Green Deal and heavily influenced by vested interests in the agriculture, business and regional policy sectors. The Blue Manifesto, by comparison, inspires answers to the questions of setting targets for systemic issues and allocating investments to achieve the Green Deal.

Dr Bruyninckx reminded the audience that, ultimately, it is crucial to understand the benefits of protecting natural capital, as the cost of inaction will grow and have lasting consequences. Any vision or policy to protect the ocean should be informed by science, which can guide us to effectively tackle marine issues. The precautionary principle must have priority over the innovation principle.

In closing, the panellists agreed that we cannot overlook the urgency of ocean action. **Mr Friess** pointed out that the climate crisis is already here, while **Ms Imhoff** emphasised the need for public awareness as a means of putting pressure on policy makers. Technological solutions have limits, **Mr Friess** concluded, and we must be bold in our actions, leaving large areas of the oceans unexploited in order to restore them to health.



COMMUNICATING THE URGENCY: LISTENING TO THOSE WHO SPEAK TO THE PUBLIC

The day's events ended with a compelling presentation by the production team of the BBC's world famous documentary Blue Planet II.

James Honeyborne, Executive Producer, Jonathan Smith, Producer, and Nicola Brown, Impact Producer, described the behind-the-scenes of the iconic documentary. They talked about the power of storytelling in engaging the audience and making a deep impact on individuals and on the political agenda.



James Honeyborne - Executive producer of Blue Planet II

Recounting the making of the series, **James Honeyborne** talked about the importance of creating an experience for the audience, noting that a good story well told is very powerful. He explained how the series made the public fall in love with the ocean by telling new stories and by using beautiful filming to confront ugly issues, such as coral bleaching, discarded fishing gear and plastic pollution. Blue Planet II's innovative approach to storytelling brought about a deep public connection with the ocean, together with a sense of urgency to protect it.



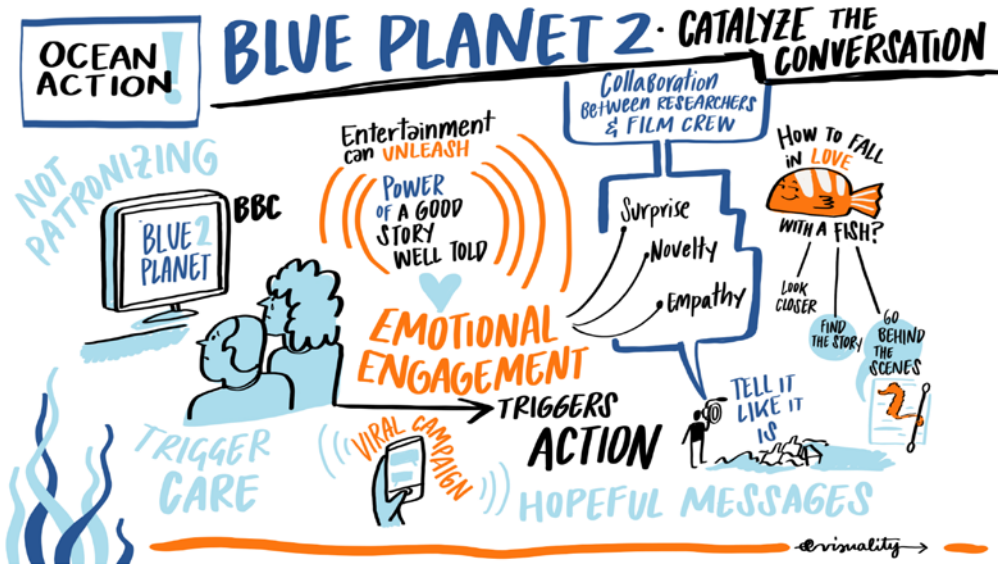
Jonathan Smith - Producer of Blue Planet II

Jonathan Smith described how the team shot one of the most remarkable scenes in the documentary: a family of clownfish working together to move a coconut shell and use it as a nursery. He used special equipment and filming techniques to transport viewers into the underwater world, making them care deeply about 'the struggles and tribulations of marine animals that humans normally don't feel affinity with'.



Nicola Brown - Impact producer of Blue Planet II

Finally, Digital Producer **Nicola Brown**, talked about the team's efforts to engage the public, aiming to get one billion people to talk about the ocean on social media. She described how iconic images, such as the viral photo of a seahorse with its tail wrapped around a plastic cotton bud, raised awareness of plastic pollution in the ocean and sparked the debate on single-use plastics.



Graphic recording

OCEAN INSPIRATION: ART & LIVE PERFORMANCES

Ocean exhibition

In our Ocean Exhibition, artists and performers shared their perspectives on the ocean through photography, illustrations and live art, allowing participants to interact with the ocean in a different way.



Humans make Plastic

British artist Camilla Brandon worked on her Humans Make Plastic live installation throughout the conference. Using non-recycled plastic packaging and plastics she found on beaches and riverbeds, Camilla built a unique and colourful piece of art. She talked to attendees about her art and creative process and encouraged them to add their own touches to the installation.



Cyan Planet

The virtual reality company created an immersive ocean experience for participants, taking them on a journey into the underwater world.





More from the Ocean Exhibition



Les Meduses - Sylvie Antoine

Eerily beautiful still-life jellyfish made with discarded plastic bags.



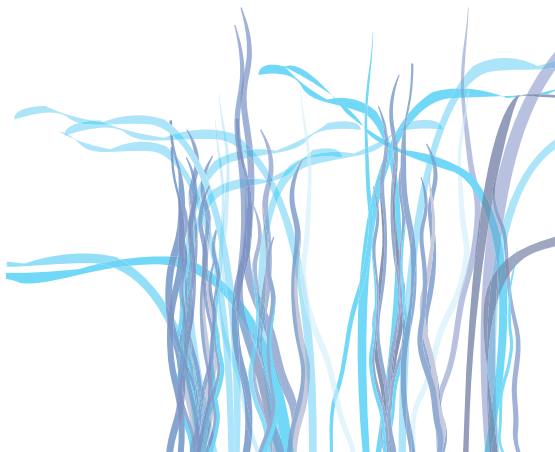
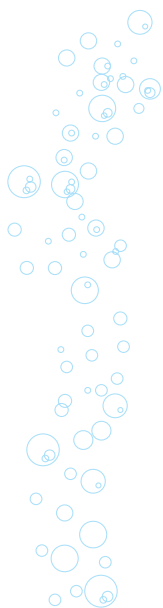
Floating thoughts

A display of origami boats made by British school children, carrying their messages to the world and thoughts about the ocean.





Aaron Fabrice De Kisangani, also known as the *Plastic Soup Warrior*, brought a box of plastic items collected along the Belgian coast. He talked to participants about his efforts to promote awareness through his plastic beach finds and his mission to fight plastic pollution.



POETIC (W)RAP-UP

Poet **Rik Zutphen**, stage name **Skinfiltr8r**, wrapped up the conference with an inspiring poem retracing the day's discussions and events.

His performance, comprising spoken words and live-looping sounds, was written and finished on stage. *I'm Ocean* is a powerful poem that evokes the strength and mystery of the ocean, as well as the inspiring stories heard at the conference.



“Just listen to me: the words and signs are difficult and painful to read and many of you have fought black and blue and now lost hope and sing blues

So turn your ear towards me - lean forward, take a minute and let me be a seashell on your earshell and sea the shelter I provide with your now full mind.

I want to dive into a mindful moment to say I appreciate you being here.

I deeply SEA that you care

Can I have a drop of your time? Let me drip into your mind

I will send waves of quiet in the storms you are battling.

I will crash into you to splash off the stress. Flow with me in this silent moment, in this silent minute and you can tell me

Ocean water, I love you

Ocean deep, I thank you

Ocean life, I respect you”

[Watch the video on YouTube](#)