# Ocean Observation

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

# A Introduction



The significant, sometimes dominant, role of the ocean in the heat and carbon cycles of our planet, its hosting of a biodiversity that is greater, at a phylum level, than on land and its sustenance of a blue economy are universally acknowledged. Unprecedented and accelerating changes in heat, acidity, ice-cover and sea-level and threats to nature from human activity are now bringing these processes into unknown territory. Not only this. The national climate and energy plans delivered by EU Member States at the beginning of 2020 indicate that the planned expansion of renewable offshore energy to combat these regime shifts will bring fundamental changes to Europe's seascape of 2030.

Dealing with the changes, the threats and opportunities requires knowledge of the past which can only be obtained through careful observation. By observation, we mean any activity that measures the state and dynamics of the marine environment and the life it supports - from the coast to the deep ocean, from the seabed to the sea surface. Thus it covers a whole range of activity from analysis of samples brought back to the laboratory to automated instruments sending signals to ships or monitoring stations. Here we do not consider observations made by orbiting satellites which are dealt with by the Copernicus programme. Neither do we consider accessibility to the observations, which again is covered by the European Marine Observation and Data (EMODnet) initiative.

The aim of this consultation is to gather opinions of the effectiveness, efficiency and fitness for purpose of ocean observation by the EU and its Member States and how it can be improved. Replying to the questionnaire will take about 15 minutes. It is possible to save a draft form for completion later.

- \*1 Language of my contribution
  - Bulgarian
  - Croatian
  - Czech
  - Danish
  - Dutch
  - English
  - Estonian
  - Finnish
  - French
  - Gaelic
  - German
  - Greek
  - Hungarian
  - Italian
  - Latvian
  - Lithuanian
  - Maltese
  - Polish
  - Portuguese
  - Romanian
  - Slovak
  - Slovenian
  - Spanish
  - Swedish
- \*2 I am giving my contribution as
  - Academic/research institution
  - Business association
  - Company/business organisation
  - Consumer organisation
  - EU citizen
  - Environmental organisation

- Non-EU citizen
- Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- Public authority
- Trade union
- Other

#### \*3 First name

axel

### \*4 Surname

debry

### \*5 Email (this won't be published)

axel.debry@embl.de

# \*7 Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)

# \*8 Organisation size

- Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- Small (10 to 49 employees)
- Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- Large (250 or more)

#### 9 Transparency register number

#### 255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the transparency register. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

# \*10 Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

- Afghanistan
- Djibouti  $\bigcirc$
- Libya

- Åland Islands
- Dominica
- Liechtenstein
- Saint Martin
- $\odot$ Saint Pierre
  - and Miguelon

Albania	Dominican Republic	Lithuania	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Algeria	Ecuador	Luxembourg	Samoa
American	Egypt	Macau	San Marino
Samoa			
Andorra	El Salvador	Madagascar	São Tomé and Príncipe
Angola	Equatorial Guinea	Malawi	Saudi Arabia
Anguilla	Eritrea	Malaysia	Senegal
Antarctica	Estonia	Maldives	Serbia
Antigua and Barbuda	Eswatini	Mali	Seychelles
Argentina	Ethiopia	Malta	Sierra Leone
Armenia	Falkland Islands	Marshall Islands	Singapore
Aruba	Faroe Islands	Martinique	Sint Maarten
Australia	Fiji	Mauritania	Slovakia
Austria	Finland	Mauritius	Slovenia
Azerbaijan	France	Mayotte	Solomon Islands
Bahamas	French Guiana	Mexico	Somalia
Bahrain	French Polynesia	Micronesia	South Africa
Bangladesh	French Southern and Antarctic Lands	Moldova	South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
Barbados	Gabon	Monaco	South Korea
Belarus	Georgia	Mongolia	South Sudan
Belgium	Germany	Montenegro	Spain
Belize	Ghana	Montserrat	Sri Lanka
Benin	Gibraltar	Morocco	Sudan
Bermuda	Greece	Mozambique	Suriname

Bhutan	Greenland	Myanmar	Svalbard and
		/Burma	Jan Mayen
<ul> <li>Bolivia</li> </ul>	Grenada	Namibia	Sweden
Bonaire Saint Eustatius and Saba	Guadeloupe	Nauru	Switzerland
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Guam	Nepal	Syria
Botswana	Guatemala	Netherlands	Taiwan
Bouvet Island	Guernsey	New Caledonia	Tajikistan
Brazil	Guinea	New Zealand	Tanzania
British Indian	Guinea-Bissau	Nicaragua	Thailand
Ocean Territory		Ũ	
British Virgin	Guyana	Niger	The Gambia
Islands			
Brunei	Haiti	Nigeria	Timor-Leste
Bulgaria	Heard Island	Niue	Togo
	and McDonald		
	Islands	0	
Burkina Faso	Honduras	Norfolk Island	Tokelau
Burundi	Hong Kong	Northern	Tonga
		Mariana Islands	
Cambodia	Hungary	North Korea	Trinidad and
			Tobago
Cameroon	Iceland	North	Tunisia
		Macedonia	—
Canada	India	Norway	Turkey
Cape Verde	Indonesia	Oman	Turkmenistan
Cayman Islands	Iran	Pakistan	Turks and
		<u> </u>	Caicos Islands
Central African	Iraq	Palau	Tuvalu
Republic			
Chad	Ireland	Palestine	Uganda
Chile	Isle of Man	Panama	Ukraine

China	Israel	Papua New	United Arab
-	-	Guinea	Emirates
Christmas	Italy	Paraguay	United
Island			Kingdom
Clipperton	Jamaica	Peru	United States
Cocos (Keeling)	Japan	Philippines	United States
Islands			Minor Outlying
			Islands
Colombia	Jersey	Pitcairn Islands	Uruguay
Comoros	Jordan	Poland	US Virgin
			Islands
Congo	Kazakhstan	Portugal	Uzbekistan
Cook Islands	Kenya	Puerto Rico	Vanuatu
Costa Rica	Kiribati	Qatar	Vatican City
Côte d'Ivoire	Kosovo	Réunion	Venezuela
Croatia	Kuwait	Romania	Vietnam
Cuba	Kyrgyzstan	Russia	Wallis and
	, ,,		Futuna
Curaçao	Laos	Rwanda	Western
00.0300			Sahara
Cyprus	Latvia	Saint	Yemen
		Barthélemy	
Czechia	Lebanon	Saint Helena	Zambia
02001114		Ascension and	Lambia
		Tristan da	
		Cunha	
Democratic	Lesotho	Saint Kitts and	Zimbabwe
Republic of the		Nevis	
Congo			
Denmark	Liberia	Saint Lucia	

# \*11 Publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

# Anonymous

Only your type of respondent, country of origin and contribution will be published. All other personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number) will not be published.

# Public

Your personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number, country of origin) will be published with your contribution.

I agree with the personal data protection provisions

\*15 What is your involvement with ocean observation? (more than one answer allowed)

- making observations
- funding observations
- analysing or using observations
- making instruments, sensors or platforms for observation
- 17 More details about your involvement with observations (optional)
- C For those involved in making or funding observations

*18 What type of observations? (m	ore than one ar	nswer allowed)
bathymetrical	fisheries	physical (temperature,
		salinity, waves etc.)
biological (other than	🗏 geologica	
fisheries)	I	
chemical	other	
*20 Where are observations that y	ou make or use	made? (more than one answer
allowed)		
within one nautical mile	🛽 in deep ocean	🔲 not known

	- in deep ocean	
of coast		

🗹 on continental shelf 👘 🗖 other

22 How are observations analysed ? (more than one answer allowed)

analysis of samples in after processing of laboratory signals in laboratory not known

in near-real time other

24 Approximately How much does your organisation spend on observation? (optional)

including investment and running costs, labour, ship-time, data processing, lab analysis

€

even an order of magnitude is useful (you can clarify this in the next box)



# 25 Any comments on spending? (optional)

# \*26 What is primary purpose of observations?

This will largely depend on which ministry or department is funding the observations

research	hydrography (for	environmental	defen
	navigation)	monitoring	се
fisheries	$^{\odot}$ coastal protection	planning or	other
management		monitoring coastal	
		or offshore	
		activities (including	
		impact	
		assessments)	

28 Can you provide some details? (optional)

EMBL's main involvement on ocean observation has been through collaboration with Tara, which egan with the Tara Oceans expedition (2009–2013). The project was initiated by EMBL, who led the mission's scientific activities. EMBL coordinates the expedition's scientific consortium, which includes more than 100 scientists from 18 partner institutions.

Throughout its expeditions since 2010, the schooner Tara has been collecting small particles of plastic – known as microplastics – in virtually all of its nets. Inspired by this growing problem, the Tara Ocean Foundation's Mission Microplastics has studied the nature of the plastic pollution entering the ocean from the European mainland, between June to November 2019.

EMBL is also participation in Mission Microbiome (launched in December 2020), during which the schooner Tara will travel 70,000 kilometers in the South Atlantic, along the South American and African coasts and as far as Antarctica, in order to study the ocean's most fundamental fabric — the microbiome — to understand the functioning of this ecosystem in a context of ongoing global change.

In addition, EMBL-EBI is involved in AtlantECO, an EU-funded project that will map new and existing knowledge about the microscopic organisms in the ocean. EMBL will play a key role in curating and analysing the colossal amount of data that will be generated to openly share with the international scientific community, allowing researchers everywhere to build their own analysis and modelling tools (https://www.embl.org/news/science/atlanteco-launch/).

#### \*29 What is the source of funding?

- public South public and private of the dot know
- private 
  other

#### \*31 Is the monitoring part of

a project lasting less
 a long term effort with
 a long term effort with
 a long term effort with
 b sustainable funding?

#### 32 Can you provide more details? (optional)

\*33 Are other bodies consulted when planning the monitoring (other than the one providing the funding)?

Research	Environment	Private industry	other
Department	Department or		
	Agency		
Fisheries	Defence Ministry	Bodies in other	Do not
Department		countries	know

# Coastal protection Local or regional Transnational authorities bodies

#### 35 Can you provide more details? (optional)

For sampling approval and scientific collaborations, we also contacted: Coastal protection authorities; Local or regional authorities; Bodies in other countries

#### 36 Have you received funding for your observations from these EU instruments

	yes	no	do not know
* European Maritime and Fisheries Fund	0	۲	0
* Data Collection Regulation for Fisheries	0	۲	0
* European Research Infrastructure Consortia	0	۲	0
* Horizon 2020 research programme	۲	0	0
* Other (please specify)	0	$\bigcirc$	۲

#### 38 Do your observations contribute to reporting for any of these EU measures

	yes	no	do not know
* Marine Strategy Framework Directive	0	۲	0
* Birds and Habitats Directives	$\odot$	۲	O
* Water Framework Directive	0	۲	0
* Maritime Spatial Planning Directive	$\bigcirc$	۲	0
* Nitrates Directive	0	۲	0
* Data Collection for Fisheries	0	۲	0
* Other (please specify)	0	$\bigcirc$	۲

\*40 Do you have an overview of all observations carried out by institutions in your country?

- yes expartly on the second second
- 41 can you explain your answer? (optional)

EMBL is an intergovernmental organisation, and has sites in 5 EU countries (France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Italy) and the UK.

We are mostly aware of all observations carried out in France, Italy, Spain, and the UK.

\*42 Do you see scope for further campaign planning and asset sharing (ships, instruments, laboratories) with other organisations in your own country or in another country?

(more than one answer allowed)

Research	Coastal protection	Defence	🔲 Do not
Department	authorities	Ministry	know
Fisheries	Environment	Private	
Department	Department	industry	

43 Can you explain your answer? (optional)

44 What obstacles prevent more sharing of effort, assets or equipment?

	not at all	slightly	significantly	no opinion
* lack of incentive	۲	0	0	0
* lack of time	0	۲	0	0
* lack of resource	0	0	۲	0
* lack of knowledge of other inerested parties	0	۲	0	0
* fear of losing resources	۲	0	0	0
* fear of losing control	۲	0	0	0
* insufficent advantages	۲	0	۲	0
* other	0	0	0	۲

# 45 Can you explain your answer (optional)?

\*46 Will the observations become available without restrictions of use?

no 🗖

yes

partly do not know

- yes after a delay for publication
- D For those using observations

\*48 Do you know why observations that you use were made? (multiple answers allowed)

research
 fisheries management
 hydrography (for navigation)
 hydrography (for navigation)
 coastal or offshore activities (including impact assessments)

# 49 What other purpose?

50 Have you received funding for your analysis from these EU instruments?

	yes	no	do not know
* European Maritime and Fisheries Fund	0	۲	0
* Data Collection Regulation for Fisheries	0	۲	0
* European Research Infrastructure Consortia	0	0	۲
* Horizon 2020 research programme	0	۲	0
* Other (please specify)	۲	0	0

#### \*51 Please specify

French national funding

52 Is your analysis for for any of these instruments?

	yes	no	do not know
* Marine Strategy Framework Directive	0	0	۲
* Birds and Habitats Directives	0	۲	0
* Water Framework Directive	0	۲	0
* Maritime Spatial Planning Directive	0	۲	0
* Nitrates Directive	0	۲	0
* Data Collection for Fisheries	0	۲	0

	* Other (please specify)	۲	$\bigcirc$	۲	]		
*54	Is your priority?						
	near real time	) a sn	apsh	ot over a lim	nited	Iong time	
	observations?	peri	od?			series?	
55	can you explain your answer?	optic	onal)				
	All three aspects are a priority for EMBL						

\*56 What aspect would most improve the usefulness of the observations?

between 1 and 2 choices

- more frequent gr observations ob
- greater coverage of observations
- more standardisation of observations

E For manufacturers or vendors of ocean observation equipment and sensors

57 Do you sell mostly to public or private bodies?

mostly public

58 What are bottlenecks in selling?

	significant	relevant	no impact	do not know
* lack of investment	0	0	0	۲
* unfair competition	0	0	0	۲
* unable to meet customer specifications	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>unable to meet customer budget</li> </ul>	0	0	0	۲

59 Please explain or list any other bottlenecks (optional)

# F Importance of ocean observation

60 Why do we need ocean observations?

	not useful	useful	essential
* coastal protection	0	0	۲
* ecosystem protection	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>early warnings of tipping points</li> </ul>	0	0	۲
* fisheries management	0	۲	0
<ul> <li>adapting to climate change</li> </ul>	0	0	۲
* safe navigation	۲	0	0
* complying with environmental measures	0	۲	0
<ul> <li>understanding ecosystems</li> </ul>	0	0	۲
* environmental impact assesments	0	0	۲
* planning new coastal or offshore activity	0	۲	O

# 61 Can you explain your answer? Or add any other reason (optional)

# 62 Which further uncertainties do we need to narrow? rate in order of importance - 1 for most important)

This does not mean that the ones ranked lower are considered unimportant

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
* ice melting	0	0	0	0	0	0	۲	0
<ul> <li>impact of human activity (other than climate change) on marine life</li> </ul>		۲			0		0	
<ul> <li>impact of climate change on marine life</li> </ul>	۲	0	0	$\bigcirc$	0	0	0	0
* distribution and abundance of marine life	0	0	۲	0	۲	0	0	0
* coastal resilience	0	0	0	۲	0	0	0	0
* carbon balance	۲	۲	۲	0	۲	۲	۲	0
* ocean circulation	۲	۲	۲	0	۲	۲	۲	۲
* magnitude and frequency of extreme events	0	0	0	0	0	۲	0	0

63 Can you explain your answer? (optional)

# 64 What international processes bodies or processes contribute to the organisation of monitoring?

	relevant	relevant but could be better coordinated with other measures	only marginally relevant	no opinion
* JCOMM, Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology	0	O	0	۲
<ul> <li>GEOSS, Global Earth Observation</li> <li>System of Systems</li> </ul>	0	0	0	۲
* G7, Group of Seven	0	0	0	۲
* RFMOs, Regional Fisheries Management Organisations	0	0	0	۲
* UNEP, Uinted Nations Environment Programme (other than UNEP/MAP)	0	0	0	۲
* IOC, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO	0	0	O	۲
<ul> <li>* FAO, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation</li> </ul>	0	0	O	۲
<ul> <li>ICES, International Council for the Exploration of the Sea</li> </ul>	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>regional sea conventions (OSPAR, HELCOM, Barcelona Convention, Black Sea Commission)</li> </ul>	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>IHO, International Hydrographic</li> <li>Organization</li> </ul>	0	0	O	۲
* G20, Group of Twenty	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>United Nations Decade of Ocean</li> <li>Science for Sustainable Development</li> </ul>	0	0	O	۲
* other	0	0	0	۲

66 Do you know of any new technology or initiatives that could be more widely used?

(if you answer"yes" you will be asked for more details)

	yes	no
* new sensors	۲	$\bigcirc$
* new platforms	۲	$\bigcirc$
* citizen science	۲	$\bigcirc$
* ships of opportunity	0	۲
* offshore wind turbines	۲	۲

#### 67 which sensors? (optional)

microsensors

# 68 which platforms? (optional)

Imaging platform micro-fluidics; Single-cell omics; Chemical screens.

# 69 which citizen science programmes? (optional)

Plankton Planet

# G Future priorities

### 71 How could ocean observation by EU Member States be improved?

	not at all	slightly	significantly	no opinion
* greater coherence between EU instruments	0	0	۲	0
* more coordination between national departments	0	0	۲	0
* stronger representation in international fora	0	۲	0	0
<ul> <li>introduction of new technology</li> </ul>	0	0	۲	0
* citizen science	0	۲	0	0
* public-private partnerships	0	۲	۲	۲
<ul> <li>more coordination in sea basin</li> </ul>	0	0	0	۲
* bringing national priorities to table at EU-level	0	0	0	۲
<ul> <li>more standardisation of observation methods</li> </ul>	0	0	۲	۲
* more sharing of assets (sensors, platforms etc.)	0	0	۲	0

72 Can you explain your answer or suggest and other area for improvement? (optional)

\*73 What is EU role in supporting these improvements?

significant

74 Can you explain your answer? (optional)

EU funding could and should have a key impact in improving quality of observations and their use for scientific research.

75 Do you have any other points you wish to make? (optional)

National existing consortia (e.g. TARA Ocean) struggle with lack of funding for administrative and coordination overheads, which are massive. Fostering interactions with partners also represents a large expenditure that is rarely covered. Funding for theses aspects should be considered.

# 76 You may add a file with additional information here (optional)

The maximum file size is 1 MB Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed

Contact

lain.SHEPHERD@ec.europa.eu