

THE 2021 - 2030 DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE PROCLAIMED BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In December 2017, the United Nations proclaimed a [Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development](#), to be held from 2021 to 2030. This Decade will provide a common framework to ensure that ocean science can support countries actions to sustainably manage the Oceans and to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



The [Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission \(IOC\) of UNESCO](#) has been tasked by the UN General Assembly to work with all interested stakeholders to design a Decade of ocean science that will help us to deliver *the ocean we need for the future we want*. The IOC of UNESCO is the United Nations body responsible for supporting global ocean science and services.

The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development was born out of the recognition that much more needs to be done to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health and create improved conditions for the sustainable development of the ocean, seas and coasts.

The [First World Ocean Assessment](#) released in 2016 highlights the cycle of decline in the ocean health, with changes and losses in the structure, function and benefits obtained from marine systems. Over the coming decades, a changing climate, the growing global population and multiple environmental stressors will have significant impacts. Science-informed mitigation and adaptation policies to global change are urgently needed, but neither science nor policy-makers can accomplish with that alone. The already existing knowledge and data about the marine environment and its status could be better used, coordinated and integrated into the decision-making process to support management actions.

The existing knowledge could also be more equitably shared with coastal communities that are the most vulnerable to the current and future changes of the Ocean. More inclusive approaches of designing and conducting marine scientific research could also support a sustainable *Blue Economy*, breaking the business model and sharing the responsibility of protecting ocean resources.

The Decade of Ocean Science offers a framework to strengthen connections and weave partnerships between all communities working to study, conserve and sustainably use the ocean and its resources.

Through stronger international cooperation, the Decade will bolster scientific research and innovative technologies to ensure science responds to the needs of society:

- A clean ocean where sources of pollution are identified and removed.
- A healthy and resilient ocean where marine ecosystems are mapped and protected.



- A predictable ocean where society has the capacity to understand current and future ocean conditions.
- A safe ocean where people are protected from ocean hazards.
- A sustainably harvested ocean ensuring the provision of food supply.
- A transparent ocean with open access to data, information and technologies.

The Decade will provide a unifying framework across the UN System to enable countries to achieve all of their ocean-related Agenda 2030 priorities. For example, the Decade will help strengthen the development and implementation of science-based solutions for fisheries management, for health and wellbeing of their coastal communities, for their protection from ocean hazards.

The *Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission* (IOC) of UNESCO is implementing the Preparatory Phase 2018-2020 for the Decade and its website informs [about ongoing activities](#) and the thematic documents already produced to design its development. The Decade will enable action at all levels and [the website invites all interested actors to become a part of this global initiative](#).

To know more

[Decade of Ocean Science website](#)

[Decade of Ocean Science in Facebook](#)

[Decade resolution 2017](#)

[Decade of Ocean Science brochure](#)

[Videos and Newsletter](#)

[Informe Fase Preparatoria IOC - Spanish](#)

[Global Ocean Science Report 2017](#)

[Global Ocean Science Report 2017- Resumen ejecutivo - Spanish](#)

[UN Decade of Ocean Science in UNESCO website](#)

[UN Decade of Ocean Science Publication](#)

[World Oceans Day Photo Competition 2020](#)

