



SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE OCEAN GOVERNANCE

The role of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) and Ocean Literacy (OL)

The starting point

A **wide mobilization** of all components of society is required for addressing today and future ocean challenges, and for seizing in a sustainable manner the development opportunities that the ocean offers.

Our working assumption

An **ocean knowledge system** associating all stakeholders who are (1) **producing**, (2) **translating** and (3) **using** knowledge, is a prerequisite to **effective ocean governance** and to support wide mobilization and engagement. Such an ocean knowledge system needs to cover **all aspects of the human-ocean connections**, and bring together **different types of knowledge**, from empirical knowledge to science and innovation.

Key principles for the ocean knowledge system to support effective ocean governance

Gain a sound understanding of (evolving and dynamic) **societal needs & demands** for ocean knowledge

Co-build ocean knowledge, mobilising knowledge produced by all parties involved, opening science and innovation to all, mobilising citizens from today and from tomorrow in knowledge co-creation

Establish shared and transparent mechanisms that ensure the **quality** and **credibility** (saliency and legitimacy) of both (1) the knowledge produced and (2) the processes that contribute to producing, translating and using ocean knowledge

Develop protocols and rules that deliver **open access** and put the conditions right for ensuring **accessibility** to data, information and knowledge to all, accounting for the diversity of ocean knowledge “use contexts”

Develop fit-to-purpose mechanisms for ensuring the right knowledge reaches the right target group, so as to strengthen **ocean literacy** and research & Innovation for all – including citizens, consumers, business and value chains actors, decision makers, scientists, media...

Ensure **accountability & responsibility** of all involved in the ocean knowledge system, including knowledge end-users that have the responsibility to make effective and transparent use of the co-built knowledge and which commitments need to be monitored in a transparent manner

To translate these principles to reality and contribute to make a change

Provide **new skills** to widen the perspective of all involved

Give more attention to **human sciences** (in particular sociology, psychology, anthropology, media, marketing, economics, social processes...) to capture « **what drives** » all involved and the connections between **knowledge, perception, attitude and behaviour**. This will help making initiatives from the local to the global scale “fit for purpose” and effective

Mobilise **new actors**, in particular **media specialists**, science & **knowledge brokers** and **multipliers** which job is to contribute to knowledge sharing. Bring also **land-based stakeholders** connected (directly or indirectly) to the ocean that are very absent from today's debate on the ocean

Establish **new bridges** facilitating exchanges and links between existing **knowledge platforms** and **communities** mobilized in different building blocks of the ocean knowledge system

Develop **new governance, management and strategic plans** for (research) organisations to define long-term strategies that strengthen the ocean knowledge system and give the **right incentives** to knowledge producers, knowledge brokers, and knowledge (end-) users

Make **sound and transparent evaluation** (of Responsible Research & Innovation, of Ocean Literacy initiatives, of new knowledge ...) a requirement for all to monitor progress and learn from experience. Allocate sufficient resources (human, financial, time...) to deliver robust evaluations.

Seize opportunities offered by **all policies** – including policies supporting business development, environmental protection, education, communication... both maritime and land-based, to support the (rapid) development of a sound ocean knowledge system that contribute to knowledge-base management and public decision building

In combining our resources and efforts to make things happen, bring a clear forward-looking perspective so the ocean knowledge system supports the adaptive capacity of ocean governance to respond to future challenges.

Support **forward looking exercises (vision building)** at different scales and for different sea basins for shedding lights on emerging ocean challenges and sectors in a context of global change –thus anticipating future needs for, and roles of, the ocean knowledge system

Recognise the importance of the **Youth and young professionals** as being part of the solution, and their capacity to drive changes - if **associated from the onset on equitable grounds** to the social and policy debates on the development of the ocean knowledge system and the wider sustainable management of the ocean

Overall

Do not separate Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) and Ocean Literacy (OL): these are complementary components of the same Ocean Knowledge System

Keep the attention to the ocean, making explicit the role of ocean in the earth system. The ocean needs a voice to be heard.

Let's put our **heads out of the ocean**, let's **bring the ocean to the streets**.