



**MERCATOR
OCEAN**
INTERNATIONAL

European Pavilion
**Digital
Ocean**

Nice | France
2 - 13 JUNE 2025

Third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3) Nice, France

June 2025

PRESS KIT

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Dear Journalists,

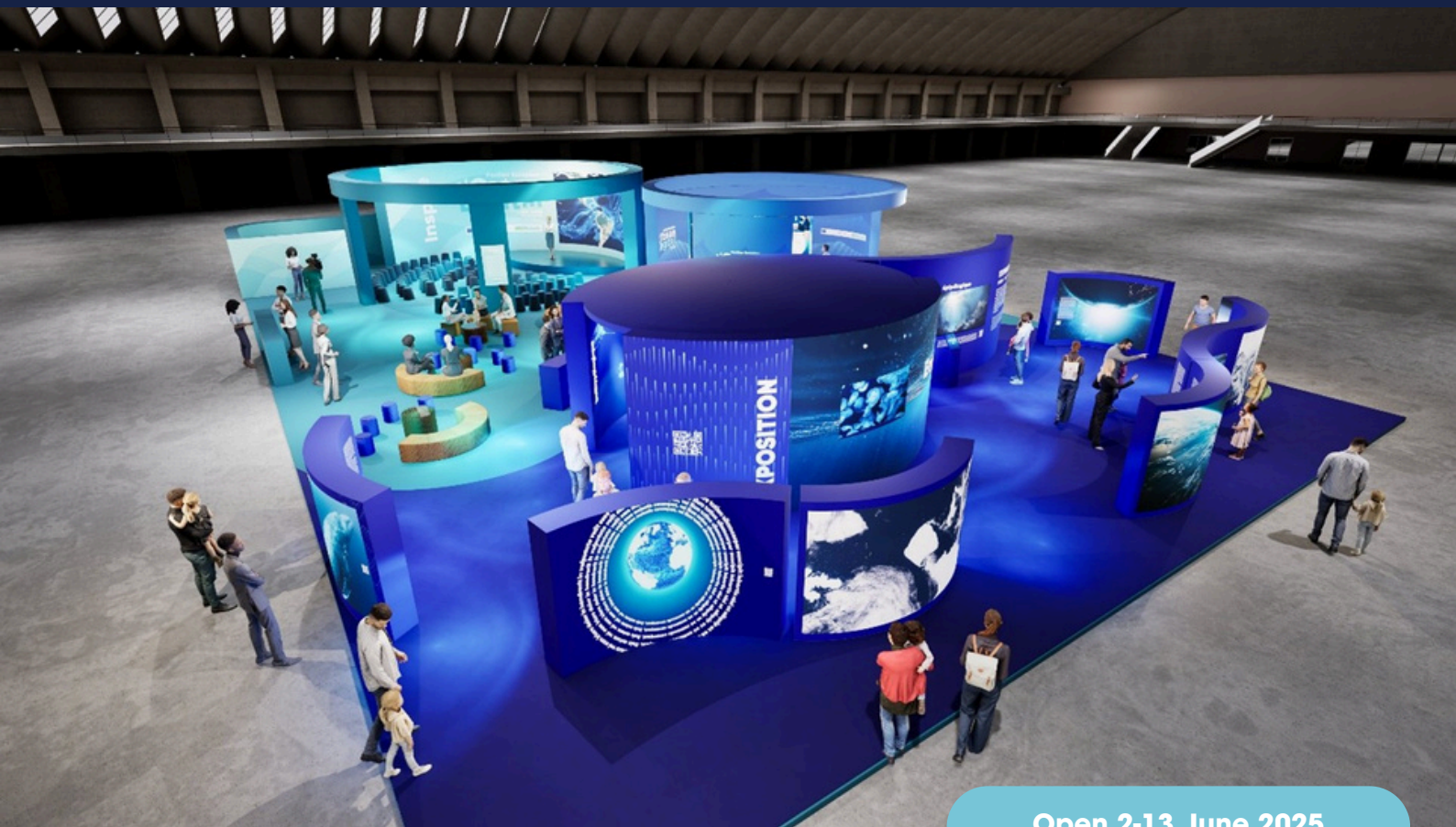
We are pleased to welcome you to the European Digital Ocean Pavilion at the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3), taking place from 2 to 13 June 2025 in Nice, France.

At UNOC3, Mercator Ocean International coordinates the European Digital Ocean Pavilion, presenting the EU's flagship Ocean programmes, missions, and operational services. The Pavilion highlights Europe's leadership in digital Ocean science and innovation, offering a unique opportunity to discover the latest advances in Ocean monitoring and sustainability.

Mercator Ocean's presence at UNOC3 is guided by 3 strategic objectives: formalising the accession of Member States to its future intergovernmental organisation, demonstrating the European Digital Twin Ocean as a decision-making tool to support the future EU Ocean Pact, and announcing new cooperation agreements with the international Ocean forecasting community.

This press kit provides detailed information to support your coverage of the Pavilion and Mercator Ocean's role in at UNOC3.

I. The EU Digital Ocean Pavilion



Open 2-13 June 2025

A space dedicated to Europe

The EU Digital Ocean Pavilion is organised by the EU Commission's DG Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS) in partnership with DG Research and Innovation (DG RTD), DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), and DG International Partnerships (DG INTPA), with Mercator Ocean International as the implementation partner. It offers:

- A spotlight on key EU ocean programmes, missions, and services
- Insights into the EU's role in advancing the UN 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.
- A platform to showcase EU leadership in global Ocean, climate, and biodiversity policies.
- A space for connection and collaboration across the EU ocean community.

digitaloceanpavilion.eu



EU Digital Ocean Pavilion Overview

INSPIRE



Includes a dedicated
press area

The INSPIRE space will feature **morning sessions** on key challenges such as **global warming, sea level rise, and marine pollution**. Afternoon sessions will spotlight European Commission policies, initiatives, and its role and contribution to international ocean governance.

The DECIDE space gives decision-makers a **hands-on, interactive experience** of the Digital Ocean. Using screens powered by the European Digital Twin of the Ocean, visitors can **monitor real-time ocean conditions** and explore AI-powered models visualising the ocean's past, present, and future.

DECIDE



Simulations and scenarios

ENGAGE








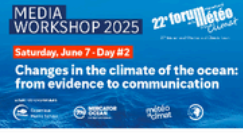












Digital experiences

The ENGAGE space: an **immersive exhibition** that takes visitors on a **journey through today's ocean challenges**. With these digital experiences, the visitors explore Europe's cutting-edge innovations and leave with a **comprehensive understanding** of the current state of the ocean.

digitaloceanpavilion.eu



Programme

 <p>Tuesday, June 3 Voices of Ocean Action Citizen Science and Ocean Knowledge</p> <p>Program</p>	 <p>Wednesday, June 4 How to monitor the Ocean? With IN-SITU observations</p> <p>Program</p>	 <p>Thursday, June 5- Morning How to monitor the Ocean? With SATELLITE observations</p> <p>Program</p>
 <p>Thursday, June 5 - Afternoon How to monitor the Ocean? with MODELS</p> <p>Program</p>	 <p>Friday, June 6- Day #1 Diving into the digital ocean</p> <p>Program</p>	 <p>Saturday, June 7- Day #2 Changes in the climate of the ocean: from evidence to communication</p> <p>Program</p>
 <p>Friday, June 6 International Weather and Climate Forum - Day #1 Media Workshop "DIVING INTO THE DIGITAL OCEAN"</p> <p>Program</p>	 <p>Saturday, June 7 International Weather and Climate Forum - Day #2 Media Workshop "CHANGES IN THE CLIMATE OF THE OCEAN: FROM EVIDENCE TO COMMUNICATION"</p> <p>Program</p>	
 <p>Monday, June 9 - Morning Marine Biodiversity Explore actionable solutions to preserve Marine Biodiversity for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 and related initiatives</p> <p>Program</p>	 <p>Monday, June 9 - Afternoon The EU and policies Join the launch of the EU Ocean Pact that will advance sustainable ocean management</p> <p>Program</p>	 <p>Tuesday, June 10 - Morning Marine Pollution Delve into discussions around SDG 14 solutions for addressing oceanic pollution</p> <p>Program</p>
 <p>Tuesday, June 10 - Afternoon The EU and international collaboration Discover how science diplomacy advances sustainable ocean development</p> <p>Program</p>	 <p>Wednesday, June 11 - Morning Sea Level Rise Focus on data-driven solutions and strategies for mitigating impacts</p> <p>Program</p>	 <p>Wednesday, June 11 - Afternoon The EU and the Ocean value chain: global mobilisation Fostering global cooperation in ocean observation and modelling to advance ocean prediction capabilities in response to societal needs</p> <p>Program</p>
 <p>Thursday, June 12 - Morning Ocean & Climate Discover monitoring advancements and data-driven initiatives</p> <p>Program</p>	 <p>Thursday, June 12 - Afternoon The EU and the Marine Observing Infrastructures Learn how regional networks, carbon monitoring, and global indicators drive the EU's sustainable ocean governance</p> <p>Program</p>	 <p>Friday, June 13 - Morning Coastal Challenges Gain insights into innovative monitoring solutions and collaborative actions to tackle key coastal pressures</p> <p>Program</p>
	 <p>Friday, June 13 - Afternoon Youth takes action Explore how youth and NGOs lead ocean action through flash talks and hackathons</p> <p>Program</p>	

II. Mercator Ocean International

EDITORIAL

by Pierre Bahurel, Director General
of Mercator Ocean International



Our discipline, operational oceanography, has come a long way since its birth 30 years ago, when the ocean began to be observed both from space and at sea.

These advances have made it possible to integrate these observations into complex three-dimensional numerical models, giving rise to a truly digital ocean. **Today, in 2025, we are at the dawn of a new era in ocean management and governance.**

This digital system has already enabled us to deliver a number of essential services: describing and forecasting the physical and biogeochemical state of the ocean, both at the surface and at depth, throughout the world. Without observations, measurements and ocean forecasting - in other words, without a digital ocean - no virtuous management or governance of the ocean would be possible. **In 2025, access to reliable, science-based knowledge has become a strategic issue for coastal states and international organisations such as the United Nations and the European Union.** Yet there is still no authoritative international institution in this field.

This is why Mercator Ocean International is today transforming into an intergovernmental organisation (IGO) dedicated to digital ocean systems and services. This transformation marks a decisive turning point for our discipline. With a robust infrastructure such as the Copernicus Marine Service and the EU Digital Twin Ocean, a structured scientific community thanks to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Sciences, and appropriate governance provided by this new IGO, operational oceanography is finally reaching maturity.

The digital ocean that we have developed with our European partners is now an operational, accessible and interconnected reality. Our EU Digital Twin Ocean, the result of two years of intensive preparation, provides unprecedented capabilities for developing predictive scenarios, analysing the impacts of public policies at different scales, and testing solutions for adapting to climate risks.

The UNOC 2025 will be the stage for this demonstration, where operational oceanography will assert itself as an essential pillar of ocean governance. Mercator Ocean will also be celebrating its 30th anniversary, marking three decades of expertise and innovation in the understanding and sustainable management of the ocean.

We hope to meet you in Nice for this exceptional event!



About Mercator Ocean International

A European history of operational oceanography

Founded in 1995 and based in Toulouse, France, Mercator Ocean International is a leading European centre for operational oceanography, celebrating its **30th anniversary in 2025**. The organisation brings together over 100 experts and is managed by Director General Pierre Bahurel. It operates as a not-for-profit entity owned by **ten major European institutions**, including CMCC, CNR, CNRS, Ifremer, IRD, Met Office, Météo-France, NERSC, Puertos del Estado, and SHOM.

A flagship organisation

Mercator Ocean provide digital ocean systems and information services. Its mission is to deliver reliable, science-based information that empowers decision-makers, researchers, and stakeholders worldwide.

- **We produce scientific and operational data describing the state of the global ocean**, including key variables such as temperature, currents, ocean heat, sea ice, sea level, oxygen, and phytoplankton. Leveraging high-performance computing and cloud infrastructure, we are developing a state-of-the-art digital services platform - the EU Digital Twin Ocean - enabling advanced scenario analysis and decision-making.
- **We implements the Copernicus Marine Service**, the European programme for marine environment monitoring, which is used globally to inform policy, research, and industry. We also drive **the European Commission's blue diplomacy**, leading international projects in regions such as Costa Rica and Africa, and **representing EU priorities at global forums like the G7**.
- On the international stage, **we coordinate the Collaborating Centre for Ocean Prediction** as part of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), fostering a worldwide network of ocean modelling and forecasting experts. **Our work also supports the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.

Happening at UNOC: Governance

Future intergovernmental organisation

A major step forward for Ocean sustainable decision-making

Mercator Ocean International is in the process of becoming an Intergovernmental Organisation (IGO). This transformation, announced at the One Ocean Summit in Brest in February 2022, responds to an urgent need for international coordination and knowledge sharing on Ocean issues. At UNOC, Mercator Ocean will formalise the accession of Member States to the future intergovernmental organisation by signing its convention on June 9, in the blue zone.

Strategic objectives

- **Fill a gap in ocean governance** by creating a structure of reference for the marine environment.
- **Open up the governance of Mercator Ocean to represent ocean forecasting in Europe and beyond**, thereby strengthening its influence on an international scale.
- **Support Europe with an organisation dedicated to numerical ocean systems.**
- **Promote international agreements** for global ocean forecasting, by facilitating cooperation between nations.

Key dates

- **2022:** Six European countries (France, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom) sign the Brest Declaration, initiating the transformation process.
- **2025: Official opening of the Convention for signature at the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) in Nice, with 31 States invited to become founding members (the 27 EU Member States, plus Iceland, Monaco, Norway and the United Kingdom).**
- **2028:** Mercator Ocean will be fully operational as an IGO.

Happening at UNOC: Infrastructure

The European Digital Twin Ocean

The European Digital Twin Ocean is an **advanced, interactive virtual replica of the Ocean**, designed to simulate future scenarios and support evidence-based decision-making. It is a game-changer infrastructure for Ocean science, governance, and sustainability.

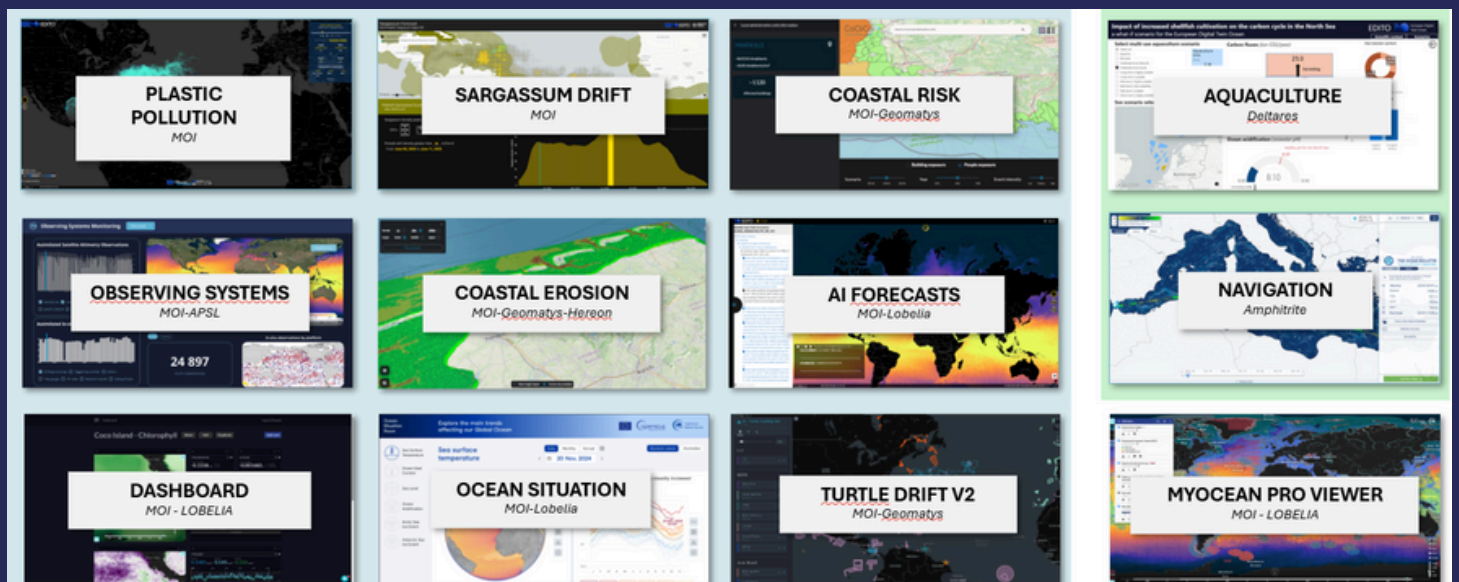
Developed by Mercator Ocean for the European Commission, it is a central pillar of the EU's Mission "*Restore our Ocean and Waters*" and will underpin the future EU Ocean Pact.

Leveraging vast amounts of real-time and historical data, high-resolution models, and AI, **the Digital Twin Ocean enables users to visualise, predict, and assess the impacts** of issues such as plastic pollution, sea-level rise, coastal risks, biodiversity loss, and the development of marine renewable energy. This open-access platform transforms complex Ocean data into actionable knowledge for policymakers, scientists, and stakeholders, supporting sustainable Ocean management and climate adaptation.

At UNOC, the Digital Twin will power the **DECIDE area** - an interactive control centre for EU decision-makers offering real-time monitoring, predictive modelling, and scenario-based policy simulations.

Through the Immersive Control Centre, users can engage directly with live Ocean data and explore **"what-if" scenarios**, such as restoring coasts with nature-based solutions, optimizing ship routes to cut carbon emissions, and responding to oil spills.

What-if Scenarios on Key Applications at UNOC:



Happening at UNOC: Community

Mobilising the International Prediction Community



Ocean forecasting in Costa Rica

The *Predicción Oceánica para Costa Rica* initiative, launched in March 2025 aims to strengthen Costa Rica's capacity in Ocean forecasting and the development of numerical systems.

The project is coordinated by the EU's Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) and Mercator Ocean International, in partnership with Costa Rica's national conservation areas agency (SINAC). It will, for example, enable the development of **cutting-edge tools to monitor the Cocos Island National Park**, which is facing increasing environmental pressures.

The project will be presented at UNOC on the Costa Rica Pavilion as well as on the European Digital Ocean Pavilion.



Ocean forecasting in Africa

In early 2025, a similar project called OPERA (Ocean Prediction Enhancement in Regions of Africa) was launched to meet the growing need for Ocean forecasting on the African continent.

This ambitious 4-year project aims to :

- Develop Ocean forecasting capabilities to improve the management of marine and coastal resources.
- Reduce the risk of disasters linked to extreme weather events using advanced numerical tools.
- Stimulate the growth of sustainable blue economies, supporting Ocean-based economic development while preserving marine ecosystems.

Our Press Events at UNOC

United Nations Ocean Conference

- **4 June | 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM - CNES Press Conference (Hosted Event)**

Announcement of the Space4Ocean Alliance - Presentation of the Mercator Ocean Impact application demonstrating how Ocean observing systems improve Ocean forecasts.

- **6-7 June: Météo & Climat Forum**

A collective reflection on communicating the impacts of climate change in the Ocean.

- **7 June | 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Cocktail Reception at the Pavilion**

Mercator Ocean International warmly invites media representatives to an exclusive cocktail reception - an exceptional opportunity to connect informally with leading Ocean experts.

- **8 June: Opening of the Pavilion and Official Delegations**

Welcoming delegations to the European Digital Ocean Pavilion.

- **9 June | 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM Official Ceremony: A new intergovernmental organisation for digital Ocean systems and information services**

(Blue Zone): The event will celebrate the international IGO Convention now proposed for signature by the Copernicus Participating States, culminating in a Declaration of continued commitment by all States involved in the process.

[Learn more about the IGO event](#)

- **9 June | 3:45 PM - 4:15 PM The Digital Twin Ocean Supporting the EU Ocean Pact**

Official launch event with the European Commission highlighting progress and objectives of the upcoming EU Ocean Pact.

- **10 June | 3:00 PM - 4:45 PM Mobilising the International Ocean Prediction Community**

Signing ceremony for International Cooperation Agreements fostering collaboration in Ocean prediction.

- **11 June: Mercator Ocean International 30 years Anniversary**

Celebrating 30 years of innovation from operational to digital oceanography.

Join our Press Area



The Pavilion has a dedicated press area where you can

- **Conduct live interviews** with a suitable background
- Work in areas **booked for journalists**

Spokespersons and experts

Guest speakers

Guest speakers at UNOC3



Henri Landes - Landestini

Engaged in climate and environmental policy matters. His work focuses on sustainability, biodiversity, and reconnecting people with nature.

Master of Ceremony, 9-13 June



Laurent Ballesta

Ballesta is a nature photographer and marine explorer known for his groundbreaking underwater imagery.

Guest speaker, 7 June



Emily Penn

Penn is an ocean advocate and skipper who for 15 years has put plastic pollution on the map, shaping conversation and catalysing action.

Guest speaker, 10 June



Lewis Pugh

Pugh is an endurance swimmer, maritime lawyer, and the UN Patron of the Oceans. He is a powerful voice for ocean conservation and diplomacy.

Guest speaker, 9 June

Spokespersons and experts

Our Mercator Ocean Leadership and Scientific Experts

Present at UNOC or available prior to the Conference

Pierre Bahurel, Director General

OCEAN OBSERVATION & FORECASTING

Pierre-Yves Le Traon, Scientific Director

Observation data on the state of the Ocean, satellite data collection, and in situ observation networks (buoys, ships, autonomous floats)

Laurence Crosnier, Markets & Services Director

Ocean data services to users, Ocean intelligence services, uses cases and what-if-scenario, viewers and visualisation tools

DIGITAL OCEAN

Alain Arnaud, Digital Ocean Director

Digital Twin Ocean and Ocean forecasting: AI and numerical models for Ocean knowledge and forecasting.

OCEAN & CLIMATE

Karina von Schuckmann, oceanographer, IPCC contributor

Ocean warming and climate impacts, the Earth's energy balance

The Ocean, sentinel of global warming

STATE OF THE OCEAN: TRENDS

Marie Drevillon, Head of the Ocean Operations & Monitoring Department

Past, present and future state of the Ocean, Ocean warming, marine heat waves, El Nino

Angélique Melet, oceanographer

and co-author of the European report on sea level rise in Europe: sea level rise, coastal impacts, nature-based solutions

Gilles Garric, oceanographer

Sea ice, the impact of global warming on the melting of sea ice

Audrey Hasson, oceanographer

Plastics, salinity and the sargassum phenomenon

Stefano Ciavatta, oceanographer

Biodiversity and marine ecosystems

Spokespersons and experts

EU DG spokespeople

DG DEFIS

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DG MARE

Names to be confirmed.

DG INTPA

Names to be confirmed.

DG RTD

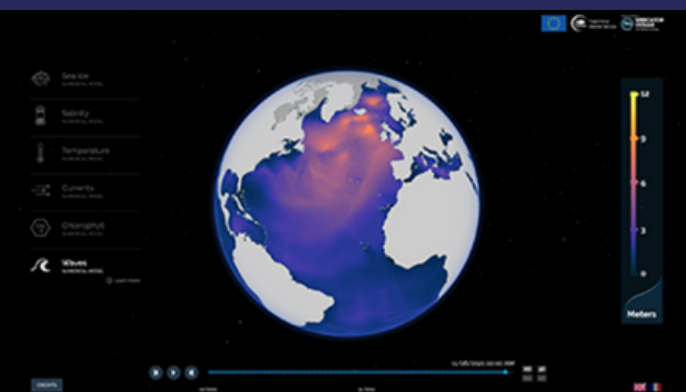
Names to be confirmed.

Resources for the media

Visualising ocean data

Using information from satellite and in situ observations as well as numerical models, the Copernicus Marine Service - implemented by Mercator Ocean International on behalf of the European Commission - provides state-of-the-art analyses and forecasts on a daily basis, making it possible to observe, understand and anticipate the state of the marine environment.

Images, animations, and other media assets are available upon request.



MYOCEAN LEARN

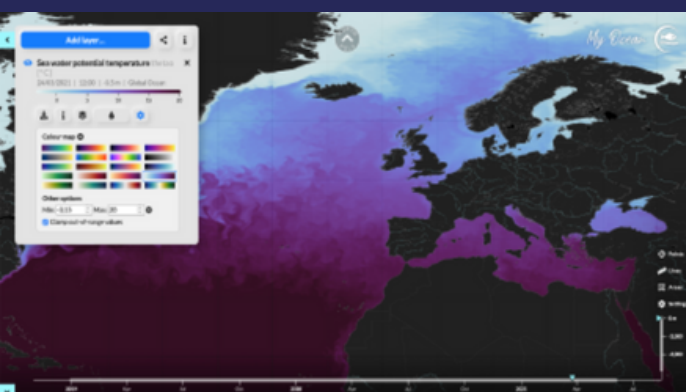
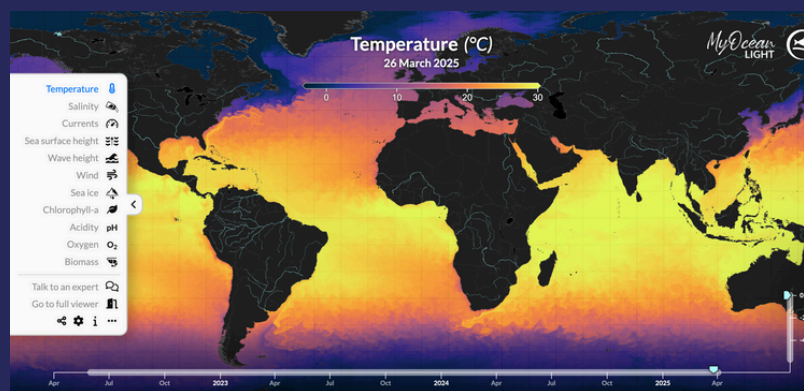
Explore the ocean variables of the Blue, White and Green Oceans with ocean knowledge material. The data is updated twice a year.

[Access MyOcean Learn](#)

MYOCEAN LIGHT

Interact with live ocean data. Zoom in on regions and get (almost) real-time data, hindcasts and model-based forecasts.

[Access MyOcean Light](#)



MYOCEAN PRO

More than 300 products. In near-real time, get retrospectives, observations and forecasts based on models, satellite and in situ observations and re-analyses. In bonus: a polar stereographic view of the Arctic and Antarctic regions.

[Access MyOcean Pro](#)

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