

Vision Statement on Ocean Literacy, and Atlantic Ocean Cooperation between European Union, United States of America & Canada

The statement builds on the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation¹ and defines Ocean Literacy objectives in the context of that cooperation and societal challenges

*The statement is drafted by participants of the
Transatlantic Ocean Literacy Workshop,
5th-6th September 2013, Plymouth, UK*

The signatories hereby re-iterate stated priorities of the Galway Statement:

Recognizing the importance of the ocean to our citizens, prosperity, human health and well-being, adaptation to climate and other environmental change, and security,

Realizing that our countries face similar challenges in promoting a healthy and well-understood ocean,

Appreciating the value of ongoing international cooperation on ocean science and observation.

In addition:

Cognizant of the need for a better understanding of the ocean's role in the full range of societal challenges (health, bioeconomy, energy, transport and climate), and full access to the best available science and knowledge, in order to act as responsible stewards of the ocean, and make informed decisions,

Advocating for applying the principles of Ocean Literacy² to shorten the gap between research and society, in order to support innovative ocean management policies,

Acknowledging that EU-US-Canada need to collaborate on ocean science communication and education as well as on ocean research, and that the Atlantic Ocean offers a special case and a focal point for such collaboration on Ocean Literacy in a two-way transfer of best practices,

Acknowledging that Ocean Literacy collaboration between all Atlantic states could, and should, provide lessons and insight applicable to all basins, regional seas and coastal areas to foster ocean stewardship and promote ocean health anywhere.

Definition of Ocean Literacy in the context of Atlantic Ocean Cooperation:

The Atlantic Ocean offers a focal point for cooperation by all bordering states on *Ocean Literacy* but the effort is only a stepping stone towards expanding societal perception and attitudes, beyond national and regional agendas, and a vehicle towards a more responsible stewardship of **all** marine basins.

Key Actors:

Marine Researchers (both scientists and funders), Marine Educators, and keen citizens.

¹ Galway Statement on Transatlantic Cooperation, http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-459_en.htm

² Ocean Literacy, <http://oceanliteracy.wp2.coexploration.org/>

Our Objectives:

- Encourage cooperation and best practice exchange between Marine Educators Associations (and all interested actors) from both sides of the Atlantic, and seek to promote and apply ocean literacy globally;
- Raise awareness of the two-way interactions between the Atlantic Ocean and daily life, and empower citizens to adapt their every day behaviour;
- Seek and apply innovative ways to make the future citizens ocean-literate citizens, so that they understand environmental challenges and policies, and make informed and responsible decisions on ocean stewardship.

Our Values:

- ***Simply Educate & Inspire...***
Marine science potentially holds solutions to multiple societal challenges from food security to climate change, and responsible ocean stewardship. Our *raison d'être* is to educate beyond basic understanding and appreciation of the ocean ecosystem services, and support the implementation, and public understanding, of policies ambitious enough to transcend national boundaries and interests, by seeking to inspire the public about the value of the ocean;
- ***... apply a "Knowledge Exchange" philosophy ...***
The ocean affects us, and we the ocean. In a similar manner, our efforts are more than a one-way knowledge transfer, but rather a two-way ***knowledge exchange*** between research and society. We will constantly seek the trilateral exchange of ideas and best practices between the three key actors (research, educators, citizens), mutually educating researchers of the public perceptions and understanding of societal challenges, as well as educating citizens of the latest advances in marine science;
- ***... and make Marine Science an Open Science!***
Adopting Responsible Research and Innovation³ principles we will capitalize, promote and build upon principles of Open Science⁴ (open access to research data, publications, model code) to make marine science transparent and accessible to marine educators and citizen scientists, multiplying serendipity by empowering citizen ocean science with free access to the latest research, and making citizens feel proprietors to the scientific discoveries of our diverse set of disciplines.

This cooperation will be open to all partners from the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), educational platforms and research, and will seek to foster public-private partnerships in support of existing international efforts to advance our knowledge of the ocean.

³ Responsible Research and Innovation for Societal Challenges

http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/document_library/pdf_06/responsible-research-and-innovation-leaflet_en.pdf

⁴ Open Science definition http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_science

Signatures by workshop participants, 13 Feb 2014:

Name

Signature:

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Steve Savage

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Jan Mees,
Director of Flanders Marine Institute, VLIZ
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Jan Seys
Flanders Marine Institute, VLIZ
Head of Communication
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Geraldine Fauville
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Dr. Olaf Heilmayer / Henriette Krimphoff
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