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**JPI Oceans Joint Action “Munitions in the Sea”  
Remote Workshop “Towards a Knowledge Hub”  
16-17 September**

**link** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85257646047?pwd=RkkwSU5EV293TTd4NnNabnorTjg0dz09>

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## **Rationale**

Ammunition dumped at sea during or after wars constitutes an environmental and safety issue in many European countries. Chemical and conventional ammunition from world war I and II are corroding and the risks of spontaneous detonations or leakage of toxic compounds are increasing. The whereabouts and condition of the dumped munition is still unknown. At the same time, there is increasing pressure to use coastal areas for recreational, residential and industrial purposes. This leads to increasing challenges with societal and environmental risks.

In 2015, JPI Oceans has initiated a joint action on “Munition in the sea” to facilitate research coordination and exchange of knowledge across European countries. Twelve EU countries joined the action. The action mainly addresses the scientific and technological aspects which can contribute to provide solutions at EU level, including sharing experiences and the involvement of the relevant stakeholders in the process (<https://www.jpi-oceans.eu/munitions-sea>).

The end-users priorities and national offers have first been reviewed in order to estimate the feasibility and impact of joint activities. A continuous interaction with representatives of the European Commission and Parliament have been conducted, as well as between national experts and operators.

In 2018 two workshops have been held to simulate scenarios and identify the practices and gaps to be filled. In 2019, an “Operational proposal and Recommendations to JPI Ocean on the way forward” has been prepared to identify priorities, feasibility and timescales for the activities. This document constitutes a framework for the commitments and future developments, allowing many countries with different capacities and interests to join. Fundamental issues to manage the risk of underwater munitions to the society and environment have been identified and framed within these overarching themes (not listed in prioritized order):

1. Management of underwater munition
2. Mapping and evaluation of underwater munition
3. Ecological and toxicological impact of underwater munition
4. Remediation methods

For each theme the key research questions, core deliverables and estimated timing have been described.

In recent years, the challenge of Munitions in the Sea has therefore increased its recognition at political level and structured a dialogue between researchers and operators. Many research groups involved in the JPI Oceans action have received funds within projects financed by the European Commission, and many other countries have launched national specific programmes for Munitions too. In particular, the European Commission has launched a call within the EMFF (European Maritime and Fisheries Fund) for Blue Labs. Many organizations and experts who participated in the development of a JPI Oceans Action are involved in the two granted projects: Boost Applied Munition detection through Smart data integration and AI workflows (BASTA), Ex-situ, near-real-time explosive compound detection in seawater (ExploTect).

The ERANET Maritima has also introduced a specific topic on ammunitions in the sea in its calls.

The Management board of JPI Oceans has agreed on May 6th 2020 to proceed to exploit the added value of the action and to realize what has been done so far. Taking advantage of the collaboration and dialogue which research groups have initiated also with the operators, it has been decided to officially structure this dialogue through what is usually called "knowledge hub", that is, a network of experts which can support solutions and policy-decisions via services, consulting, review of technologies, methodologies etc.

## **Aim of the workshop**

The workshop aims at identifying the deliverables to be provided by the Group of Experts which will constitute the Knowledge Hub for the joint action. Scientists, operators and policy-makers will be asked to identify barriers and priorities to build a web platform as an interface for end-users to access services and products.

The event will last two days in remote. Written questions will be collected. Speakers will be invited also to answer successively.

The outputs of the workshop will be analyzed and submitted to the JPI Oceans Management Board to feed the draft proposal for the implementation of the Knowledge Hub.

**PROGRAMME**  
**JPI Oceans Joint Action “Munition in the Sea”**  
**Workshop “Towards a Knowledge Hub”**  
**16-17 September 2020, link TBD**

16 September 9:30 – 13:00

**Munitions in the Sea: the framework (09:30 – 12:30)**

Chaired by Thorsten Kiefer (JPI Oceans)

09:30 – 09:40 Welcome and management of the web workshop (Thorsten Kiefer - JPI Oceans and Yulia Bezverchenko- Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine)

09:40 – 10:05 The JPI Oceans action “Munitions in the Sea” (Emilio Campana)

10:05 – 10:30 A review of EU national efforts (Claus Botcher)

10:30 – 10:45 Break

10:45 – 11:05 The project BASTA (Jens Greinert)

11:05 – 11:25 The project Explo Tect (Eric Achterberg and Aaron Beck)

11:25 – 11:45 The Ukrainian scientific support to the challenge of Munitions in the Sea (Sergey Voronov)

11:45 – 12:15 Q&A, short debate

17 September 9:30 – 12:00

**Munitions in the Sea: towards the Knowledge Hub (09:30 – 12:00)**

Chaired by Pier Francesco Moretti (JPI Oceans)

09:30 – 09:50 The rationale and plan for the Knowledge Hub (Pier Francesco Moretti)

09:50 – 10:20 Round Table: The vision of the leading countries (Italy, Norway, Germany)

Break and collection of requests of interventions

10:45 – 11:45 Floor given to audience

11:45 – 12:00 Next steps

**ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:**

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