

AGENDA

"Calm and dark, not loud and bright – Marine pollution by noise and light"

10 June 2025, 10am-12pm CEST on RV Meteor

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INTRODUCTION

The development of our ocean economy impacts “life under water,” which the 14th SDG aims to protect activities like trade, tourism, fishing, mining, and construction boost socioeconomic wellbeing but also introduce energy into the ocean, particularly sound and light. This marine energy pollution from human activities has reached levels that may harm ocean health.

How serious is the threat to marine life? Can we mitigate the harm? Are regulations and international frameworks adequate? Could technological and governance innovations reduce energy emissions to levels that “do not adversely affect the marine environment,” as demanded by the European Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)?

Research in this area is still in its infancy. While the effects of noise on whales and dolphins are better understood, JPI Oceans projects reveal that noise also affects lower trophic level biota, like invertebrates, disrupting marine ecosystems. The impact of artificial light at night is even less understood, although early evidence suggests it may be a significant issue. New trans-national projects aim to assess the impact of light pollution and guide necessary policy actions.

This event aims to discuss noise and light pollution research, policymaking, and governance with a focus on SDG 14.1 (pollution). Topics include scientific understanding, monitoring abilities, regulatory implementation, and additional measures. Target audiences include scientists, policymakers, blue economy stakeholders, early career professionals, and the public.

Though noise and light pollution are briefly mentioned in the UN Ocean Decade Vision 2030 White Paper Challenge 1, and underwater noise thresholds exist in the MSFD, we advocate for greater recognition of anthropogenic energy emissions as pollution. We propose extending Challenge 1 and developing recommendations to implement the White Paper during the second half of the UN Ocean Decade.

AGENDA

Registration and getting on board	09:45-10:15
Listen to the Ocean video Pierre Strosser	10:15-10:20
Welcome Thorsten Kiefer	10:20-10:25
Noise pollution: Hear the science Maarten Boersma	10:25-10:40
Light pollution: See the science Oliver Zielinski, Rüdiger Röttgers	10:40-10:55
European action: The Marine Strategy Framework Direction's monitoring report	10:55-11:05
Global action: The Ocean Decade Vision 2030 White Paper to understand and beat marine pollution Vanessa Hatje	11:05-11:15
Discussion: Is the science sound and clear? Is policy action required? Is it happening? What else could and should we do?	11:15-11:35
Eyes and ears open: Next steps on energy pollution Thorsten Kiefer	11:35-11:45
Farewell and photoshooting on the helipad	



Organising committee:

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