



Nice, 12 June 2025

## **JPI Oceans Statement to the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN Ocean Conference**

JPI Oceans welcomes the 3rd UN Ocean Conference as a landmark in accelerating the implementation and funding of SDG 14 through inclusive, science-based, well-financed, and results-oriented action. As a long-standing pan-European platform for marine and maritime research and innovation, we fully support and align with the EU's commitments to strengthening multilateral ocean governance and advancing effective science-policy interfaces.

With over a decade of experience aligning national investments and expertise across 20 countries, JPI Oceans reaffirms its commitment to international cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of our ocean and marine resources. Addressing interconnected challenges—climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and access to ocean knowledge and technologies—requires collective action and shared responsibility, backed by adequate, long-term, and sustainable funding.

To realise the ambitions of the Nice Ocean Action Plan, JPI Oceans calls for progress and commits to advancing the following areas:

### **1. Strengthen science-based knowledge for coherent policy and implementation**

JPI Oceans member countries prioritise policymaking informed by sound scientific knowledge, co-designed by stakeholders and diverse experts. Marine scientific excellence supports sustainable decision-making that benefits people and nature, while ensuring policies reinforce rather than counteract each other. As highlighted at the One Ocean Science Congress, it is essential to advance co-designed research agendas, integrate social and legal sciences, and strengthen ocean literacy. Long-term investment in knowledge is crucial to protect biodiversity, ensure maritime safety and coastal resilience, and enable a sustainable blue economy. JPI Oceans has delivered knowledge on microplastics, deep-sea mining, cumulative stressors, sea level rise, maritime technology, the blue bioeconomy, and underwater munitions. We will also continue work on emerging topics like the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, blue carbon, ocean deoxygenation, offshore freshened groundwater, and physical stressors such as noise and light pollution. Closing these gaps is vital to shaping holistic, forward-looking ocean policies, and we encourage international attention to these areas.

### **2. Accelerate progress on multilateral treaties and ocean governance**

JPI Oceans strongly supports the implementation of the High Seas Treaty, with many member countries having already signed and ratified the agreement. We are ready to contribute through transnational research that supports science-based decision-making, monitoring, and capacity building in areas beyond national jurisdiction. We also call for a robust and legally binding Plastics Treaty that addresses the full life cycle of plastics, including upstream production and design. Over the past decade, JPI Oceans has led



collaborative research on microplastics, generating essential knowledge on environmental pathways, human health, and mitigation strategies. A global treaty must be grounded in science and backed by consistent investment in research and innovation.

### **3. Support existing instruments with appropriate funding**

SDG 14 remains the least funded of all Sustainable Development Goals. This must change to ensure effective implementation of ocean-related policies and initiatives. Instead of launching new initiatives that risk duplication, efforts should focus on sustainably financing and coordinating existing ones. JPI Oceans welcomes the EU's strong commitments at UNOC3, including the €40 million Global Ocean Programme to support BBNJ implementation and over 50 voluntary commitments worth nearly €1 billion. We will continue aligning national investments and scientific expertise toward the goals of Agenda 2030, and contributing to science diplomacy efforts such as the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance.

### **4. Prioritise ocean observation and stewardship**

Sustained, real-time ocean observation is essential to conserving and sustainably using marine resources. Current systems remain fragmented, underfunded, and reliant on short-term support. The Nice Ocean Action Plan should commit to integrated, long-term observation systems, building on efforts like EOOS, EMODnet, and the Digital Twin of the Ocean, while ensuring the inclusion of the private sector, blue economy actors, youth, and local communities.

As an organisation founded on multilateral collaboration, JPI Oceans remains dedicated to aligning national capacities and investments in support of shared ocean goals. We will continue working with global partners to deliver the science and solutions needed for a healthy ocean and a sustainable future.

*JPI Oceans is a specially accredited organization at UNOC3. JPI Oceans is represented by Niall McDonough, Chair of JPI Oceans Management Board and Thorsten Kiefer, Executive Director of the JPI Oceans Secretariat. This statement is submitted by Lavinia Giulia Pomarico, Science-Policy Advisor, JPI Oceans Secretariat.*