

ANNUAL ACTIVITIES 2023

JPI
OCEANS

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2023

21 member
countries

2 Joint Calls
launched in 2023

12 new projects
launched, making
it a total of 127
projects since JPI
Oceans' inception

16
Joint Actions

200 Knowledge Hub
experts

12 newsletters

17 news
items published

17 events
organised

YEAR IN NUMBERS

SCOPING ACTIONS

JPI Oceans regularly invites stakeholders to share their ideas about marine and maritime topics that could become JPI Oceans Joint Actions. In October 2023, the JPI Oceans Management Board approved two new ideas, European Marinas Network and Offshore Freshened Groundwater, both of which kicked off in December 2023 as Scoping Actions.



EUROPEAN MARINAS NETWORK

Lead Countries: Greece, Italy

Objectives:

- Utilize Europe's 6000 marinas for ocean observation, research, and citizen science.
- Create a network of marina-based data hubs.
- Enhance ocean science and stewardship.
- Advance digitization of the boating sector and improve environmental data quality and coverage.



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OFFSHORE FRESHENED GROUNDWATER

Lead Countries: Malta, Italy

Objectives:

- Explore offshore groundwater as a freshwater source, in alignment with environmental and societal norms.
- Integrate diverse research fields to address policy and legal challenges.
- Tackle water scarcity and reduce environmental impacts.

NEW JOINT ACTIONS

ABOUT

In 2023, JPI Oceans introduced two new Joint Actions: [Blue Carbon](#) and [Changing Marine Lightscares](#). Both initiatives address critical challenges affecting ocean health and climate resilience.

These Joint Actions are crucial for improving our understanding and management of marine ecosystems in the face of climate change and increasing human activities, to ensure sustainable ocean health and productivity.



Type of Action:

- Joint Call and Knowledge Hub

Duration:

- May 2023 - April 2027

Lead countries:

- Ireland, France (co-lead)

Objective:

- To reduce uncertainties, share knowledge, and develop management tools to optimise the climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience benefits of blue carbon

Highlight of 2023:

- Session at the ASLO Aquatic Sciences Meeting, June 2023

BLUE CARBON

**Type of action:**

- Joint Call, Knowledge Hub

Duration:

- May 2023 - April 2027

Lead countries:

- Germany, Norway

Objective:

- To address the impacts of coastal darkening and artificial light at night (ALAN) on ecosystem health

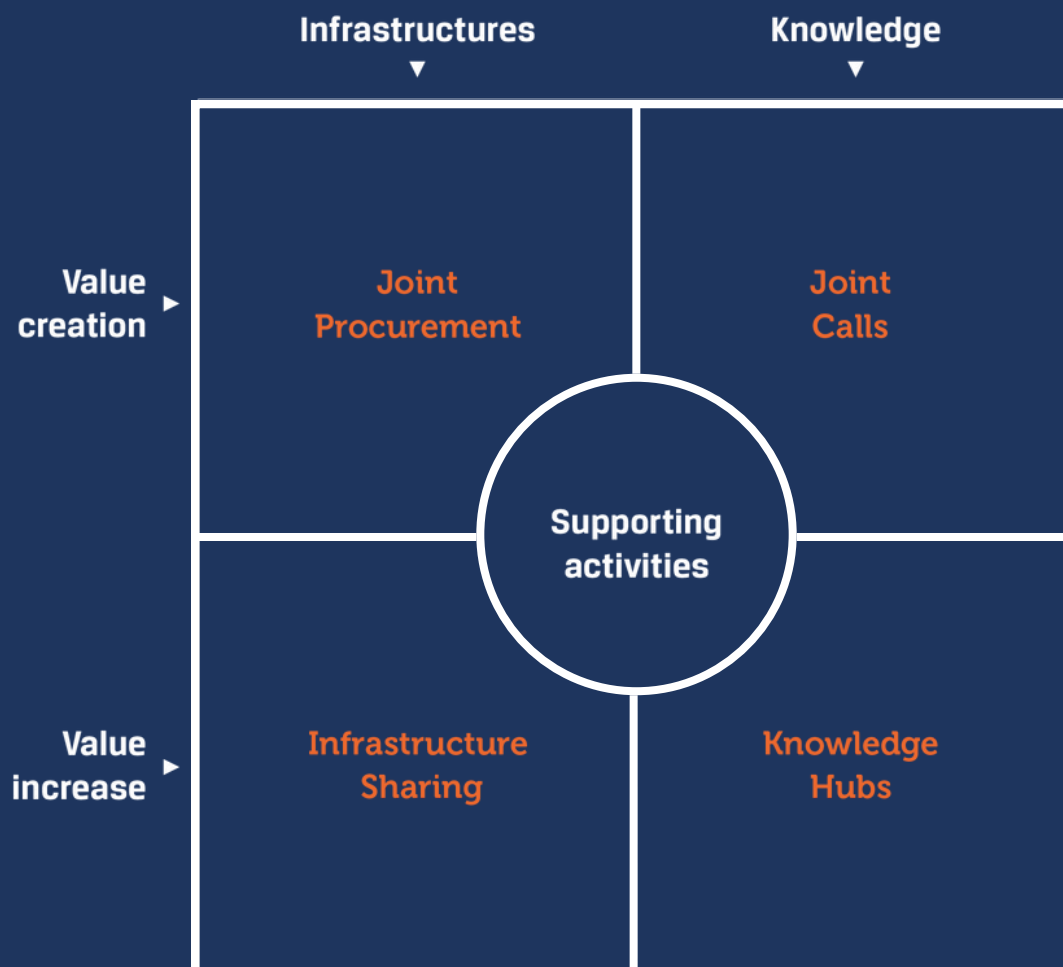
Highlights of 2023:

- Finalisation of Concept Paper by group of experts in March 2023
- Preparation of a first Joint Call for launch in Q1 of 2024

CHANGING MARINE LIGHTSCAPES



ONGOING JOINT ACTIONS



Applying the tools shown in the figure, JPI Oceans has been implementing Joint Actions related to marine pollution, ecosystem health, and sustainable use of marine resources. The trans-national collaboration and interdisciplinary research enhanced scientific understanding and policy-making in support of ocean health, productivity, stewardship and governance. This section presents the overview of Joint Actions active throughout 2023.



With several online writing workshops held in 2023, the experts appointed to the Knowledge Hub completed the "Common Handbook for How to Implement a Cumulative Effects Assessment", with publication set for spring 2024.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES



In June 2023, the Knowledge Hub held the workshop "Science to Policy: Appraising Concepts for the Marine Good Environmental Status (GES)" in Malta. Scientists, representatives from relevant authorities, regional conventions, and the EU Commission and Parliament debated the new results from different initiatives within the scientific community, to promote a salient knowledge-based support to policy, and to give new substance to interpretation of GES.

SCIENCE FOR GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS



The Knowledge Hub expert team and invited authors spent 2023 drafting its First Assessment Report on Sea Level Rise in Europe. In this [video](#), co-chair Bart van den Hurk explains the objectives of the report. The publication and open review process in the journal *State of the Planet* were [kick-started in November 2023](#), with planned publication in mid-2024.

SEA LEVEL RISE



JPI Oceans hosted the [kick-off meeting](#) of the five funded projects in February 2023 in Brussels, also connecting the projects to external policy processes such as the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

UNDERWATER NOISE IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT



JPI Oceans scoped and co-designed of a new phase of the Joint Action, in close collaboration with a wide variety of stakeholders including civil society, the private sector, scientists and policy makers. A new Joint Call including ship-time shared by Belgium and Germany was announced at the end of 2023.

ECOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF DEEP-SEA MINING



The midterm meeting in Spain on 30 May - 1 June showcased results and promoted networking among 18 projects, with 100+ attendees. Highlights included a poster session, competitions, and lectures for young researchers. The transfer project Aquatic Pollutants Trans Net shared stakeholder insights and announced an Innovation Challenge. Enhanced collaboration and support from the transfer project are anticipated for future actions. More information is available in this Special newsletter.

AQUATIC POLLUTANTS



● **JANUARY**

Advanced training on marine biotechnology

● **FEBRUARY**

2nd additional call kick-off meeting

● **MARCH**

Blue bioeconomy research agenda 2023 launch

● **JUNE**

Evaluation of 29 projects in Lisbon from 1st call
and 1st additional call

● **JULY**

13 funded projects to amplify knowledge reach
and impact

● **OCTOBER**

SOUNDSCAPES project at Insomnia Music festival in Norway
Advanced training: bio-refinery tech on fisheries sidestreams

BLUEBIO



In November, JPI Oceans hosted a project meeting with 25 participants from projects funded under the MarTERA ERA-NET Cofund on Marine Technologies. Project presentations and panel discussion focused on science-industry collaboration, as well as new funding opportunities.

MARTERA

CONCLUDING JOINT ACTION

In 2023, JPI Oceans also celebrated ten years of advancing scientific understanding and raising political awareness as the Joint Action on microplastics concluded. It marked the end of a pioneering endeavour that elevated the stature of JPI Oceans by underscoring our abilities for foresighting frontier topics and for delivering scientific knowledge to the policy realm.



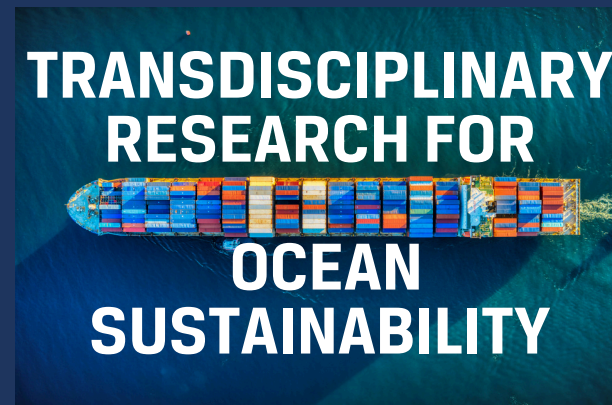
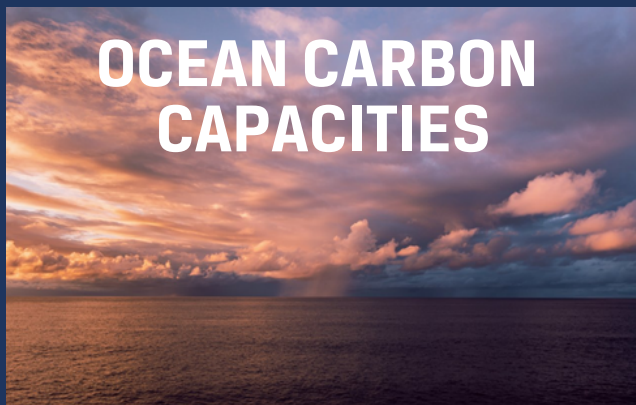
In 2023, we made significant strides in disseminating research findings of the six JPI Oceans-funded microplastics projects. In June, we held three sessions at the ASLO Aquatic Sciences Meeting 2023, presenting the latest findings. In September the Irish Marine Institute in Galway hosted the final meeting for the projects. A high-profile European Parliament Event, organised in collaboration with the European Bureau for Conservation and Development and MEPs Maria Spyraiki and Catherine Chabaud, and hosted by the Intergroup on "Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development", served as a platform for presenting our research outcomes directly to policymakers.

These activities have collectively advanced our mission to connect scientific research with policy implementation in addressing the issue of microplastics in marine ecosystems. By engaging with diverse stakeholders, we have fostered a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges posed by marine microplastics and underpinned more informed, evidence-based decision-making.

ECOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF MICROPLASTICS

OTHER JOINT ACTIONS

Click on the images to know more about these Joint Actions



STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS

JPI Oceans is engaged in strategic collaborations in Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs) and other European and international initiatives. Key ongoing initiatives and collaborations include European Partnerships, the EU Mission Restore our Oceans and Waters, the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance and the UN Decade of Ocean Science.





ALL-ATLANTIC ALLIANCE

The AANChOR CSA held a partners meeting in Brasilia in March, where we presented activities, outcomes and lessons learned from the Youth Ambassadors programme, as well as recommendations for the future of ECOP-related activities. The Last Review meeting for the CSA was held in December. JPI Oceans in the meantime became a partner in a new proposal for the successor CSA in support to the Alliance, the OKEANO CSA, approved for funding in November 2023.



EUROPEAN OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

The EOOS Resource Forum and the EOOS Operations Committee combined their annual meetings for the first time, welcoming participants both online and in person at the JPI Oceans secretariat in November 2023. The joint meeting was placed back-to-back with the EMODnet conference, to which we contributed with a poster. As a follow up of the meeting JPI Oceans is creating detailed national charts on ocean observing and monitoring.





EU4OCEAN

The EU4Ocean Coalition for Ocean Literacy kicked-off in January in Brussels, with JPI Oceans as an associate partner. Since then, JPI Oceans co-organised a Coalition's European Maritime Day Ocean Literacy event in Brest in May, and a World Ocean Day event at the Talk C.E.C. Gallery in Brussels in June.



MISSION OCEAN PREP4BLUE CSA

JPI Oceans participated in the PREP4BLUE mid-term meeting in Venice in September 2023 and carried out a consultation on the exploration of the funding landscape for the implementation of the Mission. A second stakeholder consultation on funding gaps, needs and experiences took place at the Mission Arena in Gothenburg in November 2023. JPI Oceans also implemented a social media campaign and a targeted email outreach in 2023 to encourage pledges to the Mission Ocean Charter.



SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP

As the Communication Lead, JPI Oceans developed the Partnership's website and social media channels in 2023, communicated the launch of the first joint transnational call in February 2023, and is responsible for organising the first Symposium in Q1 2024 and promoting ocean literacy within the Partnership.



© Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership



© Jean Wimmerlin

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS PARTNERSHIP

A Consortium application coordinated by France was officially approved by the European Commission in the summer of 2023. JPI Oceans had advised the co-design process on aspects of blue food. More information on the Partnership can be found [here](#).



UN OCEAN DECADE

In January 2023, JPI Oceans presented its Knowledge Hub on Sea Level Rise in the UN Ocean Decade CoastPredict Programme's General Assembly. JPI Oceans sought Decade endorsement of the following Actions and activities:

- Science for Good Environmental Status (S4GES) event in June 2023
- Blue Carbon as project linked to the Global Ocean Carbon Programme



MINKE

JPI Oceans is a partner in MINKE, a Horizon 2020 project centred on European metrology research infrastructures. In 2023, JPI Oceans engaged the scientific community in mapping the requirements for an efficient European marine metrology network. We further promoted cross-connections between metrology and ocean observing as addressed in the European Ocean Observing System (EOOS).



EVENTS

- 
- **MAY**
European Maritime Day, Brest, France
 - **JUNE**
World Ocean Day, TALK CEC Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
 - **JULY**
Seas and Oceans Exhibition, TALK CEC Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
 - **OCTOBER**
EurOCEAN Conference, Vigo, Spain
 - **DECEMBER**
Small particles, big concerns European Parliament Event, Brussels, Belgium



A special thank you is extended to Kristin Thorud on occasion of her retirement from the Research Council of Norway and the JPI Oceans Management Board in the spring of 2023, having been a dedicated long-term member on both the JPI Oceans Management Board and Internal Advisory Committee.

Eivind Lorentzen was elected to replace Kristin Thorud in the JPI Oceans' Internal Advisory Committee.

Management Board changes in representation in 2023:

- Floor ten Hoopen replaced Dennis Lisbjerg as representative for the Technical University of Denmark
- Thorbjørn Gilberg replaced Jens Vittrup as representative for the Innovation Fund Denmark
- Jaak Villipus replaced Rene Reisner as representative for Estonian Ministry of the Environment
- Majbritt Bolton-Warberg replaced Fiona Grant as representative for the Marine Institute of Ireland
- Martina Vella replaced Glorianne Camilleri for Malta Council of Science and Technology
- Jenny Lindström replaced Bengt Fjellborg as representative for the Swedish Agency for Water Management

GOVERNANCE



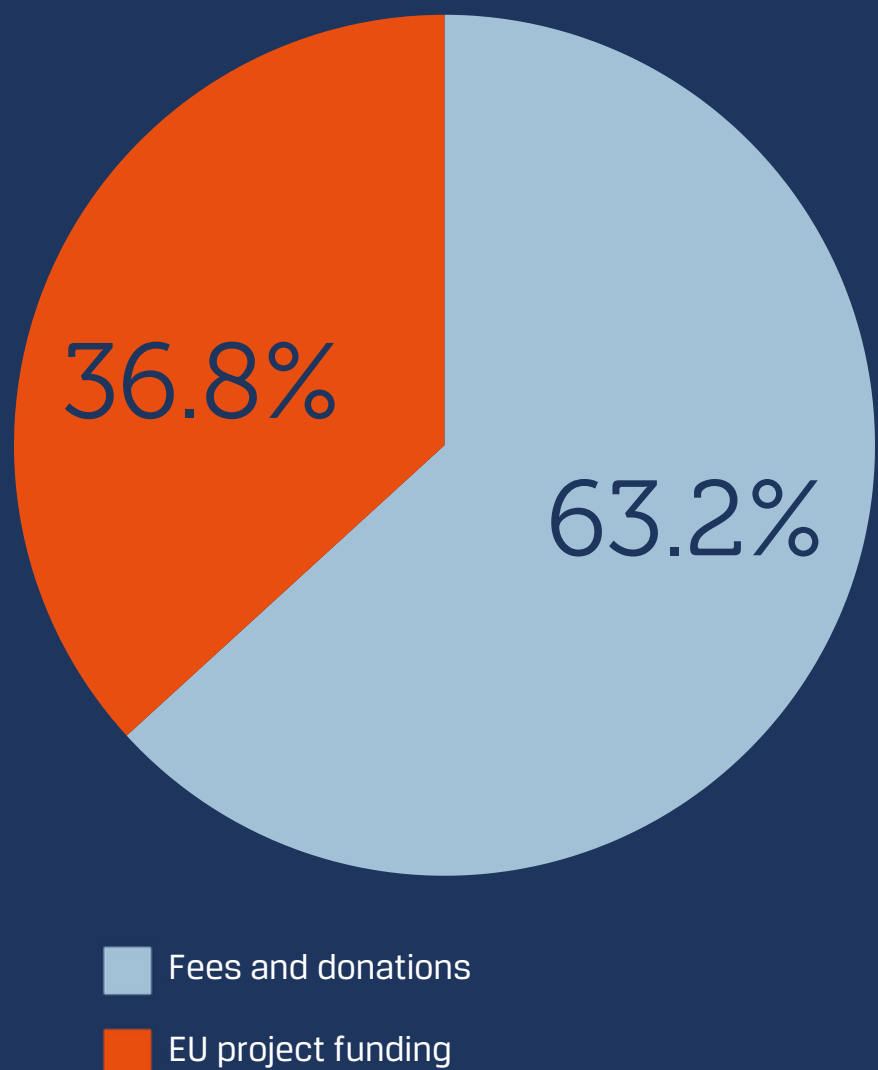
SECRETARIAT



From the left:

- Lavinia Giulia Pomarico, Science-policy advisor
- Frode Dal Fjeldavli, Science-policy advisor
- Ingeborg Korme, Science-policy advisor
- Willem De Moor, Deputy Director
- Yekaterina Astafyeva, Science-policy advisor
- Thorsten Kiefer, Executive Director
- Jella Kandziora, Science-policy advisor
- Raluca Dumitrache, Communication Officer
- Jon Øygarden Flæten, Science-policy advisor
- Theresa Steins, Office Manager

Not pictured: Pier Francesco Moretti, Science-policy advisor



FINANCE

In the accounting year of 2023, a total cash amount of EUR 679,498.67 was received from fees, donations and grants, with EUR 249,898.44 cumulatively received as instalments of the two grants related to the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) and the European Ocean Coalition (EU4OCEAN).

The total expenditure amounted to EUR 674,814.15. Expenditure consisted of secretariat employment costs, office fixed costs, running expenses, bank charges and other costs.

The reserves at the end of 2023 amounted to EUR 877,797.81.

The Research Council of Norway (RCN), the Government of Flanders via the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) via the GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel and the German Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI), and the National Research Council of Italy (CNR) kindly provided in-kind contributions through staff secondments. This is not further quantified in the finances of the JPI Oceans AISBL.

STATISTICS

+44%

LinkedIn followers since 2022



Website analytics:

- Visits: 57,798
- Page views: 116,330
- Unique page views: 99,742
- Average visit duration: 00:01:39

Website content & newsletter:

- News items: 17
- Newsletters: 12
- Subscribers: 2,483

Social media:

- LinkedIn followers: 2,420
- Twitter followers: 5,310
- Facebook followers: 1,600
- Instagram followers: 927



+26%

Instagram followers since 2022



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