

# Implementing the Ocean SDG: from knowledge to action

**Ministry of Ecology,  
Sustainable Development and Energy**

**Hôtel de Roquelaure,  
244, boulevard Saint-Germain • Paris**

**Friday 2 October 2015**

# IDDRI



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION



Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic  
Commission



Ministère de l'Écologie,  
du Développement  
durable et de l'Énergie

## Background

At the Rio+20 Conference in 2012, States agreed to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to bring together the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and environmental concerns under one global framework. In July 2014, the Open Working Group on SDGs submitted its proposed goals to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). A stand-alone Ocean SDG is included, which is to: "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development". A number of related targets and indicators are currently being discussed, dealing especially with reducing marine pollution, addressing the impacts of ocean acidification, and restoring fish stocks. The SDGs are due to be formally adopted by the UNGA in September 2015. In parallel, numbers of assessments of the marine environment are currently undertaken, including the World Ocean Assessment, the Transboundary Water Assessment and regional inventories.

## Objectives

Implementing the Ocean SDG will be challenging. It will require to make use of the best available scientific knowledge to target key issues and to adopt political decisions aimed at putting the Ocean on a sustainable pathway. This conference will identify how to meet these needs and highlight possible options for implementing the Ocean SDG.

**12:30**

**Registration of participants**

**13:00**

### Welcome addresses

**Teresa Ribera**, Director, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)

**Sylvie Lemmet**, Director for European and international Affairs, Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable development and Energy, and Ministry of Housing, Territorial Equality and Rurality

**Irina Bokova**, Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

**Amina J. Mohammed**, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning

**13:45**

### **Session 1** Assessing the state of the Ocean

Chair: **Julien Rochette**, Programme coordinator, Oceans and coastal zones, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)

#### **Conclusions of the first World Ocean Assessment**

**Jake Rice**, Chief scientist Emeritus, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, and Member of the Group of Experts for the World Ocean assessment

#### **Global trends in world fisheries**

**Philippe Cury**, Senior scientist, Research Institute for the Development (IRD), France

#### **Impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on the ocean and its services**

**Jean-Pierre Gattuso**, Senior Research Scientist, CNRS and Pierre and Marie Curie University (UPMC) and Associate Researcher at IDDRI, France

#### **Coral reefs in peril**

**Ove Hoegh-Guldberg**, Director, Global Change Institute, University of Queensland, Australia

#### **Sea level rise: impacts and adaptation options**

**Iñigo Losada**, Head of Research, Environmental Hydraulics Institute, University of Cantabria, Spain

**Discussion with the audience**

**15:30**

## **Session 2** How the Ocean SDG could help to make a difference?

Chair: **Sébastien Treyer**, Director of programmes, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)

### *Implementing the Ocean SDG: the role of international organisations*

**Mette Wilkie**, Director, Division on Environmental Policy Implementation, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

### *Monitoring the implementation of the Ocean SDG through triennial oceans and seas global conferences*

**Peter Thomson**, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations

### *Sustaining ocean observation*

**Martin Visbeck**, Head of Research Unit Physical Oceanography, GEOMAR Helmholtz Center for Ocean Research Kiel, Germany

### *Oceanographic research and capacity development in support of SDG implementation*

**Vladimir Ryabinin**, Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), Assistant Director-General, UNESCO

### *Financing the implementation of the Ocean SDG*

**Rémi Parmentier**, Deputy Executive Secretary, Global Ocean Commission

Discussion with the audience

**17:00**

Coffee break

**17:30**

## **Roundtable** Building momentum for an effective integration of the Ocean in the post-2015 regime

Chair: **Teresa Ribera**, Director, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)

**Catherine A. Novelli**, Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, Department of State, United States

**Lisa Emelia Svensson**, Ambassador for Oceans, Seas and Fresh Water, Sweden

**Klaus Töpfer**, Director, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)

**Pascal Lamy**, Commissioner, Global Ocean Commission

**Laurence Tubiana**, Ambassador for Climate Change, France

**18:30**

## Closure of the conference

An underwater photograph showing a large, dense school of fish swimming in clear blue water. The fish are seen from a side-on perspective, moving towards the right side of the frame. The water is a deep, vibrant blue, and there are some light reflections on the surface at the top of the image.

### **Organisers**

The conference is organised by the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), in partnership with the United States Embassy in France, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC/UNESCO) and the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy.

### **Language**

The conference will be held both in French and English. Simultaneous interpretation services will be available in both languages.