**Ocean sustainability: act before it's too late**

The United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon sounded the alarm over the ‘global emergency facing the oceans’ (<https://www.un.org/en/conferences/ocean2022/political-declaration>). The international ocean community must act now if we are to mitigate and adapt to ocean change ([https://oceanpanel.org/the-agenda/](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.com%2Fv3%2F__https%3A%2Foceanpanel.org%2Fthe-agenda%2F__%3B!!NLFGqXoFfo8MMQ!p8s1_WsVKE79zlOBLjGf2sltpV-AfmbWlXkXg0ouGwUZGGEOnqpFB4GEWuA8nY9WeQw35uVoZRxzeZ2g%24&data=05%7C01%7Ccarol.robinson%40uea.ac.uk%7C612cfd59a5bd49727e1f08da924feb87%7Cc65f8795ba3d43518a070865e5d8f090%7C0%7C0%7C637983169198853324%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=y%2FpzgJFmnR%2FHUMpgmyDPPHp2i%2BPCAk8WFPdGgMC1q6g%3D&reserved=0)).

The time left to respond to this emergency before changes to the oceans become irreversible is running out and the associated costs **to society** are increasing. A coordinated global strategy is urgently needed that is flexible, scalable, responsive to ocean changes and applicable in different contexts

(see E. J. Murphy *et al.*  *Front. Mar. Sci.*[doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.760731](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.com%2Fv3%2F__https%3A%2Fdoi.org%2F10.3389%2Ffmars.2021.760731__%3B!!NLFGqXoFfo8MMQ!p8s1_WsVKE79zlOBLjGf2sltpV-AfmbWlXkXg0ouGwUZGGEOnqpFB4GEWuA8nY9WeQw35uVoZTt7MTbN%24&data=05%7C01%7Ccarol.robinson%40uea.ac.uk%7C612cfd59a5bd49727e1f08da924feb87%7Cc65f8795ba3d43518a070865e5d8f090%7C0%7C0%7C637983169198853324%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=u9%2FZZCwBvZ6LpiMALvI%2BMOOnxn5IJ4E4MqrzmC4j9eQ%3D&reserved=0); 2021).

International assessments of ocean change and future risks already provide the information we need to rank the risks and identify the actions necessary. As members of the Integrated Marine Biosphere Research Programme, we are coordinating activity for developing such a plan, and invite the community to participate (<https://imber.info/action-plan-for-the-ocean/>). Success will ~~founded on~~ **require** equity, inclusivity and diversity of engagement.

*Eugene J Murphy1,\*, Carol Robinson2, Alistair J Hobday3, Alice Newton4, Marion Glaser5, Karen Evans3, Mark Dickey-Collas6, Stephanie Brodie7 and Marion Gehlen8*

**Affiliations**

*1British Antarctic Survey, NERC, UKRI, High Cross, Madingley Road, Cambridge, United Kingdom.*

*2Centre for Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, School of Environmental Sciences, University of East Anglia, Norwich, Norfolk, United Kingdom.*

*3CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere, Hobart, Tasmania, 7000, Australia.*

*4CIMA-Centre for Marine and Environmental Research, Gambelas Campus, University of Algarve, 8005-139 Faro, Portugal.*

*5Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT), Bremen, Germany.*

*6International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), Copenhagen V, Denmark.*

*7Institute of Marine Science, University of California Santa Cruz, Monterey, USA.*

*8Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement, Institut Pierre Simon Laplace, Gif-sur-Yvette, France.*

*\*For correspondence.* [*e.murphy@bas.ac.uk*](mailto:e.murphy@bas.ac.uk)

*Contact information*

Eugene J Murphy, [e.murphy@bas.ac.uk](mailto:e.murphy@bas.ac.uk). Tel: +44 (0) 7947897194, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7369-9196>

Carol Robinson, [carol.robinson@uea.ac.uk](mailto:carol.robinson@uea.ac.uk), Tel: +44 (0)1603 593174, <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3033-4565>

Alistair J Hobday, [Alistair.Hobday@csiro.au](mailto:Alistair.Hobday@csiro.au), Tel: +61362325310, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3194-8326>

Alice Newton, [anewton@ualg.pt](mailto:anewton@ualg.pt), Tel +351 91 911 00 26,  <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-9286-5914>

Marion Glaser , [marion.glaser@leibniz-zmt.de](mailto:marion.glaser@leibniz-zmt.de), Tel: +49 (0)421 23800 – 66

Karen Evans [karen.evans@csiro.au](mailto:karen.evans@csiro.au) Tel: +61 3 6232 5222, <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2205-4264>

Mark Dickey-Collas, [mark.dickey-collas@ices.dk](mailto:mark.dickey-collas@ices.dk), Tel: +45 3141 5578, <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3154-8039>

Stephanie Brodie, [sbrodie@ucsc.edu](mailto:sbrodie@ucsc.edu), Tel: +01 (831) 648-9034, <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0869-9939>

Marion Gehlen, [marion.gehlen@lsce.ipsl.fr](mailto:marion.gehlen@lsce.ipsl.fr), Tel: +33 (0) 1 69 08 86 72, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9688-0692>