



UNITED NATIONS  
**OCEAN  
CONFERENCE**

LISBON  
27 JUNE -  
1 JULY  
2022



## **GOA-ON and OARS well represented at United Nation Ocean Conference**

The United Nation Ocean Conference (UNOC), co-hosted by the Governments of Portugal and Kenya was held in Lisbon, Portugal from June 27 to July 1, 2022. The conference aimed to accelerate innovative, science-based solutions to meet global ocean challenges. GOA-ON and OARS were highlighted throughout the week during eight events to address ocean acidification.

### **GOA-ON participates in UNOC Interactive Dialogue addressing Ocean Acidification**

GOA-ON co-chair Steve Widdicombe, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, moderated the Interactive Dialogue 3 on “*Minimizing and addressing ocean acidification, deoxygenation, and ocean warming*” at the UN Ocean Conference on 29. June 2022. Each dialogue session had the aim to deliver actions towards implementation of SDG 14. The dialogue was co-chaired by John Kerry, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate of the United States, and Matthew Samuda, Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister of Jamaica. Panelists included Mr. Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director-General, International Atomic Energy Agency, Ms. Jessie Turner, Director of the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification, Mr. Hans Otto-Pörtner, Co-Chair of the IPCC Working Group II (WG II) and Head of the Integrated Ecophysiology Section, Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research.

Recording: [Interactive Dialogue 3: Minimizing and addressing ocean acidification, deoxygenation and ocean warming - UN Ocean Conference 2022 | UN Web TV](#)

Concept Paper for the Interactive Dialogue 3:

[ID\\_3\\_Ocean\\_acidification\\_deoxygenation\\_warming.pdf \(un.org\)](#)



Panelists at the UNOC Interactive Dialogue addressing Ocean Acidification discussed actions to address SDG target 14.



GOA-ON co-chair Dr. Steve Widdicombe (Plymouth Marine Laboratory) moderates the Interactive Dialogue 3 on “Minimizing and addressing ocean acidification, deoxygenation, and ocean warming” at the UN Ocean Conference on 29 June 2022.

## **International Climate Financing for Ocean Adaptation and Resilience Event**

On Monday, 27 June, GOA-ON co-chairs Steve Widdicombe, Plymouth Marine Lab, and Jan Newton, University of Washington, kicked off the week and the [OA Alliance Climate Financing](https://www.oaalliance.org/events/international-climate-financing-for-ocean-adaptation) event, which brought together OA science and policy coordinating bodies, national governments, and international climate finance regimes with charges to support countries in implementing climate adaptation and resilience strategies that advance the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. The discussion established a better understanding of pathways to ensure climate financing is made available for ocean acidification adaptation and community resiliency strategies. This side event was co-organized by the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification, Commonwealth Blue Charter, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, and the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON) in partnership with the UN Foundation, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and The Ocean Foundation.

Additional details:

<https://www.oaalliance.org/events/international-climate-financing-for-ocean-adaptation>

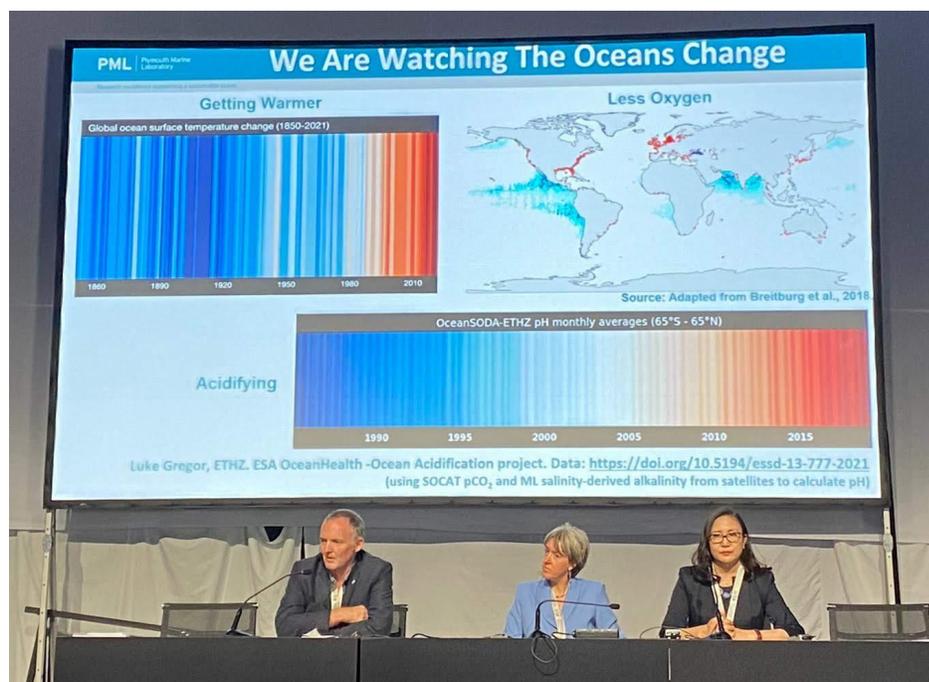


Panelists at the International Climate Financing for Ocean Adaptation and Resilience Event on 27 June 2022.

## **Ocean Science and Its Policy Interface: from Knowledge to Sustainable Ocean Solutions**

This side event on 28 June provided a platform for world experts - scientists, NGOs, international organizations, private sector representatives – engaged in the UN Decade of

Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and in the UN Regular Process to showcase ambitious science-based initiatives that are accessible, reliable, scalable and sustainable. It also provided the opportunity to engage policymakers and understand how the knowledge discovered by the scientific community can support them. These actions shared the commonality that they are built on collaboration and co-design amongst various stakeholders in the development and use of science-based solutions to start managing the ocean sustainably. GOA-ON Co-chair Dr. Steve Widdicombe spoke about 'Cumulative effects of multiple ocean stressors and in particular ocean acidification' and introduced the importance of UN Ocean Decade programmes such as OARS.



Prof Steve Widdicombe (left) of the Plymouth Marine Lab presents at the "Ocean Science and Its Policy Interface: from Knowledge to Sustainable Ocean Solutions" side event on 28 June 2022.

### **Taking Action to Address Ocean Acidification & Implement SDG 14.3**

Speakers at this event on Wednesday, 29. June, highlighted [Voluntary Commitments](#) made by governments and civil society for advancing OA policy, financing, literacy, science and innovation for management, to address [SDG Target 14.3](#), which aims to "Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels." This is in parallel to global efforts that are moving forward to provide society with the evidence needed to sustainably identify, monitor, mitigate and adapt to ocean acidification at relevant temporal and spatial scales. The event helped bring together intergovernmental, international, national and regional actors around the UN Decade of Ocean Science endorsed programme Ocean Acidification Research for Sustainability (OARS). GOA-ON co-chairs Steve Widdicombe and Jan Newton both addressed the audience to talk about multi-level partnerships as key to addressing ocean acidification and its effects.

Learn more about the official side event:

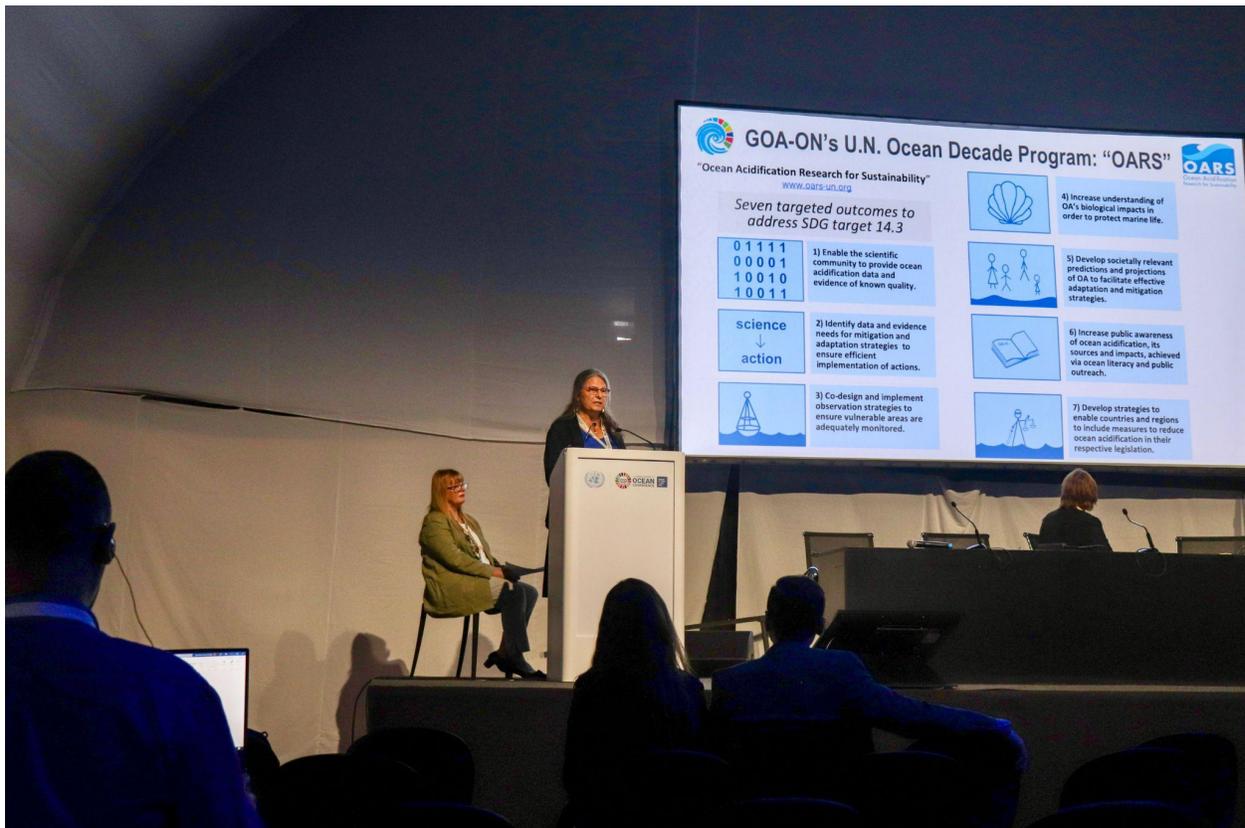
<https://www.oaalliance.org/events/taking-action-to-address-ocean-acidification-and-implement-sdg-143>



Speakers at the “Taking Action to Address Ocean Acidification & Implement SDG 14.3” event on 29 June 2022.

## OARS highlighted at “Our Changing Ocean: Navigating Observations and Building Research-Driven Solutions”

GOA-ON co-chair Jan Newton delivered remarks at this side event on Wednesday, 29 June, focused on bringing together leading partners in ocean observation to develop a cohesive global research network that can allow for ocean and climate solutions, which will be critical to survival. Unifying observational partners and strategies to develop an integrated global research network creating ocean and climate solutions critical to our survival. In this context, OARS was highlighted as being very well equipped to provide the high quality, high quantity and high-resolution ocean acidification data needed for those depending on the ocean.



GOA-ON co-chair Dr Jan Newton of the University of Washington presents the OARS programme outcomes to address ocean acidification at the “Our Changing Ocean: Navigating Observations and Building Research-Driven Solutions” side event on 29 June 2022.

### **OARS Evening Reception**

The spotlight was on OARS Wednesday night as OARS leadership Kirsten Isensee, Jan Newton, and Steve Widdicombe highlighted the GOA-ON led UN Ocean Decade Programme. Speakers included H.E. Isabelle Berro-Amadei, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Monaco, Ms Maxine Burkett, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans, Fisheries and Polar Affairs of the United States, Ms Florence Descroix-Comanducci, Director of IAEA's Marine Environment Laboratory, Dr Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, Mr Sefanaia Nawadra, Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and Mr Miguel Bernal, Senior Fishery Officer at the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean of FAO. This event successfully brought together experts and stakeholders of the OA community to network and discuss action towards achieving SDG Target 14.3.



Mr Miguel Bernal, Ms Kirsten Isensee and Ms Maxine Burkett listening to the opening remarks by H.E. Isabelle Berro-Amadei



Dr Valdimir Ryabinin, Ms Kirsten Isensee, Ms Florence Descroix-Comanducci and Prof Steve Widdicombe at the OARS Reception

### **Strong GOA-ON presence at University of Washington's UNOC Side Event**

GOA-ON members participated in a side event panel discussion at the UN Ocean Conference entitled "Ocean Acidification: Co-designing data connections to underserved communities for equitable outcomes" on 30 June 2022. GOA-ON co-chair and UW professor Jan Newton moderated the discussion and PI-TOA steering committee member [Dr Katy Soapi](#) from The Pacific Community was a panelist, along with [Ms Carleen Thomas](#) of the Tsleil Waututh Nation and [Dr Harriet Harden-Davies](#) with the Nippon Foundation and the UN Ocean Decade programme Ocean Voices. Their vibrant conversation covered a regional vulnerability assessment of OA in the Pacific Northwest performed together with members or regional tribes, the role of local and regional ocean acidification observing and teaching capacities in the Pacific Islands, and the intersection between indigenous ancestral knowledge, science, and policy.

Recording: [WOAC Presents at the 2022 UN Ocean Conference on Ocean Acidification & Equitable Outcomes - YouTube](#)



Dr Jan Newton, Ms Carleen Thomas, Dr Katy Soapi, and Dr Harriet Harden-Davies speak at the “Ocean Acidification: Co-designing data connections to underserved communities for equitable outcomes” side event on 30 June 2022.

### **UN Decade Forum**

A new OARS video launched at the UN Decade Forum featuring the OARS co-leads Dr Jan Newton, Prof Steve Widdicombe, Dr Kirsten Isensee, as well as Dr Libby Jewett, Director of the NOAA Ocean Acidification Program and one of the lead authors of the IPCC 6th Assessment Report. The video highlights the effects of ocean acidification on the marine environment and the actions needed to better understand, adapt and mitigate these effects that OARS will undertake in the next few years. Dr Katy Soapi (The Pacific Community, Pacific Islands and Territories OA Hub co-chair), Dr Sheck Sherif (OA Africa Hub co-chair) and Dr Abed El Rahman Hassoun (Mediterranean OA Hub co-chair) spoke from their regional perspectives and joined the call to all interested researchers, stakeholders and decision makers to join OARS! Learn more about OARS and how to contribute on [oars-un.org](https://oars-un.org)

Watch the OARS video: [Link](#)



The OARS programme consists of 7 targeted outcomes to advance OA science and contribute towards SDG target 14.3.