

# Speaker biographies

UNITED NATIONS  
**OCEAN**  
CONFERENCE

LISBON  
27 JUNE -  
1 JULY  
2022

2021-2030  
United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

**OFFICIAL SIDE EVENT**

**Interoperable, transparent, and accessible marine data for the UN 2030 Agenda,  
the UN Ocean Decade, and for the benefit of all**

29 June 2022 18:00-20:00 [GMT +1]

Location: Pavilhão de Portugal – Expo 98, Alameda dos Oceanos

EMODnet European Marine Observation and Data Network

FUGRO

unesco Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

IODE

Intertidal Agency

MERCATOR OCEAN INTERNATIONAL

VLIZ



***Ir. Jan-Bart Calewaert***

***Head of the EMODnet Secretariat, Managing Director Seascope Belgium***

Jan-Bart Calewaert trained as a bio-engineer in cellular and genetic biotechnology (University of Ghent) and Marine Environment Manager with specialization in eco-toxicology (Free University of Brussels and University of Antwerp). Through most of his career, Jan-Bart has coordinated multidisciplinary research projects and science policy advisory bodies in support of marine research, sustainable management of marine and coastal environments and related policy frameworks working for institutes and organisations in Belgium and Europe including Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), the Maritime Institute (UGent), the Laboratory of Environmental Toxicology and Aquatic Ecology (UGent) and the European Marine Board. In 2013, Jan-Bart established the Secretariat of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet), a long-term marine data management and sharing initiative supported by the European Commission Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, and has been leading the Secretariat since. In 2022, Jan-Bart became co-chair of the UN Ocean Decade Data Coordination Group.

EMODnet: [emodnet.ec.europa.eu](https://emodnet.ec.europa.eu)

## Round Table 1



### ***Dr. Pier-Luigi Buttigieg (Moderator)***

#### ***GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research, Germany***

Pier Luigi Buttigieg is a Digital Knowledge Steward and Senior Data Scientist at the GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research. His professional mission is to use data science to bridge our increasingly digitised ocean community across science, operations, and policy. Concurrently, he researches and develops operational-grade and internationally adopted knowledge representation technologies for ecology, planetary science, and - in collaboration with UN Environment - the Sustainable Development Goals.

He also focuses on developing distributed and interoperable digital systems from sub-national to global scales, through work with the Earth and Environment Hub of the Helmholtz Metadata Collaboration and the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). In these latter roles, he is co-leading the deployment of the IODE Ocean and Data Information System (ODIS) and Ocean InfoHub to enable regional stakeholders to co-develop a digital commons for the global ocean. He also serves on several other regional and international advisory boards, supporting the growth of a diverse but harmonised digital ocean ecosystem.

<https://helmholtz-metadaten.de/en>



### ***Tshikana (TK) Rasehlomi***

#### ***Marine Information Management System (MIMS) / AfrOBIS Node & Data Manager, Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment (DFFE): CD: Oceans and Coastal Research, Cape Town, South Africa***

Tshikana Rasehlomi is South Africa's Marine Information Management System (MIMS) manager based at the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment: Oceans & Coasts Branch. He is also an IOC/IODE AFROBIS Node and Data manager for the sub-Saharan African node of the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS). He is a physical oceanographer by trade with extensive experience in data management (curation, accessioning and publishing), development of metadata standards and data sharing policies. His research background focuses on ocean climate data rescue, Lagrangian ocean analysis, coastal ocean modelling (ROMS) and climate change & variability. He currently sits in various scientific working groups including OBIS, AANCHOR and BCC. In the recent past, he worked with various international bodies including the WMO INDARE, JCOMM VOS, JCOMM SOT, JCOMM SOOP, JCOMM ETSI and DBCP-OceanOPS.

MIMS: <https://data.ocean.gov.za>

DFFE: <https://www.dffe.gov.za/>



**Sebasiten Mancini**

**Director of the Australian Ocean Data Network (AODN), University of Tasmania (UTAS) / Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS)**

Following training in marine science in a French Engineering school (SeaTech, Toulon), I began my Physical Oceanographic career as a numerical modeller in a multidisciplinary coastal and marine environmental services company, CREOCEAN ([www.creocean.fr/contenu/home,2](http://www.creocean.fr/contenu/home,2)). Since August 2008, I have worked as a project officer, data services team leader and more recently as the Director of the Australian Ocean Data Network (AODN). The AODN is in charge of the ingestion, curation and preservation of all data and relevant metadata collected by the Australian Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS, <http://www.imos.org.au/>). During this period, I have contributed to the creation and improvement of the single integrative framework for data and information management that allow discovery and access of the data by scientists, managers and the public.

IMOS: <https://imos.org.au/>

AODN Portal: <https://portal.aodn.org.au/>



**Hans Wendt**

**Marine Programme Coordinator – IUCN Oceania Regional Office**

Hans has background in marine biology and spatial conservation planning and provides technical advice and support (including GIS and data analysis) to several countries in the Oceania Region on integrated ocean management through Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). He's passionate about helping others and blessed to be working with a dedicated team that continues to be part of something great when decisions are made by various Governments, Conservation Managers, and Indigenous People, Private Sectors, and others in their efforts to address key development and environmental challenges.

<https://www.iucn.org/regions/oceania>



**Ben Williams**

**Metocean Director Americas, Fugro**

Ben Williams is the Metocean Director for the Americas region at Fugro, based out of Houston, Texas. Fugro is the world's leading Geo-data specialist, collecting and analysing comprehensive information about the Earth and the structures built upon it. Employing approximately 9000 talented people in 59 countries, Fugro serves clients around the globe, predominantly in the energy, infrastructure and water industries, both offshore and onshore. Ben has been with Fugro for over 17 years always within the Metocean team, but has worked globally supporting client projects. Ben has held most positions in Fugro's metocean services from Field Technician to Operations Manager to now Regional Director. He holds a MSc in Sustainable Maritime Operations from University of Plymouth in the UK. Ben has been active for the past 5 years fostering Fugro's metocean activities supporting Public Private Academic Partnerships in Ocean Observing. He is an active

member of NOAA's IOOS regional associations and sits on the Board of Directors for the Mid-Atlantic Regional association (MARACOOS).

Fugro: <https://www.fugro.com/>



***Dr. Kate Larkin***

***Deputy Head of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) Secretariat and Director of Marine Knowledge and Research at Seascope Belgium.***

Kate has a PhD in marine biogeochemistry and has worked in the marine domain for 20 years spanning marine research, ocean observation, scientific project management, knowledge transfer and science-policy roles at the National Oceanography Centre, UK (2002-2011), the European Marine Board (2012-2018) and EMODnet (2019 - ). Kate's role focuses on marine knowledge brokerage, connecting European and increasingly global ocean observation capability to EMODnet services and driving EMODnet's wider partnerships across the marine knowledge value chain, including with data infrastructures and services e.g., Copernicus Marine, marine research infrastructures, the Blue Economy, policy, civil society and citizens, in the context of making marine data transparent and accessible for all, for the EU Green Deal, the UN 2030 Agenda and the UN Ocean Decade.

[emodnet.ec.europa.eu](http://emodnet.ec.europa.eu)

## **Video presentations**



***Dr. Shi Suixiang***

***Senior research fellow, Director-General of National Marine Data and Information Service (NMDIS), Ministry of Natural Resources of People's Republic of China.***

Dr. Shi serves as the position of IODE National Coordinator for marine information management, Director of IOI-China Regional Center for the Western Pacific Region, as well as ODINWESTPAC Project Coordinator.

Dr. Shi has long been engaged in marine big data analysis and forecasting, artificial intelligence, marine information engineering design, planning and construction, marine information resources exploration and utilization. He is committed to building an international brand of marine management training and exchange, providing capacity-building training for marine scientific research and management employees of developing countries in the Western Pacific Ocean and effectively promoting the improvement of regional marine information technology, marine disaster mitigation and integrated marine management. He published 5 monographs and more than 40 scientific papers and was awarded 10 prizes of ministerial and provincial scientific and technological awards.





**Mr. Kevin O'Brien**

**Senior Research Scientist at the University of Washington, and is a member of the Data Integration Group at NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Lab in Seattle, Washington.**

As the Vice-Chair for Data and Information for the GOOS Observations Coordination Group (OCG), Mr O'Brien is developing a data implementation strategy for the OCG global ocean networks to improve data interoperability and compliance with FAIR data principles. Mr. O'Brien is involved with the WMO as the current chair of the WMO Task Team on CF-NetCDF (TT-NetCDF) in an effort to improve data exchange as part of the evolution of the WMO Information System (WIS), or WIS 2.0. Mr O'Brien has also developed and leads the Open Access to GTS (Open-GTS) project whose aim is to increase the volume of marine in situ data that is available through the WIS/GTS. The Open-GTS has been endorsed by NOAA as a potential UN Decade of the Ocean project and is supported by the GOOS OCG.

GOOS: [https://www.goosoocean.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=290&Itemid=423](https://www.goosoocean.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=290&Itemid=423)

PMEL: <https://www.pmel.noaa.gov/>

CICOES: <https://cicoes.uw.edu/>

## Round Table 2



**Louis Demargne (Moderator)**

**Seconded expert to the Decade Coordination Unit of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO by the private geo-data company, Fugro.**

Louis coordinates the Ocean Decade Data Coordination Group, which is tasked with developing a strategic plan for data and information in the Decade, as well as mobilising a group of private sector companies to find ways of unlocking privately held ocean data for the benefit of the Decade and SDG14 goals. He is an oceanography alumnus of Southampton University in the UK and his core expertise is in remote sensing, mapping and surveying for both public- and private-sector organisations. Since joining Fugro in 2007, he has successfully guided multi-disciplinary business development teams in North America, Europe and Africa and developed strategies for data and information solutions in the energy, transportation infrastructure and coastal & land management sectors.

<https://ioc.unesco.org/ocean-decade>

<https://www.oceandecade.org/news/newly-appointed-group-of-global-experts-will-help-drive-ocean-decade-action-on-data-information-and-knowledge-management>



***Dr Arlene Laing***

***Coordinating Director of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO) Headquarters, and the Permanent Representative of the British Caribbean Territories with the WMO.***

CMO is a specialized agency of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) that coordinates the joint scientific and technical activities in weather, climate and water-related sciences in 16 English-speaking Caribbean countries. She is a member of the WMO Executive Council and the WMO Research Board.

Dr Laing is known for research in areas such as, tropical meteorology; large thunderstorm systems; flash floods and mitigation; satellite meteorology; lightning and El Niño; tropical cyclone rainfall and genesis; weather, climate, and meningitis; climate and armed conflict; and volcanic ash fall modelling. She is the lead author of "Introduction to Tropical Meteorology", a peer-reviewed online textbook used globally. She is also a co-author and Editorial Committee member of the award-winning book, "Meteorology of Tropical West Africa; The Forecasters' handbook".

CMO: <http://www.cmo.org.tt>



***Telmo Carvalho***

***Executive Board Member of the Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere – IPMA (2018-2022)***

Telmo has a Degree in Anthropology (1996) and a Master in Science Policy. He has worked on scientific policy and information management in marine sciences and technologies to establish "bridges" between scientific knowledge and other sectors of society.

Telmo is Advisor of the Minister of the Sea (December 2015 to January 2018) for Marine Sciences and the Marine Environment areas, Ocean Office Coordinator of Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation (2015) and national delegate to several European and international organizations: OECD project "The Future of Sea Economy"; European Marine Board; Joint Program Initiative Oceans (JPI-Oceans); International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP); Member of UNESCO's national delegation to Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. He was previously the Executive Director of EurOcean, the European Centre for Information on Marine Sciences & Technology where he promoted collaboration between European research institutions; carried out studies on research infrastructures and the transfer of research results in marine sciences, led European projects under the EU Framework Program on Oceans themes and prepared contributions to European integrated maritime policy, in particular for its environmental and scientific components (2009-2014). He is also an author and co-author of several articles and books on scientific policy and on ocean matters.



**Lucy Scott**

**Project Manager of the IOC/UNESCO Ocean InfoHub Project.**

Lucy is a marine scientist with over 20 years' experience in twelve countries, mainly in the African region, on Large Marine Ecosystems, GIS atlas and data and information projects. She has a Master's degree in Ichthyology and has previously been the science and data manager on the UNDP/GEF Agulhas and Somali Currents LME Project.

[www.iode.org](http://www.iode.org)

<https://oceaninfohub.org/>

<https://odis.org/>



**Hartwig Kremer**

**Senior Programme Officer / Head of the Global Environment Monitoring Unit / United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

Hartwig Kremer coordinates UNEP's Global Environment Monitoring Systems, the data and partnerships, with focus on freshwater, the ocean and air quality. He launched and convenes the first open World Water Quality Alliance with 100+ partners from all societal groups, the UN, academia, private sector to assess global water quality, identify and address key water quality challenges and opportunities and

co-design relevant services. He represents UNEP on the Steering Committee of the Global Climate Observing System, GCOS, on observations for climate adaptation and to the Global Framework for Climate Services and the Global Ocean Observing System, GOOS. He serves on the Governing Council of "Future Earth", the largest global transdisciplinary sustainability science programme and is one of UNEP's representatives in UN-Water.

Hartwig holds a doctor grade in marine sciences with a focus on zoology and pollution and a second degree as senior governmental advisor (assessor) of fisheries economy. Before, he was CEO in Earth System Sciences coordinating over 400 projects addressing nature – human interaction along the inland water to coast continuum (LOICZ, today Future Earth Coast) and directed ODA global capacity building on food security and coastal and water management. He supported the Climate Technology Centre and Network, CTCN, of UNFCCC on collaborative research, development and demonstration in climate mitigation and adaptation technologies. His objective is to foster people centered data to impact value chains.

<http://www.unep.org>

<https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/35879>



***Pierre Bahurel***

***Director General MERCATOR OCEAN INTERNATIONAL***

Pierre Bahurel is the founder and director general of Mercator Ocean International, a non-trading organisation owned by ten public and research institutions in five European countries, delivering an operational ocean monitoring and forecasting service worldwide. He is the chair of the expert team on operational ocean forecasting systems at the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and is prepared to chair the Board of the new UN Decade Collaborative Centre for Ocean Prediction hosted by Mercator Ocean International, that will support, coordinate and develop ocean prediction actions for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Graduated from France's Ecole Polytechnique and Paris VI university in oceanography, Pierre has been developing for more than twenty years ocean prediction capacities in France where his organisation is located, in Europe with the Copernicus Marine service, and at international level within the UN framework. He has federated a large European community of marine organisations to build and run the EU Copernicus marine service which successfully serves thousands of users worldwide, and fostered cooperation with ocean prediction centres worldwide. Pierre has been actively supporting the European Commission in its blue diplomacy for delivering a coordinated fit-for-purpose global ocean monitoring system. Under his leadership, Mercator Ocean International has now started its transformation into an intergovernmental organisation devoted to digital oceanography and ocean prediction, to better support regional and global organisations in their science-policy development for a sustainable ocean.

[mercator-ocean.eu](https://mercator-ocean.eu)

[marine.copernicus.eu](https://marine.copernicus.eu)

**Closing words**



***Julien Barbière***

***UNESCO-IOC Ocean Decade Coordination Unit***

Julien Barbière is head of Marine Policy and Regional Coordination Section at the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO. Educated as an environmental scientist, he has approximately 25 years of experience at the international level in the field of ocean sustainability, ocean governance, science/policy interface and the implementation of ecosystem-based management approaches around the world. Since 2017, he has been spearheading the development and coordination of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).

<https://ioc.unesco.org/ocean-decade>





***Ann-Katrien Lescrauwaet***

***Director of International Relations at Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ).***

Ann-Katrien has over 20 years of experience in marine conservation, in Europe and South America. From VLIZ she has been actively involved in programmes in ocean research and innovation for sustainable management, science/policy interface and the cooperation with the blue economy in EU, sea basins and global context. At VLIZ she is coordinating the contribution of Flanders to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. She holds a degree in Marine Biology and PhD in Marine Sciences from University of Gent, Belgium.

Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ): [www.vliz.be/en](http://www.vliz.be/en)



**Kate Wing**

Founder and Executive Director of [Intertidal Agency](#), a non-profit working at the intersection of conservation, technology, and strategy. Through Intertidal Agency, she leads a team exploring innovations in data governance for a more connected and equitable Blue Economy as part of NSF's 2021 Convergence Accelerator. She currently serves as Co-Chair of the UN Ocean Decade Data Coordination Group. She's a founding partner at the [Net Gains Alliance](#), a coalition supporting data modernization in U.S. fisheries, and the Senior Advisor for the Digital Ocean Pillar for the Friends of Ocean Action, a community convened by the World Economic Forum in collaboration with the World Resources Institute. She was The Nature Conservancy California's 2018 Ocean Data Fellow, where she supported the development of Fishnet.ai, the first open training library of commercial fishing images. She regularly mentors ocean tech accelerator programs and has a breadth of experience in the social, Co-Chair, UN Ocean Decade Data Coordination Group.