



The Sustainable Ocean Community stems from the need to address key issues and challenges related to ocean health and sustainability. We are an inclusive and inspiring platform where scholars and stakeholders from a broad range of disciplines meet to facilitate innovative transdisciplinary research and education.

Highlights of this month's newsletter are:

- June 6: Save the date for the National Ocean Sciences Conference!
- Join our writing workshop on January 23 to co-create research proposals for an Incubator Grant.

## Announcements

*An exciting year has passed. With a successful kick-off meeting to lay some ground work for our community, a trans-disciplinary journey to explore how a more-than-human entity as the ocean can be listened to, existing connections have been strengthened, and new collaborations have been made. For the coming year we have the ambition to further grow our community beyond UU and NIOZ with many exciting activities and developments in the pipeline. Some are in this newsletter, some we will share with you in the new year. May your 2024 be as vast and extraordinary as the ocean you explore!*

### **| National Ocean Sciences Conference: join the scientific advisory board**

On Thursday June 6 the Sustainable Ocean Community will organize a national scientific conference in collaboration with Dutch research institutes/universities and ministries. We are looking for scholars from various universities and institutes to join the organizing committee shaping the scientific program of the day. Interested? Please contact us [via sustainableocean@uu.nl](mailto:sustainableocean@uu.nl).

## | The Early Career Scientists Symposium team is looking for team members

The UU-NIOZ Early Career Scientist Symposium 2024 is an event organized for PhD candidates and postdocs to forge connections, cultivate new ideas, and enrich perspectives. The organizing committee is on the lookout for enthusiastic early career researchers to join their team! The first kick-off meeting is scheduled on Jan 16. Feel free to reach out if you are interested or have any questions [viasustainableocean@uu.nl](mailto:viasustainableocean@uu.nl).

### Upcoming Events

#### **Jan 23**      **Incubator Grant Writing Workshop**

Location: NIOZ  
For whom: Early  
Career  
Researchers

Are you ready to unlock the world of transdisciplinary research skills? Imagine being part of a dynamic, collaborative team, exploring your burning research questions with the support you need. We extend a warm invitation to early career researchers working on oceans and deltas to join our grant writing workshop! On Tuesday 23 January we will meet at Texel to co-create up to three research proposals, poised for submission as part of the [Incubator Grants program](#). More information and link to registration form can be found [HERE](#).

#### **May 9**      **Master student event on the North Sea Agreement**

Location: TBD  
For whom:  
Master students

“Three major transitions are currently taking place on the North Sea, that form the heart of the challenge for the North Sea: the nature transition, the food transition and the energy transition. This Agreement focuses on the heavily interwoven nature of these transitions, thereby creating opportunities for an integrated policy with a focus on the longer term.” On May 8, immerse yourself in a journey through the diverse perspectives and interests emerging from this agreement. We extend an invitation to all master students passionate about marine sciences and policy to join. Stay tuned for details and registration.

#### **May 23**      **Sustainability dialogue on Ocean Literacy**

Location: UU  
For whom:  
Anyone

More information will follow in the new year.

#### **June 6**      **National Ocean Sciences Conference**

Location: Save the date! On Thursday June 6 the Sustainable Ocean Community will organize a national scientific conference in collaboration with Dutch Naturalis Biodiversity Center research institutes/universities and ministries. Outcomes of the conference will be shared with the parliament on Friday, followed by an outreach event For whom: Anyone at several locations in the Netherlands on World Ocean Day. Stay tuned!

## Opportunities

**Feb 15**

### **Incubator Grant**

For whom: UU/NIOZ scholars + Anyone

The Incubator Grant (8k for a maximum period of 12 months) is the Pathways to Sustainability funding instrument that aims to invest in community building by offering interdisciplinary teams the opportunity to take the time to collaborate on innovative interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary ideas. Further information and criteria can be found [HERE](#).

**Feb 1**

### **Join the National Ocean Decade Committee**

For whom: Ocean experts

The UN has declared 2021 – 2030 as the Decade of Ocean Science and has mandated UNESCO with the execution. UNESCO recommends member states to set up a National Decade Committee to implement the Ocean Decade. The Kingdom of the Netherlands is currently in the process of setting up such a committee and we are looking for 10-20 enthusiastic ocean experts to join this committee. Interested? Please apply by sending your motivation to [maarten.heijnen@minienw.nl](mailto:maarten.heijnen@minienw.nl) before 1 February 2024. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions regarding the committee.

#### **About this newsletter**

*The Sustainable Ocean Community is an initiative born out of the imperative to tackle critical challenges in ocean sustainability. Aligned with Utrecht University's 'Pathways to Sustainability' strategic theme and formed in collaboration with NIOZ, we strive to be an inclusive, diverse, and inspirational national platform. Our mission is to unite scholars and stakeholders across disciplines to craft and implement regional solutions for urgent global ocean and sustainability issues.*

#### **Contact**

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[Sustainable Ocean Website](#)

*Please contact us if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter.*

