



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

- Secure your spot at the first National Ocean Sciences Conference on June 6!
- Join the discussion on the Ocean Literacy Principles on May 23.

Announcements

| The National Ocean Sciences Conference [\[read more\]](#)

We would like to invite you to the very first edition of the National Ocean Sciences Conference in the Netherlands, this year taking place at the Naturalis Biodiversity Center on Thursday 6 June 2024. From the shore to the open ocean, from the equator to the poles, from the natural sciences to humanities. Be there to help shape the community and hear what your fellow researchers are doing, expand your network and get inspired. ***We are reaching the maximum capacity of the venue, so be sure [to register soon to secure your spot!](#)***

| Stimuleringsfonds for "Whose Ocean?"

The transdisciplinary research project [Whose Ocean](#) receives €33,500 euro from the [Stimuleringsfonds Creatieve Industrie](#). This national cultural fund finances innovative design projects by makers and cultural institutions in the creative industry. The fund was granted to Embassy of the North Sea, in partnership with Utrecht University and Casco Art Institute. "This grant allows us to work with three designers to shape our research and the Assembly," says [Erik van Sebille](#), leader of this research project. The Assembly is a key product of this project where various stakeholders will engage in a discussion about the question: Whose Ocean?

Upcoming Events

May 8

[\[Read More\]](#)

Open for all students

Student symposium on the North Sea Agreement

[The North Sea Agreement](#) focuses on three major transitions that currently take place at the North Sea; the nature transition, the food transition and the energy transition. During this symposium, three experts will share their perspectives from ecology, fisheries and the energy sector after which we will interactively explore the various challenges and opportunities that result from the interwoven nature of these transitions. This hands-on session aims to increase our knowledge on the North Sea Agreement, foster collaboration with students from diverse disciplines and generate innovative insights.

May 23

[\[Read More\]](#)

Open for community members

Sustainability dialogue – are the UNESCO Ocean Literacy Principles effective in raising awareness about ocean-related issues?

The [UNESCO principles of Ocean Literacy](#) describe the 7 essential principles about the ocean that all people should be aware of. They were carefully developed with the purpose that these principles form the minimal level of understanding that is necessary to comprehend and protect the (water) planet we live on. During this sustainability dialogue we would like to invite a diverse group - ranging from natural to political scientist, communicators and practitioners - to have an open discussion on the implementation and effectiveness of these principles in the Netherlands.

May 31

[\[Read More\]](#)

Open for community members

Island and Ocean Imaginaries Workshop

Caribbean island communities have always been intimately connected to the sea, this relationship has historically been turbulent and climate change brings with it new threats. The Island and Oceans Imaginaries workshop will adopt a climate justice lens to creatively explore sustainable ocean issues in the Caribbean and the increasingly discussed topic of climate reparations. The event's aim is to foster a better understanding of islands, islanders, their relationship to the ocean, and the unique challenges they face in the wake of a changing climate and imagine new ways of relating to the sea.

More Events in 2024

- June 6 – National Ocean Sciences Conference [\[Read More\]](#)
- June 8 – World Ocean Day Student Symposium [\[Read More\]](#)
- June 19 – MiningImpact-3 Stakeholder Workshop [\[Read More\]](#)
- September 24 – *Save the Date* – Law enforcement in the Ocean
- October 10-11 – UU-NIOZ Early Career Scientist Symposium [\[Read More\]](#)
- October 22-24 – *Save the Date* – Ocean Geo-Engineering Symposium
- November 28 – *Save the Date* - Pathways to Sustainability Conference

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 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.

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[Sustainable Ocean Website](#)

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

