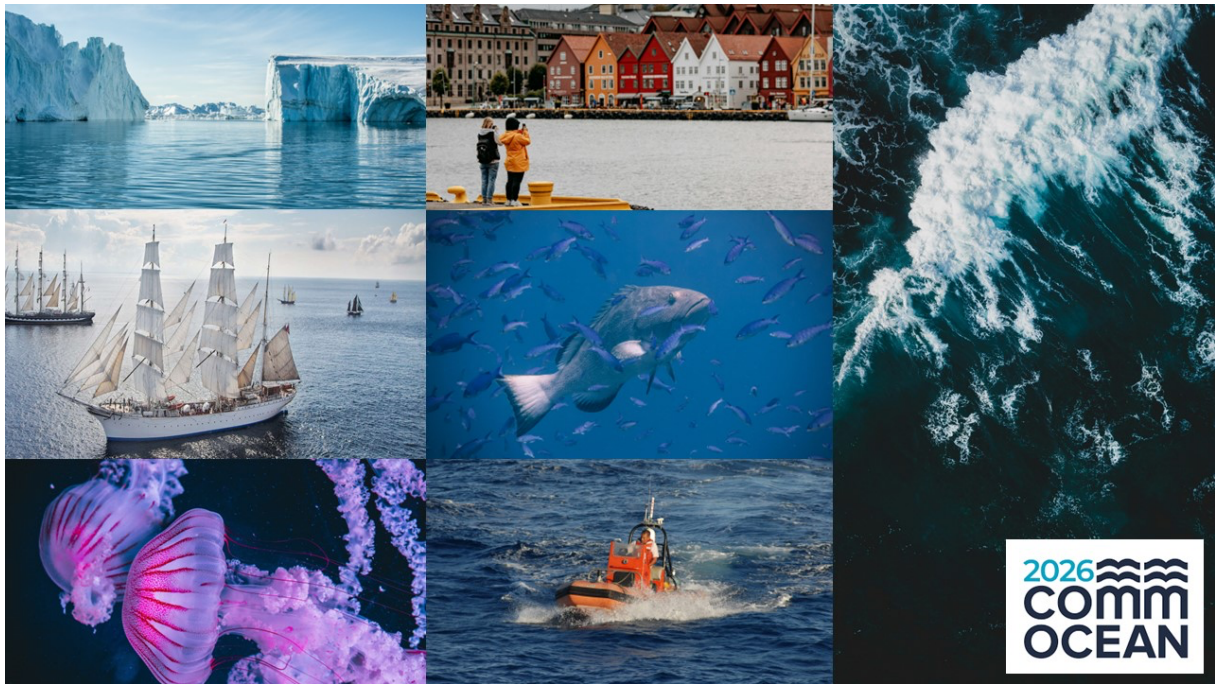




CommOCEAN 2026 Workshops Wednesday 2 September 16:00-17:00

- [Francesca Santoro](#), Senior Programme Officer, and [Paola Carluccio](#), Designer and Project Assistant, both from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO): ‘Designing Ocean Literacy communication for diverse audiences: lessons from a travelling exhibition’
- [Małgorzata Suś](#), Artist / Choreographer / Dancer, Rio Neiva: ‘Communication Through Movement – Embodied Ways for Increasing Ocean Literacy’
- [Cristian Muñoz Mas](#), Lead AI & Analysis Section, Institute of Marine Research (IMR) and [Francesca Confente](#), Founder, BlueBiome: ‘Exploring the BlueBiome game-based Communication Tools’
- [Miranda Post](#), Graduate Student, Simon Fraser University: ‘Skill sharing: lessons and lenses from the Marine Conservation and Climate Change Communications Week’
- [Geraint Rhys Whittaker](#), Artist-Researcher, Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity at the University of Oldenburg: ‘What does success in ocean science communication actually look like, and how do we know?’
- [Chantal Lyons](#), Senior Research and Innovation Lead, Mindfully Wired: ‘Talking Towards Common Ground: How to break down barriers and foster collaboration through dialogue’

WORKSHOP

Wednesday 2 September

16:00-17:00

ROOM: STORSALEN (the main conference room)

Francesca Santoro, Senior Programme Officer, and **Paola Carluccio**, Designer and Project Assistant, both from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO): **‘Designing Ocean Literacy communication for diverse audiences: lessons from a travelling exhibition’**

Ocean literacy provides a transversal framework for engaging citizens by restoring the relationship between people and the ocean. Communicating the ocean–climate nexus to diverse audiences, varying in age, knowledge, and engagement, remains a key challenge.

This 60-minute interactive workshop builds on the experience of the Ocean & Climate Village, an immersive exhibition developed within the Ocean Literacy Programme of UNESCO as part of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, which has reached around 30,000 visitors worldwide. Using this case study, the workshop will show how ocean literacy principles can guide the strategic design of scientific content by starting from people’s perceptions, emotions, and socio-cultural contexts.

Participants will be actively engaged through short exercises, visual prompts, and quick discussions to explore how to tailor communication to heterogeneous audiences, from children to adults, from highly engaged visitors to passers-by, and across coastal and inland communities.

In the second part, participants will work in small groups in a mini design sprint: selecting an ocean–climate topic, defining a target audience and context, and developing a concrete communication concept (e.g. installation, educational activity, or interactive experience). The session will conclude with short pitches and a collective reflection on inclusivity, transferability, and impact evaluation.

WORKSHOP

Wednesday 2 September

16:00-17:00

ROOM: SØNDRE ALLMENNING 1, UIB LEARNING ARENA SOUTH

Małgorzata Suś, Artist / Choreographer / Dancer, Rio Neiva: ‘Communication Through Movement – Embodied Ways for Increasing Ocean Literacy’

- For questions and enquiries about this workshop, [please get directly in touch with the organiser via email.](#)

This workshop encourages the participants to engage with their bodies and imagination in the set of creative exercises inspired by the Ocean environment and marine science topics. The workshop will focus on how creativity can help to communicate scientific ideas and how the embodiment of those concepts strengthens understanding and fosters care.

We will start with ice-breaking warm-up exercises to then follow into imagination-based movement improvisation tasks, reflecting on chosen Ocean-related problematics, for example degradation of marine habitats, such as kelp forests. The participants will be encouraged to write a short reflection afterwards and share it in a discussion round at the end, to see how the emotional and physical engagement influenced their perception of the problem, if they feel more informed and willing to take a relevant action for the improvement of Ocean well-being.

I have experience in leading science-communication movement workshops; I've been exploring this methodology for the last few years in my art & science projects. Currently, I'm an Artist-in-Residence in the S+T+ARTS Aqua Motion program, working on a challenge "Engaging the Unengaged - Water Literacy in the Litoral Norte Natural Park", and I've been experimenting with different methods of engaging community in the marine science thematics through dance practices, and I'd like to share that approach in the CommOCEAN conference.

NOTE!

We ask people to bring comfortable clothing and shoes as the workshop entails active engagement for the participants.

WORKSHOP

Wednesday 2 September

16:00-17:00

ROOM: SØNDRE ALLMENNING 2, UIB LEARNING ARENA SOUTH

Cristian Muñoz Mas, Lead AI & Analysis Section, Institute of Marine Research (IMR) and Francesca Confente, Founder, BlueBiome: ‘Exploring the BlueBiome game-based Communication Tools’

This interactive workshop explores how game-based approaches and emerging AI-supported tools can contribute to more engaging and effective ocean communication. While scientific knowledge about marine ecosystems is rapidly expanding, it often remains inaccessible to broader audiences, highlighting the need for new formats that combine accuracy, engagement, and accessibility.

Participants will take part in short, guided gameplay experiences using both a physical board game and a digital multiplayer prototype from the Blue Biome (<https://bluebiome.net>), an ocean literacy platform combining analogue and digital tools. These are not presented as finished products, but as exploratory formats designed to translate complex ecosystem dynamics into interactive learning.

The session emphasizes peer exchange and critical reflection. Participants will discuss how gameplay influences understanding, engagement, and emotional connection, and identify strengths and limitations of game-based communication.

WORKSHOP

Wednesday 2 September

16:00-17:00

ROOM: SYDNESHAUGEN, UIB LEARNING ARENA SOUTH

Miranda Post, Graduate Student, Simon Fraser University: ‘Skill sharing: lessons and lenses from the Marine Conservation and Climate Change Communications Week’

As communities work to protect 30% of global land and water by 2030, implementing strategic and beautiful communications strategies is key to achieving targets. Climate change and ocean communication practices need to incorporate diverse systems of knowing – from fishing to tourism sectors to Indigenous and Western science – in collaborative, respectful and reciprocal ways.

Every 2 years, Marine Conservation and Climate Change Communications Week (MCCCW) convenes global climate change and ocean literacy advocates to share communication lessons in a week of free webinars.

The aim of this 1-hour workshop CommOcean2026 workshop is to review lessons, share communication theory lenses and ignite future MCCCW themes. The workshop will focus on:

- Implementation lessons learned from MCCCW 2023 and 2025;
- a review of event survey data;
- sharing a ‘zine-style handbook of the MCCCW highlighting theories of: deep hope, repair, futurity, Indigenous knowledge & storytelling;
- Sharing an analysis of the past workshops and facilitated discussion among participants on gaps in ocean/climate change communications;
- Engaging CommOCEAN audiences to craft the direction of 2027 MCCCW (session results shared through graphic recording & developed into a summary document);
- Participants to film short videos on ways to collaborate as ocean/climate change communicators. Videos amplified via social channels tagging the EMB and partners.

WORKSHOP

Wednesday 2 September

16:00-17:00

ROOM: NORDRE ALLMENNING 3, UIB LEARNING ARENA NORTH

Geraint Rhys Whittaker, Artist-Researcher, Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity at the University of Oldenburg: ‘What does success in ocean science communication actually look like, and how do we know?’

The growing question of who science is for has resulted in an increasing push for science communication projects to be more self-reflective in their feedback and assessment.

There is no one catch all formula to measure the outcomes and impacts of a science communication project, assessment must, however, move beyond only focusing on media attention and participant count, towards measuring varying impacts such as behavioural change, policy influence, community relationships and learning outcomes. By doing so, science communication projects might encourage better ocean stewardship, literacy and behavioural change.

However, this is not easy to do and so learning how projects navigate these challenges can be a fruitful source for discussion. This workshop will invite the conference’s delegates to share their own experiences of how they have measured the outcomes of their own projects.

The workshop will be 1 hour long. The first 5-10 minutes will frame the discussion. Then there will be three stations set up each with a question:

1. Defining success.
2. Measuring Success.
3. Challenges and Barriers.

Then, we will split the delegates into groups to discuss each station. We will then ask them to write 3 main take away points, 1 common mistake and 1 practical future recommendation to feedback to the wider group.

WORKSHOP

Wednesday 2 September

16:00-17:00

ROOM: ALREKSTAD, UIB LEARNING ARENA SOUTH

Chantal Lyons, Senior Research and Innovation Lead, Mindfully Wired: ‘Talking Towards Common Ground: How to break down barriers and foster collaboration through dialogue’

Public debate and positions on environmental issues are becoming ever more heated, polarised and entrenched. Yet solutions to the human–ecological crises around us first require a willingness to listen to people we may disagree with and recognise each other's values, worldviews and needs.

In this workshop, Chantal Lyons from cause-and-effect comms agency Mindfully Wired will share practical approaches for entering into empathetic dialogue on tricky issues from Marine Protected Areas to fisheries bycatch. Participants will explore how to actively listen, uncover people's values and worldviews, and speak to these in ways that foster constructive dialogue and establish common ground from which to work together on the most urgent environmental issues of our times.