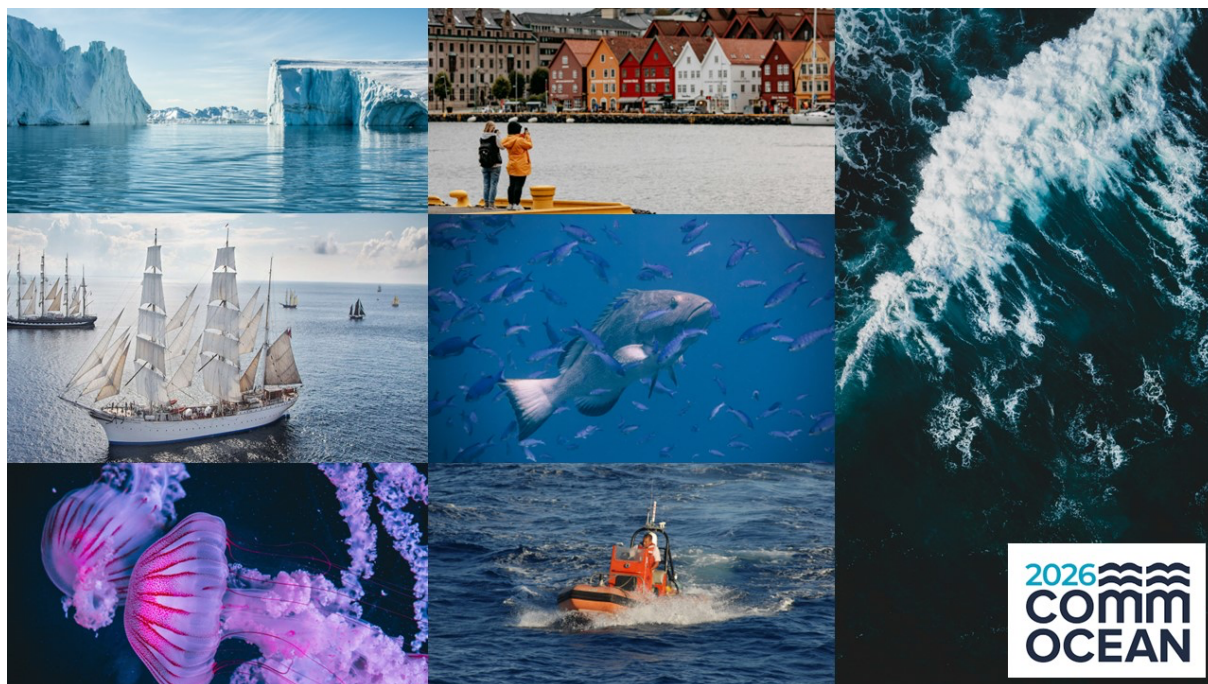




CommOCEAN 2026 Workshops Thursday 3 September 14:10-15:10

- Exhibition developer and curator [Marte Mjånes Torkildsen](#) from VilVite – Bergen Science Centre with Marine Pilot and VTS Instructor Trainer [Burçin Erlevent](#) at the Camadan Foundation, and Communications officer [Laure De Montbron](#) from the ISblue project at Université Bretagne Occidentale (Brest): ‘Building ocean connections from childhood to young adulthood’
- [Izabela Kotynska-Zielinska](#), Ocean Literacy Educator and Communicator, Today We Have and Urszula Zerek, Creative Producer and Choreographer, Nature of Us project: ‘Sense the Sea: Multi-Sensory Maritime Communication Workshop’
- Head of Communications [Tori Pedersen](#) and Director [Kikki Kleiven](#) from the Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research with Head of Communications [Lloyd Gofton](#) from the National Oceanography Centre (UK), and Postdoctoral fellow [Frida Hoem](#) from the University of Bergen: ‘AMOC and the uncertainties’
- [Mari Heggernes Eilertsen](#), Researcher, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Bergen (UiB): ‘Stories from the Deep: Using Storytelling and Art to Build Deep-Ocean Literacy’
- [Morgan Casal-Ribeiro](#), PhD student, Institute of Marine Sciences – OKEANOS, University of the Azores: ‘Rethinking the static poster: dynamic, creative, and non-conventional approaches to science posters’
- [Mimi E. Lam](#), Researcher, University of Bergen (UiB): ‘Norwegian Seascapes Contest, Exhibition, and Dialogue’

WORKSHOP

Thursday 3 September

14:10-15:10

ROOM: STORSALEN (the main conference room)

Exhibition developer and curator [Marte Mjånes Torkildsen](#) from VilVite – Bergen Science Centre with Marine Pilot and VTS Instructor Trainer [Burçin Erlevent](#) at the Camadan Foundation, and Communications officer [Laure De Montbron](#) from the ISblue project at Université Bretagne Occidentale (Brest): ‘Building ocean connections from childhood to young adulthood’

How do we inspire children and young people to care about the ocean?

This interactive workshop explores how ocean communication can support a lifelong relationship with the ocean, from a child's very first encounter to students becoming communicators and ambassadors themselves.

Drawing on complementary initiatives – a floating learning platform, an interactive science centre exhibition, and a student-led science communication project – participants will explore how engagement strategies evolve across age groups while sharing many of the same underlying principles. Perspectives from current research on science communication and audience engagement will help frame the discussion and connect the case studies to broader practice.

Throughout the workshop, participants are invited to identify common ingredients, challenge assumptions and reflect on what makes an ocean communication initiative truly engaging. Together, they will apply these insights by developing their own concepts for engaging children, young people or students in their own contexts.

By bringing together complementary approaches from across the educational journey, the workshop offers practical inspiration and transferable methods for building lasting connections between people and the ocean.

WORKSHOP

Thursday 3 September

14:10-15:10

ROOM: SØNDRE ALLMENNING 1, UIB LEARNING ARENA SOUTH

[Izabela Kotynska-Zielinska](#), Ocean Literacy Educator and Communicator, Today We Have and Urszula Zerek, Creative Producer and Choreographer, Nature of Us project: 'Sense the Sea: Multi-Sensory Maritime Communication Workshop'

Scientific communication about the sea is often based on data and graphs. On the other hand, for many, the sea is associated with careless leisure. Neither perspective brings reflection and awareness to the fact how the human body and life is dependent on it. The workshop aims to bring a new approach to methods used in communicating ocean literacy as essential in everybody's life. The goal is to re-experience the sea.

During the workshop, participants will be invited to engage through different senses - sight, smell, taste, hearing and touch. One of the elements will be a "water bar," where they will taste water from different seas prepared in a lab. This will allow them to experience the differences in taste and composition of the water. They will learn about salt from different parts of the world.

The workshop will include audio sea recordings that will enhance emotional connection with water. Movement and body practices will help to recognize the human body as a form of life dependent on a motion of flow and will give a chance to experience water through touch and movement.

The workshops demonstrates that efficient communication requires awareness and understanding and so; to communicate successfully the sea, one must not only convey information but also develop mindfulness, and individual engagement. An approach that combines different senses allows people to build a deeper and more personal relationship with the sea and understand its importance in everyday life.

WORKSHOP

Thursday 3 September

14:10-15:10

ROOM: NORDRE ALLMENNING 3, UIB LEARNING ARENA NORTH

Head of Communications [Tori Pedersen](#) and Director [Kikki Kleiven](#) from the Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research with Head of Communications [Lloyd Gofton](#) from the National Oceanography Centre (UK), and Postdoctoral fellow [Frida Hoem](#) from the University of Bergen: ‘AMOC and the uncertainties’

This session focuses on how scientists communicate nuance, uncertainty, and disagreement in research on the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC). In recent years, AMOC has attracted dramatic media attention, often framed through warnings of imminent collapse and catastrophic consequences for the global climate system. While these narratives have helped bring public attention to ocean circulation and climate risk, they also pose significant challenges for researchers whose work is grounded in probabilities, confidence intervals, and incomplete evidence.

The session explores the tension between scientific caution and the demand for clear, attention-grabbing messages. It will also include an example campaign that embedded written and broadcast media teams within a live oceanographic expedition and how that transformed the reach and impact of complex climate science communications, focused on AMOC.

The case will highlight the opportunities and risks, editorial control, scientific accuracy, operational pressures, as well as how these challenges were managed.

It will also provide a replicable model for scaling public engagement, demonstrating how immersive storytelling can make complex science accessible and relevant.

WORKSHOP

Thursday 3 September

14:10-15:10

ROOM: SØNDRE ALLMENNING 2, UIB LEARNING ARENA SOUTH

Mari Heggernes Eilertsen, Researcher, Department of Biological Sciences,
University of Bergen (UiB): ‘Stories from the Deep: Using Storytelling and Art to
Build Deep-Ocean Literacy’

Public perception of the deep sea is often shaped by narratives of mystery, danger, and the unknown. From “alien world” imagery and thalassophobia to competing narratives surrounding resource use and conservation, the stories we tell about the deep sea influence how people understand, value, and engage with it.

This interactive workshop explores how storytelling, art, and creative engagement can build deep-ocean literacy and foster meaningful connections between society and the deep ocean. Through short presentations and discussions, participants will examine how different narratives shape public perceptions and consider whether portraying the deep sea as strange and otherworldly helps or hinders engagement. Case studies, including the book project “Worm Party in the Deep” and the Art-Science initiative Unseen Ocean Collective, will highlight how collaborations between scientists, artists, and communicators can make deep-sea ecosystems more accessible and relatable.

Participants will share experiences and discuss practical approaches for developing creative outreach initiatives, exploring both the opportunities and challenges of interdisciplinary collaboration. The workshop will also place deep-sea communication within the broader Social Barometer framework, which examines how societal perceptions of the deep ocean are formed and how these perceptions may influence the legitimacy of future decisions about ocean use, protection, and governance.

Contributors to the workshop:

- Christian Ludvig Nilsson, Department of Biological Sciences and Centre for Deep Sea Research, University of Bergen
- Lara Maleen Beckmann, Department of Marine Sciences, University of Gothenburg
- Meghan Jones, Spokane, Washington State, USA
- Jessica-Marie Karlsen, Independent Researcher

WORKSHOP

Thursday 3 September

14:10-15:10

ROOM: SYDNESHAUGEN, UIB LEARNING ARENA SOUTH

Morgan Casal-Ribeiro, PhD student, Institute of Marine Sciences – OKEANOS, University of the Azores: ‘Rethinking the static poster: dynamic, creative, and non-conventional approaches to science posters’

Science conferences typically feature two familiar formats: oral and poster presentations. While oral presentations allow a range of approaches – incorporating images, video, music, and physical objects – posters remain comparatively uniform and are often treated as static displays rather than expressive communication tools. We argue that this lack of dynamism stems from established conventions that should be challenged.

Posters can be dynamic and creative, but this requires rethinking how they are conceived. This workshop offers a practical exploration of these possibilities. The facilitator will first present posters that challenge expected norms, incorporating tactile and interactive elements that enhance engagement with their scientific content.

Participants will then work in groups to conceptualise their own non-conventional posters in response to specific constraints, based on the premise that limitations stimulate creativity and problem-solving.

The workshop will also include a collaborative space for recording, discussing, and organising ideas, with the aim of reimagining a more innovative and captivating poster culture. By involving participants in experimentation, critique, and co-creation, the session aims to prompt critical reflection on the role of posters in science communication.

Reframing posters as interactive experiences can better fulfil their central purpose: communicating complex science in ways that are clear, impactful, and memorable.

WORKSHOP

Thursday 3 September

14:10-15:10

ROOM: ALREKSTAD, UIB LEARNING ARENA SOUTH

Mimi E. Lam, Researcher, University of Bergen (UiB): 'Norwegian Seascapes Contest, Exhibition, and Dialogue'

This workshop will consist of a Norwegian seascapes exhibition and dialogue about effective ways to engage and communicate with the public to foster greater understanding and appreciation of the ocean. We will present winning entries to a contest, where we invited Norwegians to submit a photo and text in answer to the question: "What does the sea mean to you?" The top ten were enlarged and framed to exhibit to display diverse values of the sea to Norwegian citizens to engage Norwegians in public events about what the sea means to them and to Norway.

The discussion will centre on the benefits - and challenges - of engaging directly with citizens to further marine science understanding through research and education. The contest was designed as part of a research project, Managing Ethical Norwegian Seascapes Activities, to elicit the values of Norwegians with the goal to promote more sustainable and ethical ocean governance.

We engaged with citizens by designing an activity that was meaningful for them. The contest and exhibitions, with associated panel discussions, was fit for purpose by creating reciprocal teaching and learning experiences for the research team and citizens. One challenge was engaging diverse public audiences beyond the social network of the researcher for the sample size to be representative of the population. The workshop will engage with the participants to pool their collective expertise and experiences to scale up such engagement activities.