



# *Concept Note*

## *Intergenerational Dialogue*

### *Session*

*2024 All-Atlantic Ocean Research & Innovation Forum*

*Nurturing Intergenerational Collaboration for  
Sustainable Atlantic Ocean Governance*



Supporting the  
All-Atlantic Ocean Research  
and Innovation Alliance



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*Developed by | JPI Oceans as Task Leader of Task 3.4 of Work Package 3 of the OKEANO CSA supporting the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance and Declaration (<https://allatlanticocean.org/>), in collaboration with Task 3.4 contributors and the European Commission*

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## Introduction

Building on the success of the intergenerational dialogue session organized at the Galway Statement 10-year anniversary event in Galway, Ireland (5-6 July 2023), Task 3.4 of OKEANO will organize similar activities at each All-Atlantic Forum during the lifetime of OKEANO (March 2024 – February 2027), starting with the 2024 All-Atlantic Forum hosted in Ottawa by Canada on 9-10 October 2024. Task 3.4 is led by JPI Oceans, with contributions from AWI, CNPq, Ifremer, KDM, IMR and UiT.

The Galway session unfolded across two days, starting with an afternoon dialogue on Day 1 structured around hybrid groups comprised of selected Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) and one seasoned ocean professional per group, who assumed the role of 'Discussion Coach'. This dialogue fostered discussions and innovative brainstorming aimed at addressing the shared ocean conservation priorities outlined in the 2022 All-Atlantic Declaration, including:

- Understanding and mitigating the ramifications of climate change on oceans and polar regions
- Preserving and rejuvenating marine ecosystems and biodiversity
- Combatting marine pollution with a specific focus on plastic waste
- Promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture
- Coordinating observational efforts and seabed mapping endeavours across the Atlantic

The primary objective was to craft concise presentations for delivery to a panel, outlining tangible avenues for collaborative action towards one of the five priorities. Additionally, the aim was to furnish ECOPs with the opportunity, practical experience and tools for engaging with policymakers. The session coaches facilitated the exchange between ECOPs of innovative ideas, proposed solutions, and their unique perspectives on how science and the scientific community can enhance policymaking and foster pragmatic approaches to stewardship of the Atlantic Ocean.

The intergenerational dialogue in Galway highlighted the significance of involving ECOPs in shaping the trajectory of ocean research and conservation. Following the session, ECOPs expressed optimism about greater inclusivity and willingness to actively contribute to the ongoing implementation activities of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance (AAORIA). As the AAORIA entered its second decade in 2023, the intergenerational session in Galway was conceived to address the need for exchange between early career ocean professionals and senior mentors from the Alliance on how to study and care for it and how to collaborate across disciplines, cultures, nations and time to achieve our common goal of a healthy and sustainable Atlantic Ocean. As the new generations of ocean professionals shape new value systems, add substantial knowledge to the ocean community and build a new worldview in which the ocean is centrally placed, intergenerational learning and dialogue are crucial.

The organization of further intergenerational dialogue sessions at each Forum adopts this philosophy and aims to facilitate intergenerational dialogue as well as ensure the systematic integration of ECOPs into policy formulation and AAORIA implementation endeavours. The primary focus will be on fostering an environment conducive to active communication among policymakers, ECOPs spanning the Atlantic, and an array of stakeholders. Enhanced engagement from the Atlantic community and increased presence of potential senior-career mentors to guide the exercise are additional incentives for organizing intergenerational activities at each Forum. This initiative will also enable ECOPs to establish connections beyond their respective research domains and across the Atlantic, facilitating exchange with peers and seasoned professionals alike, thereby presenting their innovative ideas and demonstrating their expertise towards realizing a more sustainable Atlantic Ocean.

## *Objectives of the session*

The intergenerational dialogue session seeks to facilitate meaningful engagement of ECOPs in AAORIA and exchange between generations, ensuring mentorship and expertise transfer with senior ocean professionals and policymakers of the AAORIA. Most importantly, these sessions aim to ensure the representation of early-career voices and their innovative ideas being brought forward in ocean-related decisions and policymaking on priority topics of the Alliance. By organizing intergenerational dialogue sessions at each All-Atlantic Forum, we aim to bolster systematic engagement of ECOPs within the Atlantic community in ocean science diplomacy efforts of the Alliance and provide mentorship for ECOPs from pole to pole and from coast to coast of the Atlantic Ocean. These sessions should serve as a conduit for ECOPs to broaden their networks, showcase their expertise, bring forward actionable policy ideas, and contribute to a sustainable future for the Atlantic Ocean. The main objectives of the session therefore can be summarized as follows:

- **Facilitate Intergenerational Exchange:** Provide a platform for dialogue where leaders, policymakers, and practitioners, including ECOPs from all backgrounds and expertise, can share insights, challenges, and opportunities in addressing thematic priorities
- **Promote Collaboration:** Encourage collaboration among All-Atlantic countries and generations of ocean professionals from all member countries to address key obstacles and leverage collective action in the identified priority areas (such as climate change resilience, ocean observation, and modelling for the 2024 edition of the Forum) and ensuring the uptake of ideas and policy recommendations by the ECOPs.
- **Empower ECOPs as Leaders:** Engage ECOPs in policy discussions and consider their ideas as priorities to bring forward under the framework of the Alliance, with support and mentorship from senior ocean professionals and in dialogue with policymakers.

## *Structure of the session*

The Intergenerational Dialogue Session at the 2024 All-Atlantic Ocean Research & Innovation Forum, taking place in Ottawa on 8-10 October 2024, is a dynamic platform facilitating collaboration between ECOPs and senior professionals within the AAORIA framework. It is designed as a learning, sharing and development experience for early career professionals and as an opportunity for those later in their careers to integrate early-career professionals into actions for policy development in their home institutions and countries. The session unfolds in three distinct phases. In the Pre-Forum Preparation phase, ECOPs are identified through an open call ensuring equal access, subject to the availability of financing from their institutions and capacity of the venue. ECOPs applying to take part in the sessions will be sponsored by their institutes or have identified funding grants for their travel to the Forum. Once selected, they participate in pre-session meetings to acquaint themselves with the Alliance and session objectives. During the Forum Activities phase, ECOPs engage in plenary discussions and thematic group work, divided into two thematic priority areas (coastal resilience and ocean observation) the Forum focuses on. Collaborating on crafting proposals for innovative solutions to key challenges in ocean governance, they present their findings to a “panel committee”. Post-Forum, the presented ideas are summarized in a policy brief, and discussions on further engagement opportunities are initiated.

### *Pre-Forum:*

- **Call for Expression of Interest and selection of participating ECOPs:** ECOPs will be identified through an open call targeted to AAORIA partner organizations and those contributing to AAORIA principles and initiatives, also promoted via AAORIA channels and OKEANO partners, in collaboration with pre-existing ECOP groups, including those from initiatives such as the UN Ocean Decade, Sustainable Ocean Alliance and indigenous communities. We will provide information on funding opportunities and estimated travel costs. AAORIA partner organizations and affiliated partners will ultimately be responsible for selecting and funding 1-2 ECOPs to attend. Timeline: June-July.
- **Pre-session Meetings:** ECOPs will be preassigned to working groups and virtually introduced to each other at a first meeting, one week or so before the Forum. The meeting will include presentations on the Alliance, its challenges, opportunities, and mentor introductions, and outline objectives of the session, expectations, and logistics. If timeline allows, selected ECOPs will also be invited to attend and take part in the

workshops organized for the two AAORIA areas of action leading up to the Forum.  
Duration pre-session meeting: 2-3 hours, September-October

### *At the Forum:*

- **Science Sessions Group Work:**

ECOP participants will be divided into thematic working groups focusing on the two AAORIA areas of action<sup>1</sup>, and meet before the Forum main sessions to start deliberating on potential ideas to be presented at the Forum. The two areas of action to inspire transformative ocean science are the following:

- Increasing our understanding of the relationship between the ocean and climate and developing outcome-oriented science for mitigating and adapting to the consequences of climate change, particularly for the benefit of increasing resilience of coastal communities;
- Coordinating Atlantic Ocean observing and improving modelling capacities, including in support of marine ecosystems and biodiversity.

Each group will work on developing a collaborative presentation, which will bring forward an innovative idea exploring concrete avenues for All-Atlantic action to address one of the two priority areas to the “panel committee”. The committee will be made up of selected participants of the Ottawa Forum, including key policy representatives from AAORIA signatory countries. Participants will engage in facilitated discussions led by a senior ocean ‘mentor’ to identify obstacles, propose collaborative actions, and articulate concrete solutions. Mentors will also provide advice on how to best deliver the pitch presentations.

- **Plenary Discussion:**

Leaders and practitioners including selected ECOPs will engage in round-table discussions, outlining challenges and opportunities for the next decade of All-Atlantic Ocean cooperation as part of the All-Atlantic Forum main program. ECOP representatives will be included as panelists in all sessions of the Forum. Outcomes of the discussions will further inform their presentations to be delivered in plenary to the review panel.

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<sup>1</sup> [2023 Forum Joint Outcome Statement from the High-Level Board of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance - AANCHOR - All AtlaNtic Cooperation for Ocean Research and innovation \(allatlanticocean.org\)](#)



- **Presentation to policy makers**

Groups will present their findings, addressing overarching questions on the role of science in policymaking fostering youth engagement and promoting professional development in ocean-related fields.

- **Virtual Participation and communication (in collaboration with OKEANO WP5):**

Hybrid participation in the working groups will be made available to ensure participation of ECOPs who may not be able to travel to the Forum in person. The session will also be broadcast live through AAORIA channels in collaboration with WP5, ensuring wide-reaching dissemination and participation.

WP5 on Communication will document the sessions with targeted interviews with participants and further communication materials. WP5 will also provide the certificate templates and other branded materials needed.

### *Post-Forum:*

- **Policy brief:**

Presented ideas will be summarized in a policy brief format by the participating ECOPs in consultation with their mentors. The policy recommendations should be discussed by the HLB and given the appropriate follow up, as well as published through the All-Atlantic website and channels and/or international journals/publications. Opportunities to further engage with policymakers should also be discussed with the mentor from each group as a follow-up activity to ensure the proposed ideas are integrated into policy development. WP5 on Communication will assist with a layout and publish the brief shortly after the session.

- **Continuation at future Fora:**

By institutionalizing this intergenerational dialogue as a regular feature of the All-Atlantic Fora, opportunities for mentorship, dialogue and mutual learning, knowledge exchange, and collaboration between ECOPs and senior professionals will be sustained over time. Efforts will be made to adapt and refine the session structure to align with the thematic priorities and objectives of subsequent Fora, ensuring its relevance and effectiveness in addressing evolving challenges in ocean governance and sustainability.

- **Certificate of attendance/participation**

Participants of the Intergenerational Dialogue Session at the 2024 All-Atlantic Ocean Research & Innovation Forum will receive certificates acknowledging their attendance and active contribution to the session. These certificates will serve as official recognition of their

engagement in the dialogue and their commitment to advancing ocean-related research, innovation, and policy development. The certificates will be provided in both digital and physical formats, allowing participants to showcase their involvement in this important initiative within their professional and academic networks.

## *Budget*

The ECOPs traveling to Ottawa will be funded by AAORIA partners/their institutes – or eventually be sponsored by institutions/philanthropists where possible, as WP3 has no allocated funding for this specific activity, or through external travel grants they should seek to apply to. With respect to possible venues for our activities, our Canadian partners have indicated willingness to facilitate this, should the brainstorming sessions need to happen outside of the Forum venue and prior to the Forum official dates. Information on existing institutions and travel grants and schemes should be made available for ECOPs when sending out the call for applications, to allow them to seek funding to travel to Canada.



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