The Joint Programming Initiative Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans is an intergovernmental coordinating and integrating platform, open to EU Member States and Associated Countries who invest in marine and maritime research. Participation of international partners happens on a case by case basis.

JPI Oceans focuses on making more efficient use of national research budgets, which represent 88% of the marine-maritime funding within Europe. How: countries are expected to coordinate national research activities in the broadest sense, group resources, benefit from complementarities and develop common research and innovation agendas as a basis for long-term cooperation, in which countries can be involved on a voluntary basis. Participating countries also decide what contribution to make: this may include institutional, project-related or new funding.

Bringing together the interested countries JPI Oceans aims to add value by: avoiding fragmentation and unnecessary duplication planning common and flexible initiatives facilitating cooperation and foresighting establishing efficient mechanisms for interaction and knowledge transfer between the scientific community, industry and policy makers at high level to solve societal challenges in seas and oceans on initiatives which go beyond the capacity of a single country.

JPI oceans has implemented 4 pilot actions:

Joint funding for the intercalibration in WFD coastal and transitional waters in the North-East; Atlantic Multi-use of Infrastructures for Monitoring in the North Sea; Ecological Aspects of micro-plastics in the marine environment; Ecological Aspects of deep-sea mining.

Currently joint actions are developing on technology, coastal and marine planning and management, GES (ecosystem goods & services, new pollutants, cumulative effects of human disturbances), climate change and the bioeconomy.

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