

Type:

- In person oral presentation

Title: Marine citizen science in Europe

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Summary: Marine and coastal citizen science is a highly recommendable tool for the purpose of science, policy, and public awareness. On estimate, 500 marine and coastal citizen science projects exist in Europe. However, today, no comprehensive overview of these projects is available, except for the North Sea area. The recently started Horizon Europe project Prep4Blue aims to generate such a comprehensive inventory and analysis. In this talk we present the current state of marine citizen science in Europe and call the participants of this conference to share marine projects with us.

For in person submissions: Audio Visual or special requirements: No

Abstract

Considering the vastness and the importance of the ocean and the world's coastlines for our daily lives, marine and coastal citizen science is a highly recommendable tool for the purpose of science and policy. In the meantime, marine and coastal citizen science can contribute significantly towards a more ocean literate population by creating public awareness on the enormous importance of and dependency on the ocean for our wellbeing. Citizens can participate in science in different levels of engagement, ranging from crowdsourcing and participatory science, to distributed intelligence and extreme citizen science (Hacklay, 2013).

Garcia-Soto et al. (2021) estimated that, for Europe, around 500 marine and coastal citizen science projects exist. However, today, no comprehensive overview of these projects is available, except for the North Sea area (van Hee et al., 2020). The latter assessment revealed a list of 127 citizen science projects in the North Sea, and provided insights in the current trends, topics, organizers, aims, and types of programme in terms of participation. Setting up such an inventory for other European seas, and perform an in-depth analysis on the current state, tools and impact of these citizen science projects is highly recommended. The analysis can detect specific knowledge, identify technological gaps, improve the exchange of good practices, and act as a basis for the set-up of recommendations on specific strategies, platforms, technological tools, etc.

The recently started Horizon Europe project Prep4Blue aims to generate such a comprehensive inventory and analysis. However, most marine citizen science projects – and by extension other types of public engagement projects – are often country and language specific. The regional scale and the foreign language hamper the collection of project information and the completion of the planned inventory. In this talk we present the current state of marine citizen science in Europe and would like to call the participants of this conference to share marine projects with us.