

Keynote presentation title

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With over two decades of dedicated service in the field of marine science, Dr Grant has established herself as a prominent figure in the global maritime community. Her leadership roles within the Marine Institute, including her most recent position as Head of International Programmes, have seen her spearhead numerous initiatives aimed at enhancing our understanding of the ocean and promoting sustainable practices for their conservation. In addition, Fiona is actively involved in the Marine Institute's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion group, where she works with colleagues across the Marine Institute to ensure an inclusive work environment, where employees can be themselves, are valued for their differences, and are supported to work at their best.

In 2024, Dr Grant took on a new role as Chair of the European Marine Board; she will play a pivotal role in guiding the strategic direction of the organisation, championing its commitment to excellence in marine research, policy advice, and outreach. With pressing challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and marine pollution threatening our ocean, her leadership will be instrumental in driving collaborative efforts to address these issues and ensure the long-term health and sustainability of our marine ecosystems.

Commenting on this appointment, Dr Fiona Grant expressed her gratitude and enthusiasm for the opportunity to lead the European Marine Board. "I am deeply honoured to take on the role of Chair and to work alongside the esteemed members of the EMB in advancing our shared goals for the benefit of our ocean and future generations," she stated. "Together, we will strive to harness the collective expertise and resources of the European marine community to address the challenges facing our ocean and unlock their full potential for the benefit of society. I hope this also encourages other women to have the confidence to put their names forward for positions such as the Chair of the European Marine Board due to the experience and perspectives females can bring to the role."