

Short bio:

Miriam Balgos is Executive Director of the Global Ocean Forum (GOF) and has been involved with GOF since its mobilization in 2001. Miriam also leads a GEF-funded project on *Building and Enhancing Sectoral and Cross-Sectoral Capacity to Support Sustainable Resource Use and Biodiversity Conservation in Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction* (Cross-sectoral Project) as the Project Manager-Capacity Development Specialist. Formerly an Associate Scientist at the College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment, University of Delaware, Miriam led the Gerard J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy team in the organization and conduct of policy analyses, multi-stakeholder dialogues, and capacity building initiatives on integrated ocean and coastal management, marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, and ocean-climate action. She co-authored and contributed to various publications, including the “Routledge Handbook of National and Regional Ocean Policies.” Miriam graduated from the University of the Philippines with a bachelor’s degree in fisheries and a master’s degree in marine biology. She also earned a master’s degree in business administration and a doctoral degree in marine studies from the University of Delaware.

Andrei Polejack (he/his) is the Director for Research and Innovation at INPO – Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Oceânicas (the Brazilian National Institute for Ocean Research). PhD in Maritime Affairs from the World Maritime University, Sweden and MSc. in Evolutionary Ecology from Universidade de Brasília, Brasil, formerly acted as the Coordinator for Ocean, Antarctica and Geosciences at the Brazilian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. Interested in Ocean Science Diplomacy as a field of study and theoretically passionate about post- and de-colonial reasoning applied to international relations and its many ways of linking with ocean science. A Latino soul, proud father of three of the best humans, and a lover of dogs, cats, sea puffins, beer, and fikas.

**United Nations Open- ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the
Sea**

Twenty-fifth meeting

New York, 16–20 June 2025

Dr Legena Henry, PhD,

CEO-Founder, Rum and Sargassum Inc.

Discussion panel

**Capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology: new developments, approaches
and challenges**

Biography: Dr. Legena Henry, PhD, is an MIT graduate, and a Mechanical Engineer, who has been the CEO of Rum and Sargassum Inc since 2021, where her team is commercializing an indigenous renewable transportation solution in Barbados. She is also the Lecturer for Renewable Energy at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, specializing in Renewable Energy and Mechanical Engineering. She researches sustainable energy sources in the Caribbean, such as biofuel from Sargassum seaweed, Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion, and wave energy.

Interdisciplinary approach to leadership and human resource development for sustainable blue economies

Masanori Kobayashi

Senior Research Fellow, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

1-15-16, Toranomon, Minatoku, Tokyo 105-8524, Japan

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Profile:

Mr. Masanori Kobayashi is Senior Research Fellow of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) in Tokyo, Japan. He was Program Director of SPF and Senior Research Fellow, Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI) of the SPF. He undertakes research work on ocean and sustainability policy including sustainable blue economies, marine environment and resource management, sustainable fisheries, marine pollution control, ocean based renewable energies, and regional and international cooperation and partnership. He worked on sustainability issues at the Ocean Policy Research Foundation, the Yokohama National University, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, the United Nations (New York, Geneva and Bonn) and the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He holds LL.M (University of Georgia School of Law), M.A. (International Christian University), LL.B. (Chiba University), and completed the doctor course without degree on life and agricultural sciences (University of Tokyo). His publications include Kobayashi, M. et al (2022) Capitalizing on Co-Benefits and Synergies to Promote the Blue Economy in Asia and the Pacific”. In: Morgan, P. et al. eds. Blue Economy and Blue Finance – Toward Sustainable Development and Ocean Governance. Asian Development Bank Institute, pp. 150 – 189.



Dr. LAN-ANH NGUYEN

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Lan-Anh Nguyen is the Vice President of the Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam (DAV) and concurrently serves as Dean of the International Law Faculty at DAV. She is also the Vice President of the Asian Society of International Law and an arbitrator nominated by Viet Nam under Annex VII of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

With over two decades of experience in international law, especially the law of the sea, she serves as a legal adviser to several expert groups within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam. She was instrumental in the formation of the Group of Friends of UNCLOS at the UN; contributed to Vietnam's legal positions on climate change and the ocean; and played significant role in major national legislative processes, including Vietnam's 2012 Law of the Sea.

Dr. Nguyen has published extensively on issues of international and maritime law with leading academic publishers and journals. Her work focuses on maritime security, international dispute settlement, and regional legal cooperation.

She also lectures internationally in training programs for government, military, and legal professionals across the Asia-Pacific and beyond.



Dr Mathias Jonas is the Secretary-General of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) since 2017. Prior to this appointment he was Vice President of the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency and National Hydrographer of Germany with responsibility for sea survey and sea cartography. Being originally a mariner, Dr Jonas has been involved in the digital transition of those two disciplines since the beginning of the nineties. As one of his current responsibilities he holds the Chair of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica. He is the author of numerous publications on technical aspects of the digital provision of marine geoinformation and strategic considerations on the future of hydrography. During his term he managed to widen the scope of the Organization to become an essential contributor to the aims expressed under the Ocean Decade.

United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Twenty-fifth meeting 16 – 20 June 2025

Panel

“Capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology: new developments, approaches and challenges”

BIO PROFILE:



Johanna Diwa-Acallar

Deputy Global Coordinator for Capacity Development
IOC/UNESCO

Johanna Diwa-Acallar is the Deputy Coordinator for Capacity Development of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC/UNESCO). She is a senior global expert on capacity development, with more than 15 years of experience in international development cooperation. At IOC/UNESCO, Johanna manages the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development (IOC GE-CD), which is instrumental in the adoption of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023-2030. She also coordinates the IOC global capacity development programme and initiatives. Johanna has professional and academic background in issues related to the United Nations sustainable development agenda, having worked in various UN think-tank and research agencies.

Adel Heenan leads Global Fishing Watch's applied research and capacity development work which aims to use open data on human activities at sea to address the information needs for sustainable fisheries. By collaborating with national and regional agencies, she seeks to create evidence-based outputs that can help improve the management of marine resources and better equip decision-makers to take part in the digital transformation of the marine sector.

Adel has more than 15 years of marine resource management experience, with a focused expertise on tropical marine systems. Before coming to Global Fishing Watch, she worked in various capacities, including as: associate professor at the School of Ocean Sciences, Bangor University; a Red List and CITES officer for the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Shark Specialist Group; and a senior researcher at the University of Hawai'i for the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center in a pan-Pacific ecosystem monitoring team. Her expertise lies in large-scale monitoring and helping countries develop capacity for an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management.

Adel has a doctorate degree in marine conservation from the University of Edinburgh, a Master of Science in tropical coastal management from Newcastle University, and she is a qualified teaching fellow of the Higher Education Academy in the U.K.

Since 2024 Michele Kuruc has served as a Senior Advisor, Policy and Initiatives, for Global Fishing Watch. Her professional experiences span NGOs, the UN FAO, and various positions in government service. She has been a practicing attorney for much of her career, working on many natural resources issues but mostly concentrating on monitoring, control, and surveillance of IUU fishing and related issues.

Dr. Tricia Lovell Biography

Dr. Tricia Lovell has over 25 years of experience in fisheries management, marine conservation, and ocean governance and currently serves as the Deputy Chief Fisheries Officer in Antigua and Barbuda. She is a graduate of the World Maritime University where she completed a PhD in Maritime Affairs. Her research focused on understanding the challenges and opportunities for improved governance of abandoned, lost and otherwise discarded fishing gear in Eastern Caribbean small-scale fisheries. Dr. Lovell is an alumnus of the UN-Nippon Foundation Fellowship programme. Dr. Lovell, serves as the Deputy Chair of Antigua and Barbuda's Ocean Governance Committee and is also Antigua and Barbuda's focal point to the Ramsar Convention and the Marine and Coastal focal point to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Alan Evans, Head of Marine Policy at the National Oceanography Centre (NOC), UK.



With 25 years' experience in science and technology research at the NOC, Alan uses knowledge generated through marine scientific research to support the development and delivery of global ocean governance, in particular the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, its implementing Agreements and global and regional frameworks.

A key enabler to supporting the sustainable use and management of our ocean and seas is universal participation, to this end Alan engages with the global marine community at international forum and develops bi-lateral relationships, working with the UK and foreign governments and their agencies, members of the UN-Oceans family, the UK Overseas Territories, regional organisations and research agencies.

As a keen advocate of capacity development and the transfer of marine technology, Alan has been involved in a number of capacity development initiatives, including, as the NOC lead in the delivery of the UK Government Aid funded programme, the Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme, is a past Chair of the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development, has been a supervisor on the DOALOS UN Nippon Fellowship Programme, is a member of the UN Ocean Decade Capacity Development Facility Steering Committee, has held a number of advisory and board member roles on ISA capacity development projects and was a member of the UK Delegation during the BBNJ negotiations, where he was a UK negotiator of the CBTMT, Part V of the Agreement.

Alan holds several other international positions of influence including as Alternate Head of the UK Delegation at the IOC-UNESCO, NOC focal point as Observers at the ISA and is a past vice-Chair of the European Marine Board. He is also a member of the UK National Decade Committee.

Dr. Randi Rotjan is currently an Associate Professor of Biology at Tufts University, in the process of transitioning to Tufts from Boston University where she was jointly appointed in the Biology Department and in the BU Marine Program for 9 years. Prior to joining BU, she spent 8 years as an Associate Research Scientist at the New England Aquarium, where she simultaneously held positions at UMass Boston and the Smithsonian Institution. She is currently the lead scientist for the Blue Nature Alliance, which is a global partnership to catalyze large-scale ocean conservation. She was formerly the co-Chief Scientist of the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA) Conservation Trust, and has been working with marine protected areas for over two decades. She received a B.S. from Cornell University, a Ph.D. from Tufts University, and was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard University. She is a member of the Board of Directors for The Nature Conservancy – Caribbean. She lives in the Boston area with her two children, husband, and a yard full of native plants.

NaYeon (Nana) Kim is a Project Officer with the Capacity Development Facility of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development at IOC-UNESCO. She brings a multidisciplinary background spanning climate, technology, and development. Previously, she worked at the World Meteorological Organization, where she coordinated efforts on coastal early warning systems and capacity development, and at the Green Climate Fund, where she supported evaluation as a data scientist. In her current role, she focuses on advancing inclusive capacity development and fostering partnerships to support the implementation of Decade Actions and strengthen ocean communities.



Frida M. Armas Pfrter

Prof. Armas Pfrter currently serves as a Judge at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (2023-2032). She is a lawyer and holds a Ph.D. in International Law by the University of Buenos Aires.

Prof. Armas Pfrter has been teaching Public International Law and Law of the Sea since 1987, at both undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Argentina and internationally. She is currently a full professor of Public International Law at the University of Buenos Aires and Austral University. She has been actively involved with the International Ocean Institute (IOI) for several years. From 2018 to 2020, she served as Training Leader for the Ocean Governance module, at the IOI Training Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2025, she was appointed Director of the First Ocean Governance Training Programme offered by IOI Chile “Ocean Governance in South America: Challenges and Opportunities”.

Prof. Armas Pfrter has performed various tasks related to the Law of the Sea in the United Nations system. She is currently a Conciliator and Arbitrator under the dispute settlement mechanisms of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and an expert for the purposes of Special Arbitration of Annex VIII of UNCLOS. From 2022 to 2023, she served as a member of the UN Ocean Decade Advisory Board, UNESCO-IOC.

At the International Seabed Authority (Jamaica), she was member of the Legal and Technical Commission (2001-2011) and later of the Finance Committee (2011-2022).

She has participated in numerous national and international expert groups focused on capacity building in the Law of the Sea, including: Advisory Board of the National System of Ocean Data, Argentine Ministry of Science and Technology (2011-2023); International Expert Groups for the kick-off Conference of the UN Decade of Ocean Science - Germany (2020-2022); Steering Committee for the White Paper on Oceans for the 150th Anniversary of the International Law Association (ILA) (2021-2022); Decade Advisory Board to assist UNESCO-COI in coordinating the UN Ocean Decade (2022-2023);

From 1997 to 2023 she was the General Coordinator of the National (Argentine) Commission on the Outer Limit of the Continental Shelf (COPLA).

Bio:

Dr. Maila Guilhon holds a PhD in Oceanography by the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil. She currently serves as a member of the Steering Committee of the Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI), a collaborator from the Nippon Foundation-University of Edinburgh Ocean Voices Programme and a member of the Executive Secretary of the Women's League for the Ocean - a collective of more than 2500 women passionate about the ocean in Brazil.

Biography

Dr. Widad Natify, I am an expert in marine science, fisheries monitoring, and ocean governance, with over 15 years of experience in both national and international settings. I currently serve as Head of a Vessel Monitoring Unit, where I lead satellite-based surveillance of fishing fleets and ensure compliance with national and international regulatory frameworks.

I hold a Ph.D. in Fisheries Science and a Master's degree in the Protection and Valorization of Marine Resources. As a United Nations Nippon Foundation Fellow, I conducted advanced research at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, focusing on the intersection of the international law of the sea and fisheries compliance. I am also a graduate of the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea (IFLOS) Summer Academy.

I participated in numerous high-level international meetings and expert consultations related to fisheries monitoring, IUU fishing, and ocean governance, contributing to global policy dialogue and international cooperation in capacity-building initiatives.

My work is particularly focused on the use of innovative technologies to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. I am currently spearheading the creation of a regional think tank dedicated to ocean governance, technological innovation, and capacity building in the Mediterranean region and beyond.



Dr. Fernanda Lana is a biologist and researcher with a PhD in Fisheries Resources and Aquaculture, Post-Doc in Biological Sciences and in Marine Biology and Coastal Environments. The professional profile is directly related in the area of Elasmobranchs (Sharks and Rays), Environmental Sciences, Management and Monitoring, Ichthyology, Oceanography, Fishery Resources, Public Policy and Governance.

She currently serves as President Director of PROSHARK Institute, where she coordinates national programs on shark and ray conservation, telemetry and marine spatial planning. Her work focuses on integrating science, traditional knowledge, and capacity building to promote effective marine governance and biodiversity protection.

With over 20 years of experience, Dr. Fernanda Lana has collaborated with various institutions including the United Nations as National Focal Point to the Regular Process, also being Nippon Fellow, and Brazilian government agencies. She was instrumental in developing technical frameworks for marine conservation policies and has led fieldwork in key biodiversity areas in Brazil, where her team recorded unprecedented behaviors such as shark mating and aggregation within protected areas.

Currently, she leads the Integrated Shark and Ray Monitoring Program of Rio de Janeiro, which links scientific research, environmental education, and regulatory frameworks to support policy implementation. Dr. Fernanda Lana is committed to strengthening cooperation and enhancing local capacities in ocean science and law, in line with the objectives of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

The United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, on the theme “Capacity building and the transfer of marine technology: New developments, approaches and challenges”.

New York, 16 – 20 June 2025

Biography:



***Everett A. Sioa
Legal and Governing Bodies Officer
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment
Programme (SPREP)***

Everett Sioa is a young lawyer with much experience in ocean governance, environmental law and sustainable development in the Pacific Region. He holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB), Post-graduate Diploma in Legal Practice (PDL), and an alumni of the Nippon Foundation 2018 Thematic Fellowship Programme. With a dual background in environmental law and corporate governance, he currently supports SPREP and its 21 Pacific Island Countries and Territories through the implementation of legal frameworks that promote marine conservation, equitable ocean access and the protection of marine biodiversity.

Everett has contributed to international ocean-related negotiations including the recent Intergovernmental Conference on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and the BBNJ PrepCom, Convention on Biological Diversity and regional frameworks under the Noumea and Waigani Conventions. His work focuses on strengthening legal engagement and capacity building, assist with the transfer of marine technology and ensuring that the Pacific Region are engaged in ocean and environment dialogues.

In his current position, he has worked alongside SPREP and other organizations such as UNEP and IUCN in facilitating workshops and trainings for judges, lawyers and government officials on Multilateral Environmental Agreements. These efforts have contributed to strengthening judicial understanding of environmental principles and promoting informed legal decision-making across the Pacific Region. He currently works alongside regional organisations in the Pacific Region on ratification workshops for the BBNJ Agreement. Overall, he is committed to continue the work on ocean governance in the Pacific Region in pursuit of a healthy and resilient ocean.

Title: No-cost data services to support MPA proposals under the BBNJ Agreement

Panel: “Enabling and enhancing capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology through international cooperation and coordination: challenges and opportunities”

Panelist: Dr. Kristen Johannes, Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory, University of California, Santa Barbara

Biography:

Dr. Kristen Johannes is a Project Scientist at the University of California, Santa Barbara, undertaking open and applied ocean science as a member of the Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory. She leads a portfolio of no-cost data science services for UN States actively proposing MPA designations within the framework of the BBNJ Agreement.

Dr. Johannes holds advanced degrees in Cognitive Science and Marine Biodiversity and Conservation. She uses this multidisciplinary expertise to apply gold-standard science and data practices to complex ocean decision making and capacity building efforts. Prior to joining UC Santa Barbara, Dr. Johannes served as a Research Scientist at the Ocean Discovery League and Scholar at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, working to accelerate and broaden participation in scientific exploration of the deep ocean. Her work has pushed for greater global coordination and collaboration in deep-seafloor observation, and resulted in a series of data products and interactive tools designed to increase access to deep-sea data and metrics.

SHORT BIO

Eduardo Silva is a Researcher and Coordinator of two INESC TEC platforms dedicated to the sea: TEC4SEA and the Leixões Blue Hub. He is also the Scientific Coordinator of INESC TEC.OCEAN and Coordinator of Pillar IV of the European Commission's Atlantic Strategy. He is a Professor at the *Instituto Superior de Engenharia do Porto* (ISEP) – Porto Polytechnic Institute.

He was the Coordinator of the Robotics and Autonomous Systems Laboratory at INESC TEC until 2019 and has over 150 published articles in the field. He has participated in more than 30 research projects, including INESC TEC.OCEAN, TRIDENT, ¡VAMOS!, UNEXMIN EU, UNEXUP, Nettag, and INSite Upscaling. He holds a bachelor's, master's, and PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR OCEAN GOVERNANCE

Panel presentation for Leticia Greyling (18 June 2025)

Panel Session: Enabling and Enhancing Capacity Building and the Transfer of Marine Technology through International Cooperation and Coordination: Challenges and Opportunities

Abstract:

This presentation explores the pivotal role of capacity-building in advancing ocean governance, particularly within the framework of international cooperation and coordination. Drawing from experiences at the International Ocean Institute of Southern Africa, it examines systemic challenges such as institutional disparities, resource constraints, and the need for inclusive participation. The discussion highlights successful and strategic approaches that have effectively enhanced capacity-building efforts. Emphasis is placed on the integration of interdisciplinary education, stakeholder engagement, and sustainable partnerships. The presentation aims to provide actionable recommendations to strengthen capacity-building initiatives, ensuring equitable and effective governance of marine resources.

BIOGRAPHY

Letitia Greyling (International Ocean Institute of Southern Africa)

Letitia Greyling is a sustainability specialist and permanent faculty member at Rhodes Business School (South Africa), where she leads capacity development efforts by embedding sustainability into management education for MBA and executive students. With an academic background that bridges natural sciences and business, she combines strategic thinking and systems knowledge to teach and supervise in areas such as strategic sustainability, responsible leadership, climate change, and integrated reporting. Her earlier career included nearly a decade at South Africa's Transnet National Ports Authority, where she played a pioneering role in developing environmental management systems and sustainability practices across South Africa's eight commercial ports.

Letitia has served on the Management Committee of the International Ocean Institute – Southern Africa (IOI-SA) for almost a decade, contributing to the design and delivery of the region's flagship Ocean Governance course. This programme supports emerging leaders from across Africa and the Western Indian Ocean in addressing maritime and coastal sustainability challenges. Her multi-sectoral experience — spanning academia, government, and industry — underpins her expertise in institutional and human capacity-building for sustainability and ocean governance.

Dr. Claudette Briere Spiteri is currently the Project Manager of the International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN5). Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO-IOC), IW:LEARN5 serves as the knowledge management platform for the GEF International Waters portfolio. In this role, Dr. Spiteri leads the coordination of the Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) projects.

Previously, Dr. Spiteri was a senior advisor at Deltares, the Netherlands-based institute for applied water research and technology. Her work mainly focused on integrated and policy-relevant assessments and indicators, coastal and marine management, sustainable blue economy and ocean governance. She later founded her own consulting company, undertaking assignments for major international organizations, including UNEP, UNESCO-IOC, UNECE, IMO/REMPEC, the World Bank, the European Commission and the European Environment Agency (EEA).

Dr. Spiteri holds a Ph.D. from Utrecht University in the Netherlands on subterranean nutrient discharges in coastal zones. She also holds a Master's degree in Applied Environmental Geosciences from the University of Tübingen, Germany and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Malta.

THE TWENTY-FIFTH UN INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS
HIROKO MURAKI GOTTLIEB

Hiroko Muraki Gottlieb bio

Hiroko Muraki Gottlieb is a lawyer with a diverse career spanning global businesses, non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, and academic institutions. She brings a unique blend of expertise in ocean governance, climate change, environmental law (both domestic and international), negotiations, policymaking, and stakeholder engagement. Since 2016, Hiroko has been actively involved in the BBNJ negotiations. As the Representative for the Ocean for the International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL), she led the ICEL delegation to the BBNJ intergovernmental conference and currently heads the ICEL delegation to the Preparatory Commission meetings. Hiroko is an associate with the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University and an adjunct professor of law at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law, where she teaches an [upper-level seminar on ocean and coasts law](#). She has contributed to capacity building through her role as the Coordinator of the fellowship for the Kingdom of Tonga, publishing on the BBNJ Agreement, and hosting and participating in various workshops worldwide. Additionally, Hiroko led the creation of an [open-access website on the BBNJ Agreement](#) and is a frequently invited speaker on various aspects of the Agreement.

Below is a select list of publications on the BBNJ Agreement that may be of interest to the participants:

- Humphries, F., Berry, T., Muraki Gottlieb, H. (2025). *Bridging Divides: The Evolution of Marine Genetic Resource Governance Beyond National Jurisdiction*. In: Humphries, F. (eds) *Decoding Marine Genetic Resource Governance Under the BBNJ Agreement*. Sustainable Development Goals Series. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-72100-7_1
- Muraki Gottlieb, H., Ardrón, J.A., Brown, A.E.L. (2025). *BBNJ Agreement: A New Infrastructure to Foster Benefit Sharing of Marine Genetic Resources*. In: Humphries, F. (eds) *Decoding Marine Genetic Resource Governance Under the BBNJ Agreement*. Sustainable Development Goals Series. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-72100-7_2
- Muraki Gottlieb, H., Kachelriess, D., Slobodian, L. (2025). *Understanding the Preamble, Objectives and Principles of the BBNJ Agreement: A Focus on the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits of Marine Genetic Resources*. In: Humphries, F. (eds) *Decoding Marine Genetic Resource Governance Under the BBNJ Agreement*. Sustainable Development Goals Series. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-72100-7_4
- Jaspars, M., Hartman Scholz, A., Horton, T., Humphries, F., Lyal, C., Muraki Gottlieb, H., Rabone, M. and Vanagt, T. (2025). *BBNJ Agreement: Considerations for Scientists and Commercial End Users of MGR at Research, Development and Commercialization Stages*. In: Humphries, F. (eds) *Decoding Marine Genetic Resource Governance Under the BBNJ Agreement*. Sustainable Development Goals Series. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-72100-7_14
- Muraki Gottlieb, H. and Girguis, P., [Opportunities to foster conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction: a role for scientists](#), *Limnology and Oceanography Bulletin*, Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography, August 2022.
- Humphries, F., Muraki Gottlieb, H., et al, *A Tiered Approach to the Marine Genetic Resource Governance Framework under the proposed UNCLOS Agreement for biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)*, *MARINE POLICY*, December 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2020.103910>

Biography

Kriangsak Kittichaisaree is a Distinguished Visiting Fellow of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) International Maritime Law Institute since 2019. In terms of capacity building and transfer of maritime technology, he was the Group of 77's Coordinator on the training of personnel for the Enterprise at the PrepCom for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in 1988–1990 before his election as Chairman of the Group of 77 of the Whole of the 9th Session of the PrepCom in 1991. He served as a member of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (1999–2004) that drafted of the IOC's Criteria and Guidelines on Transfer of Marine Technology.

His other roles in the law of the sea include Presidency of the 25th Session of the Meeting of States Parties to UNCLOS in 2015 and being the sole author of the textbook *The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea* (Oxford University Press 2021).

Kriangsak has served the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Director-General of the Department of International Organizations (2006–2007), Ambassador to Iran (2007–2010), Australia (and concurrently Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) (2010–2012), and to the Russian Federation (and concurrently Armenia, Belarus, Moldova and Uzbekistan) (2015–2017).

A member of the UN International Law Commission from 2012 to 2016, he was responsible for the topic 'Obligation to extradite or prosecute (*aut dedere aut judicare*)'.

Discussion Panel (2nd segment): Enabling and enhancing capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology through international cooperation and coordination: challenges and opportunities

25th Meeting of the United Nations Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea
(18 June 2025, UN Headquarters, New York)

Domestic Considerations in the Implementation of the CBTMT Provisions of the BBNJ Agreement

Jacqueline Joyce F. Espenilla
Senior Fellow, University of the Philippines Institute for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea

ABSTRACT

This presentation focuses on potential legal challenges and obstacles to the effective absorption and utilization of benefits from capacity-building and transfer of marine technology (CBTMT) initiatives within the cooperative framework of the BBNJ Agreement. This is an often overlooked dimension of CBTMT, where the assumption often is that recipient States, particularly developing and least developed States, automatically benefit from the range of available initiatives should they be made available to them. Key areas for examination and analysis include the existence of enabling legal frameworks, the appropriateness of existing rules and standards for the conduct of relevant activities (e.g. marine scientific research, environmental impact assessments etc.), and the capacities of and synergies among domestic institutions. To illustrate the point, the presentation provides an assessment of the Philippine situation in relation to its legal and operational readiness for maximizing CBTMT opportunities under that instrument, which also has implications for its national sustainable development efforts as well as the strengthening of its regional and international linkages.

FLASH BIOGRAPHY OF Pablo Presa (06-01-2025)

Pablo Presa holds a Dr. EU-Marie Curie in Quantitative and Population Genetics (INRA/Université Paris XI-Saclay) and a postdoctoral EU-Marie Curie STF9 (University of Tsukuba/NRIA-Japan). He is currently a Professor of Genetics at the University of Vigo since 1997. His extensive teaching career spans 6 quinquennia and 9 triennia, including coordinating several doctoral and master's programs in Aquaculture and Marine Biology. His research focuses on developing genetic tools and metrics to understand the population dynamics of overexploited marine fisheries, particularly genetic structuring and connectivity, including aquaculture. He has significant international research experience (90 months), numerous SCI publications, book chapters, and conference presentations. He has participated in 40 competitive projects and secured 18 contracts with industry and administrations, co-inventing two licensed biotechnological patents. In management roles, he leads the Marine Genetic Resources Laboratory since 1999 and served as a manager for the Oceanography-ECIMAT Strategic Grouping. He is currently a researcher at the CIM-UVIGO Singular Center and leads the EU-OEI funded SEASOS network with Ibero-America countries. His transfer activities include promoting agreements for oceanographic vessel construction and leading numerous contracts and cooperation projects for development through in-situ training, primarily in Morocco and Peru. He has supervised 13 doctoral and numerous other MSc theses, with his former students holding prominent positions in academia and industry. He also organizes international scientific events (<https://ephyslab.uvigo.es/DelFishStock/>) is editor of ranked journals (<https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/61118/challenges-in-fishery-assessment-methodologies>) and participates in national and supranational scientific evaluation agencies, demonstrating a commitment to bridging the gap between science, policy, and society.

Biography:

Dmitry Lajus is an academic researcher and expert in sustainable fisheries with over four decades of international experience. In 2022, he left the Saint Petersburg State University in Russia to join the Estonian Marine Institute at the University of Tartu. He earned his Ph.D. from the Zoological Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences in 1989 and was a Fulbright Fellow at the University of New Hampshire in 2006. He has also held scholarships in Germany, Norway, Australia, and Indonesia. Dr. Lajus's research spans marine fish and invertebrate population biology, climate-change impacts, stress assessment, and historical ecology. He has co-authored nearly 100 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters and has participated in numerous international research projects worldwide. His teaching portfolio includes courses in fish and marine biology, fisheries biology, and sustainable fisheries management. He serves in the editorial boards of several international journals and is a Regional Chair for Freshwater Fishes for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Dmitry consults extensively on sustainable fisheries, particularly in relation to the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification programs. In this capacity, he has conducted numerous MSC pre-assessments, full assessments, and peer reviews—supporting fisheries in Russia, Kazakhstan, and Estonia across species including Pacific salmon, cod, pikeperch, Alaska pollock, and others. This consultancy demands broad engagement with industry stakeholders, researchers, auditors, and fisheries managers across multiple countries, requiring strong skills to bridge science, business, and policy in advancing responsible fisheries practices.

Fabien Cousteau

Aquanaut, Oceanographic
Explorer, Environmental
Advocate and Founder of
Proteus Ocean Group

ProteusOceanGroup.com
FabienCousteauOLC.org



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As the first grandson of Jacques-Yves Cousteau, Fabien spent his early years aboard his famous grandfather's ships, Calypso and Alcione; and learning how to scuba dive on his fourth birthday.

He is well known for his study of sharks. From 2000-2002, Fabien was an Explorer-at-Large for National Geographic and collaborated on a TV special aimed at changing public conceptions about sharks called, "Attack of the Mystery Shark". In 2003-2006, he produced the documentary, "Mind of a Demon", that aired on CBS. With the help of a large crew, Fabien created a 14-foot, 1,200- pound, lifelike shark submarine called "Troy" that enabled him to immerse himself inside the shark world, providing viewers with a rare view of the mysterious and often misunderstood creatures.

For the next four years (2006-2010), Fabien was part of a multi-hour series for PBS called, "Ocean Adventures" with his father, Jean-Michel Cousteau, and sister, Céline, inspired by his grandfather's famous 1978 PBS series, "The Cousteau Odyssey". In the following years, and as a member of multiple cause- driven and charitable boards, Fabien has been working with local communities and children worldwide to help restore local water ecosystems.

In June 2014, Fabien and his team of aquanauts embarked on Mission 31, the longest science expedition to take place at Aquarius, the world's only underwater marine laboratory located in Florida. Fabien's Mission 31 broke new ground in ocean exploration and honored the 50th anniversary of his grandfather's original underwater living experiment (Conshelf Two) by going deeper, longer and further, while broadcasting the Mission live on multiple channels educating and exposing the world to the adventure and mystique of our blue planet.

Early in 2016 he founded the Fabien Cousteau Ocean Learning Center ("FCOLC") to fulfill his dream of creating a vehicle to make a positive change in the world. Currently he is working on multiple projects and dedicates much of his time to PROTEUS™, the International Space Station of the Ocean and the initiatives of his non-profit, the FCOLC including: Coral Reef Resilience Program, Beach Clean Ups, Sea Turtle, Ocean Discovery Educational Curriculum Program and other ocean conservation programs.

Fabien is the Co-Founder and Chairman of the Board for Proteus Ocean Group (POG), an Explorers Club Member and a WWF Ocean Witness. He is also a Board Member of River Keepers and the Sea Keepers Science Council and has been recently named Honorary Advisor to the NGO Committee Sustainable Development-NY. He has received several awards including Travel & Leisure's 2022 Global Vision Award, the United Nations NEXUS Global Goals Award for Excellence and Leadership, David Attenborough Excellence in Filmmaking Award, Golden Eagle Award, Beneath The Sea Diver of The Year, World Team "Pioneer For The Planet" Award, Peter Benchley Lifetime Award and is the ISS (International Super Yacht Society) Awards Judge and creator of the ISS Fabien Cousteau BLUE Award.

2025 United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

“Capacity building and the transfer of marine technology: New developments, approaches and challenges”

European Union

Discussion Panel on Enabling and enhancing capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology through international cooperation and coordination: challenges and opportunities.

18 June 2025

Abstract

The European Union has consistently emphasised the importance of and supported capacity building and the transfer of marine technology (CBTMT) as essential components for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, particularly in areas beyond national jurisdiction but also in the context of marine safety and security, particularly in the areas of navigation, search and rescue (SAR), and emergency response.

The maritime sector faces increasing challenges from congested sea routes, adverse weather conditions, and the need for effective emergency response and security measures. The pressures on the marine environment and climate are equally challenging. Accurate and reliable navigation, timely notifications and warnings, and detailed information and guidance are critical to preventing accidents, protecting lives, preserving the marine environment, and safeguarding maritime assets. This presentation examines how the transfer of European satellite navigation technologies—Galileo and EGNOS—addresses these challenges by providing enhanced positioning accuracy, integrity, and availability beyond traditional systems. Satellite-based services are essential for real-time vessel monitoring, collision avoidance, geolocation, and efficient coordination of search and rescue operations. By integrating Galileo and EGNOS technology, marine safety and security operations and marine environmental protection can achieve higher precision and resilience, ultimately contributing to safer seas and healthier ecosystems. Examples, challenges, opportunities, and recommendations will be presented to demonstrate the transformative potential of these technologies in the marine domain.

Biography

Thomas Ramopoulos is a Counsellor and the Legal Adviser at the EU Delegation to the United Nations in New York since 2022. He is an official of the European Commission since 2013 and a member of its Legal Service. His areas of expertise are EU external relations law and public

international law. Thomas has taught in numerous universities as visiting lecturer and has been an Adjunct Professor at the Brussels School of Governance since 2021. He has been publishing extensively in the aforementioned areas of law. Among others he has co-authored a book on ‘The Law of EU External Relations: Cases, Materials and Commentary on the EU as an International Legal Actor’ (now in its 3rd edition). He has also contributed to a Commentary on the EU Treaties and has published chapters on the EU in the United Nations and other specialised international organisations