

Marine Life 2030 endorsed as a UN Ocean Decade Action

In the spirit of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (the Ocean Decade), Marine Life 2030 was endorsed as a UN Ocean Decade Action by the international community to deliver knowledge about marine life for local decisions around the world.



Predicting Marine Life Like Weather. Meet the Ocean of 2030.

“Imagine a world where an artisanal fisher in Senegal can swipe her cell phone to check not just the weather, but the forecast for harmful algal blooms in the area. Or an indigenous community in Alaska can upload traditional knowledge of salmon into a global marine knowledgebase for more effective fishery management”. These are visions that spell the future in a new [article](#) of Smithsonian Magazine.

This is what [Marine Life 2030](#), a program which received official endorsement from the United Nations on World Oceans Day, June 8, sets out to accomplish.

The ocean’s >200,000 species form the heart of ecosystems that provide protein, stable climate, protection, and livelihoods to billions of people worldwide. Many of these species, and the services they provide, are threatened. Yet marine biodiversity remains poorly known and inadequately integrated into ocean observing systems. Further, pressing questions remain about how the diversity of marine organisms is changing over time in the face of climate and other environmental pressures.

That’s where Marine Life 2030 comes in!

Marine Life 2030 aspires to establish a globally coordinated system to deliver actionable knowledge of ocean life to those who need it, promoting human well-being, sustainable development, and ocean conservation. The program will build partnerships, bring

together diverse communities, and serve as a connector and facilitator to foster “the science we need for the ocean we want”.

Marine Life 2030 is a global collaborative team, co-led by the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian marineGEO program, the US Integrated Ocean Observing System (US IOOS), the Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON - MBON), the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS), and the World Conservation and Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). It engages many communities and organizations in a collaboration across the globe.

“One of the things that we would like to do with Marine Life 2030 is akin to what the weather services of the world did some 50 to 60 years ago- to collect the information that you need to forecast life in the sea and its services to people,” said Frank Muller-Karger, MBON co-chair and of University of South Florida.

Indeed, MBON is working with colleagues around the world to put a layer of life in the maps of bathymetry being generated by programs like Seabed 2030 to help build a path to sustainable development and conservation.



Credit: Beth Watson / Ocean Image Bank

Read more on the MBON website: <https://marinebon.org/pages/news/> and about the High-Level Launch of the Ocean Decade event here: <https://www.oceandecade-conference.com/en/>