

Integrating Marine Cultural Heritage into the UN Ocean Decade: A Pathway to Sustainable Ocean Governance

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Session Description

This session will explore the critical role of marine cultural heritage (MCH) in promoting sustainable ocean practices, highlighting its importance in understanding human-ocean relationships. The discussion will focus on the role of the Cultural Heritage Framework Programme (CHFP) and its actions, to harness the essential role of cultural heritage within the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), particularly in fostering sustainability, resilience, and inclusive ocean governance.

Key topics could include the significance of MCH in shaping identity, history, and societal development, and its role in conserving marine ecosystems. The session will present CHFP's endorsed projects, such as SeaVoice, and their impact on ocean culture understanding, local communities and global policy. Equally, the session will explore the innovative and multidisciplinary pathways to enhance the role of the past within Ocean Literacy, and the human relation with the ocean. Through diverse case studies, speakers will examine successful integrations of MCH in marine policy and conservation, identifying benefits and challenges. The session will also address policy gaps within existing frameworks that affect MCH preservation, offering recommendations for improvements. It will notably explore the needed change in marine archaeology and MCH studies to contribute to the sustainability debate, and be part of the solution, rather than just a mere complement to it.

Furthermore, by bringing together ECRs from marine archaeology, cultural heritage management, ocean sciences, and policy, the session aims to foster a both a comprehensive dialogue on integrating MCH into sustainable ocean practices, and to build capacities and provide an opportunity for networking for this group. Expected outcomes include increased awareness of MCH's importance, identification of collaborative actions, and development of recommendations addressed to marine heritage professionals. This session aims to promote a holistic approach to ocean conservation and governance, contributing to the broader objectives of the Ocean Decade.

Keywords

Marine Cultural Heritage; Sustainable Ocean Practices; Ocean Governance; Cultural Heritage Framework; Ocean Literacy; Policy Integration