



Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030”: an Atlantic-Arctic lighthouse

Event organised by the European Commission in close cooperation with Ireland Ministries and National Maritime College

Format: three-day hybrid event

Date: 23 - 25 November 2022 **Irish Standard Time (Time zone UTC +0)**

Location: Cork, Ireland

Targeted stakeholders: Atlantic-Arctic Member States and Associated Countries, international partner countries, representatives of sea basin intergovernmental organisations, as well as other relevant stakeholders including academia and industry representatives, investors, NGOs, Atlantic Strategy Committee.

Scope: the aim of this event is to mobilise a wide range of stakeholders to join the Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030”, and particularly the Atlantic-Arctic lighthouse. The event will focus on the political commitments to implement the Mission and agree on concrete measures and actions in the Atlantic-Arctic to protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity, and boost coastal resilience.

The event will bring together key stakeholders in the lighthouse area to:

- Generate political buy-in to the Mission and application of the Charter for the Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030” in the Atlantic-Arctic basin.
- Agree on actions and measures to contribute to the Atlantic-Arctic lighthouse 2030 targets, following the Sherpa’s group discussions (workshop on 24 November):
 - Protect a minimum of 30% of the EU’s sea area and integrate ecological corridors, as part of a true Trans-European Nature Network.
 - Strictly protect at least 10% of the EU’s sea area.
 - Contribute to the marine targets of the Nature Restoration Law proposal¹
- Showcase concrete examples of programmes and initiatives from Member States, regions, cities and other stakeholders, using Research and Innovation and nature-based solutions for protecting and restoring marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity, and strengthening coastal resilience, thus contributing to the Mission’s Atlantic-Arctic lighthouse.

¹ [Nature restoration law \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)



DRAFT PROGRAMME

National Maritime College of Ireland,
Ringaskiddy, Cork, Ireland
23 - 25 November 2022

23 November

10:00 – 16:00: BlueMissionAA kick off meeting, MaREI, Ringaskiddy, Cork (upon invitation)

Afternoon: Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership workshop, Carrigaline Court Hotel, Country Cork

24 November

Afternoon: Community Action for the Mission: Building the lighthouse from the bottom up

Evening: Welcome dinner at the Royal Cork Yacht Club, Crosshaven, Cork
Celebration: acknowledge signatories of the Charter

25 November

Moderator: Karen Coleman

09:00-09:45 | Welcome & opening

Keynote speaker: ***Taoiseach (Prime Minister of Ireland) (tbc)***

Michael D Higgins, President of Ireland

Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries
(Video message)

Simon Harris, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Ireland

Ministries from France, Portugal, Finland, Sweden (tbc), Norway (tbc)



09:45- 11:15 | Leading actions for the protection and restoration of marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity

This session will address the main actions to protect a minimum of 30% of the EU's sea area and integrate ecological corridors, strictly protect at least 10% of the EU's sea area and contribute to the marine nature restoration targets.

Keynote speakers:

***Kestutis Sadauskas**, Deputy Director-General, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission and Mission Manager, Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030” and **John Bell**, Director of Healthy Planet, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission and Deputy Mission Manager*

Examples of Ocean restoration initiative and sustainable biodiversity

***Romain Troublé**, Head of the Tara Ocean Foundation*

***Grace O’Sullivan**, Member of the European Parliament*

Q&A

Member States and Associated Countries - Showcasing of actions and initiatives suitable for scaling up for the Atlantic/Arctic lighthouse

Feedback from some Strategic Programme Committees Group Representatives

Joining forces across the Atlantic and Arctic

***Markku Markkula**, Committee of the Regions, member and rapporteur of the Opinion on the HE Missions*

***Jose Maria Solano**, Chair, Atlantic Strategy 2.0 Committee (ASC) Atlantic Action Plan.*

***Imraan Patel**, Deputy Director-General: Research Development and Support, Department of Science and Innovation*

11:15-11:35 | Coffee break



11:35-12:45 | Leading actions for the protection and restoration of marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity (continued)

Public and private sectors (research, academia, industries, philanthropy, investors, foundations...)

Audrey Morely, Lecturer at the University of Galway and President of the Network of Arctic Researchers in Ireland)

Dirk Carrez, Executive Director of Bio-based Industries Consortium

Tiago Pitta e Cunha, Oceano Azul Foundation

Martin Sommerkorn, Head of Conservation WWF Arctic Programme

Q&A

Outreach and Engagement- Empowering the community to take action

Patrick Murphy, CEO of the Irish South and West Fish Producers Organisation

Stephanie Brennan, EU Pilot Island Initiative –Aran Islands

Gary Kett, All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassador

Q&A

12:45-13:15 | Closing

Pascal Lamy, Chair, Mission Board “Restore our Ocean & Waters”

Kestutis Sadauskas, Deputy Director-General, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission

Paul Connolly, Chief Executive Officer, Marine Institute

Networking Lunch