

WHICH MEANS AND WHICH GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE OCEANS?

French name them in plural, Anglo-Saxons in singular. In reality, they are five and one at the same time, because they all communicate. Oceans cover 71% of the surface of the earth and contain 98% of all water resources. According to UN, more than 2.6 billion people depend primarily on the oceans for their protein needs, and more than 2.8 billion people live within 100 miles of their coasts. Oceans provide rainwater and a large part of the oxygen indispensable for life. They provide essential ecosystem services such as climate regulation through movement and permanent mixing of deep waters and their ability to absorb carbon dioxide.

Food, biological resources, pharmaceuticals, minerals, petroleum, marine energy... the opportunities offered by their valorisation are huge. Thanks to its Overseas Territories, France is present in all oceanic regions of the world, having the second largest maritime space after United States.

The maritimisation of world is in full expansion, but the magnitude of impacts suffered by the oceans continues to present concerns. Four large impacts exerted on the marine environment have been clearly identified: destruction of habitats and ecosystems, overexploitation of resources, dissemination of species and global climate change.

How do we balance legitimate ambitions with the preservation and remediation of oceans? What role can France play on the national, European, and international levels to promote the sustainable management of ocean areas? The ESEC

has chosen to address oceans as a whole, asserting a concerted, collaborative, and ecosystem-based approach. ■

The global marine economy accounts for 1.5 billion Euros per year.

In France, its revenues are estimated at 70 billion Euros.

It directly generates more than 450,000 jobs.

Only 5% of the oceans have been systematically explored. Of the 1.8 million scientifically described species, 13% belong to the marine environment. There are still 750,000 marine species to be discovered.

Oceans provide all conditions of habitat for life, even the most extreme: at a depth of 1 metre or 6,000 metres, at 1°C or 100°C, from sunlight to complete darkness. The capacity of marine molecules is therefore the subject of intensive research.

The exploitation of seabed and subsoil mineral resources has also started. For example, offshore oil fields represent 20% of global reserves.



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CONTINUE AND STRENGTHEN THE MARINE RESEARCH EFFORTS

- 👉 **The “Sea Programme” must serve as the basis of practical decisions. For the ESEC, it is necessary to:**
 - Develop fundamental research, particularly on deep sea ecosystems, insular areas and the polar environment;
 - Maintain and combine oceanographic capacities;
 - Develop partnerships between researchers and various stakeholders;
 - Finalise the global Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment (UN);
 - Optimise the work of the IPCC and IPBES by establishing a link between them.

DEVELOP EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND TRAINING EFFORTS

- 👉 **Education for sustainable development (ESD) does not fail to address concerns about the sea. The ESEC nonetheless recommends:**
 - To train teachers, management and inspection personnel in ESD;
 - To remove obstacles for development of marine classes, as for other discovery classes.

PROMOTE A CONCERTED AND ECOSYSTEM-BASED APPROACH FOR ALL ACTIVITIES IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

- 👉 **Marine economic activities must develop according to the logic of ecosystems. The ESEC recommends that:**
 - Marine biodiversity holds an important place in the future biodiversity framework law;
 - Eco-design should be a selection criterion in calls for tenders;
 - Costs should be calculated based on the entire life cycle;
 - Initial inventory of the environment, environmental monitoring and restoration of the site should be systematic for all activities.
- 👉 **To stimulate the transport and energy sectors, the ESEC judges essential to:**
 - Develop networks of naval construction and repair which favour the eco-design of ships;
 - Consider a growth of RME in the European context using quantified and ambitious objectives;
 - Revive discussions on the French and European sectors of ship dismantling and offshore installations.
- 👉 **The intensification of human development and pressures on the environment have reduced ocean productivity. The ESEC recommends:**
 - A National Pact for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture;
 - A National Campaign urging the public towards responsible seafood consumption;
 - Further research on lower-impact fishing;
 - A reflection on deep-sea fisheries within the National Council of Local Missions (CNML);
 - A reform of the aquaculture production model.

PROMOTE NEW TRADES AND FACILITATE THE EVOLUTION OF EXISTING ONES

- 👉 **Eco-design will require technological breakthroughs and the transformation of jobs. The ESEC recommends:**
 - Assessing needs for new trades and specialised training to support eco-design implementation;
 - Implementing by France the sufficient means of control over visiting ships.

ACTING UPON CONSEQUENCES OF THE GLOBAL WARMING ON THE OCEANS

- 👉 **Oceans play a major role in the earth’s climate system. The ESEC wishes:**
 - Tangible recognition of their global regulatory function;
 - Promotion by France, of the integration of their role into international negotiations on climate change;
 - Integration of global warming effects upon chemistry and ecosystems of the ocean into negotiations concerning the environment.

REDUCE THE IMPACT OF LAND-BASED POLLUTION

- 👉 **Long ignored, telluric pollution (waste, diffuse pollution) has a major impact on oceans. The ESEC recommends:**
 - Framework agreement to combat telluric pollution;
 - Raise awareness of the link between the land and the sea;
 - To complete the installation of sanitation and sewage treatment resources in Overseas Territories;
 - To improve the management of urban discharges during rainy weather;
 - To mobilise local stakeholders in terms of reasonable cleaning of beaches and tidelands.

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL GOVERNANCE OF THE SEA

- 👉 **In France, transversal policies have always struggled to find and keep their place. The ESEC recommends:**
 - Strengthening the political dimension of the national control of maritime issues and reaffirming its Sustainability through the Secretary General of the Sea;
 - Entrusting this control to a High Commissioner with the rank of minister, relying on the SG of the Sea, Reinforced by the direct authority of the Prime Minister.

STRENGTHEN EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE OF THE SEA

- 👉 **Europe and the France must play a leading role in international negotiations. The ESEC wishes:**
 - That biodiversity on the high sea finally benefits from an international legal protective framework;
 - A stakeholder role for the International Seabed Authority in the management of the High Seas resources;
 - A strengthened role for civil society in international forums;
 - The creation of a European register of ships, based upon the most rigorous one of the Union;
 - The establishment of an international framework of sustainable management of Arctic resources.