



# **ICAN contributes to planning for UN Decade of Ocean Science**

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ICAN was recently represented by Steering Group Member Ned Dwyer at the recent 1st Global Planning Meeting for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, held in Copenhagen, Denmark from 13-15 May, 2019.

As was mentioned more than once during the meeting, the UN Decade offers the ocean community a once-in-a-life-time opportunity to join efforts, mobilise resources, create partnerships and engage governments and other stakeholders in moving towards “The Ocean We Need for the Future We Want”.

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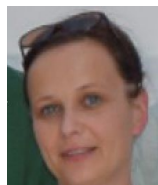
As Jane Lubchenco from Oregon State University said during the session on a Healthy and Resilient Ocean, we need a new narrative in relation to the Ocean. For too long it was considered “too big to fail”. More recently it has been considered “too big to fix”. Now, given that the Ocean covers over 70% of our planet, we need to realise that it is “too big to ignore”. We need to alter our sense of what is possible and realise that the Ocean provides a path to a smarter, wiser and more sustainable future. You can [listen back to Jane’s inspiring presentation](#) (3:07:30) and all the [other plenary proceedings from the 1st day here](#).

Ned participated in two of the parallel workshop sessions which saw groups of participants discuss topics in more depth. In the workshop dedicated to discussing how to enhance observations and make these observations more widely available, Ned highlighted how coastal and marine atlases have a role to play in improving access to collected data, but could also play a role in relation to citizen science as they can be used for highlighting citizen collected information. In the workshop on data management, capacity building and ocean literacy, Ned highlighted the work that ICAN has been doing in all of these areas (elaborated in the following pages) and that ICAN is looking forward to making practical contributions to the success of the Decade.

On behalf of the ICAN Steering Group we invite you continue reading to learn more about ICAN support Actions for UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Please be in touch if you have additional ideas or would like to partner with us!



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# ICAN

International  
Coastal Atlas  
Network

## ICAN Support Actions for UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

### Background

The International Coastal Atlas Project (ICAN) of the IODE is made up of a community of practice of organizations and individuals who focus on scoping and implementing data interoperability approaches to coastal web atlases (CWAs). A key objective of the project is to share experiences and to find common solutions to CWA development (e.g., user and developer guides, handbooks and articles on best practices, information on standards and web services, expertise and technical support directories, education, outreach, and funding opportunities, etc.), while ensuring maximum relevance and added value for the end users.

The network Members have a global reach, but the majority of active members are based in Europe, the Americas and Africa. Every two years ICAN organizes an international workshop to discuss and share experiences about CWA development and applications (e.g. Marine Spatial Planning, Ocean Literacy). Moreover, from time to time it organizes regional workshops to discuss issues of specific interest at a regional level. Members also contribute to expert groups, workshops, seminars and training courses some organized under the auspices of IOC-IODE

### Contributions to Ocean Decade

The ICAN project, through its Steering Group will advocate for the Decade and will coordinate a range of activities to raise awareness of and contribute to the achievement of the Decade goals.

#### Workshops

In September 2018 ICAN hosted a mini-workshop at the CoastGIS 2018 conference in Ísafjörður, Iceland to explore “How can ICAN and CWA operators contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 and the UN Decade of Ocean Science?”. The workshop with 30 participants from 16





countries received overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants through workshop evaluation form that assessed pre workshop expectations and post workshop feedback. Most importantly, workshop evaluation showed that participants felt they gained increased knowledge about the UN Ocean Decade of Science, and the SDGs after the conclusion of the event.



Building upon this experience and subsequent participation of ICAN members in events dedicated to support the UN Decade of Ocean Science, ICAN commits to aligning the theme of its next international workshop, scheduled to take place in 2020, to one or more objectives or priorities of the Decade Strategy. Indeed the R&D Priority 1 as

outlined in the Roadmap focuses on the need for a comprehensive digital atlas of the ocean, while the priority area 4 focusses on a data and information portal. ICAN will contribute its experience and ongoing activities of its Members in these priority areas to the achievement of these priorities.

Subsequent international and regional workshops will strive to include one or more elements pertinent to the Decade priorities.

### Capacity Building

Capacity building is an ongoing major activity of ICAN. ICAN members contribute to training sessions within workshops, specific training events, researcher placements and lectures in other courses such as the OTGA training courses. ICAN commits to supporting the implementation of the Decade Capacity Building Plan. It will achieve this by ensuring Member representatives are available to participate in relevant face-to-face and remote training activities, through programmes such as Ocean Teacher Global Academy and others. Moreover, ICAN commits to continue developing training materials such as technical cookbooks, handbooks and guides.



ICAN will explore the potential for developing a mentorship programme, where experienced web atlas developers are connected with emerging atlas developers in order to support them through the development process.

### Ocean Literacy

ICAN dedicated its ICAN 8 workshop to explore how coastal web atlases can enhance Ocean Literacy, which took place in September 2017 at the INVEMAR facilities in Santa Marta, Colombia. The workshop included a keynote lecture by

Francesca Santoro, the ocean literacy lead for the International Oceanographic Commission and a dedicated session on Latin American approaches to ocean literacy, coastal web atlases and their role in advancing ocean literacy and technology supporting ocean literacy. Web Atlases are more than data repositories. They also contain images, text, stories, and can have citizen science elements. ICAN will continue to promote the benefits of ocean literacy and will showcase use-cases of good practice from among its membership.



**Website and Newsletter**

ICAN commits to supporting the Decade Communications and Engagement Plan. The [ICAN website](#) and its bi-annual e-newsletter are key communication tools for ICAN. Possible practical supports include developing a section on its website related to Decade activities and furthermore ensuring that each edition of its e-Newsletter includes at least one article highlighting Decade relevant activities.

**Social Media**



Many academic institutions as well as individual scientists working in diverse fields relevant to ocean science use social network sites (SNS) like Twitter to promote their work and to disseminate resources and information to increase ocean literacy with diverse audiences<sup>1</sup>. ICAN is active on [Twitter](#), since August 2018 and gained over 280 followers in less than a year with an average of approximately 20 new followers per month. ICAN has over 1700

<sup>1</sup> Kopke K, Black J and Dozier A (2019) Stepping Out of the Ivory Tower for Ocean Literacy. *Front. Mar. Sci.* 6:60. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2019.00060

