



# G7 Navigation Plan Workshop Report

Workshop on the Implementation of the G7 Ocean Decade Navigation Plan

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Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## Executive Summary

The G7 Environment Ministers adopted the G7 Ocean Decade Navigation Plan<sup>1</sup> (the Navigation Plan) in May 2021 to collaborate and advance collective work on ocean science, ocean observing, and ocean action throughout the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) (henceforth the “UN Ocean Decade”). The Navigation Plan was eventually endorsed by the G7 leaders in G7 2030 Nature Compact in June, 2021.

On 9 December 2021, the UK G7 Presidency convened an inaugural virtual workshop to discuss how the G7 might implement the Navigation Plan and further collaboration across the UN Ocean Decade in support of its societal outcomes. The meeting was attended by the G7 members, representatives of the Future of the Seas and Oceans Initiative (FSOI) Coordination Centre and partners from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC). A participants list is provided in Annex 1. The workshop focussed on discussing how the G7 might facilitate collaboration to implement the Navigation Plan and contribute to the UN Ocean Decade, including:

- G7 members providing national updates on progress towards the priority actions of the UN Ocean Decade.
- Discussion on priorities where the G7 might add unique value to global ocean science and actions, how to mobilise resources and promote inclusivity.
- Consideration of the differing cooperative structures in the UN Ocean Decade Implementation Plan and the role of the G7 FSOI.
- Discussion of the next steps and activities that the G7 might undertake.

## Outcomes of the UK G7 Ocean Decade Navigation Plan Workshop

Overall outcomes and next steps from the workshop are summarised as follows.

Implementation of the Navigation Plan and convening for future collaboration meetings:

- There was keen interest in the G7 continuing to convene together in annual (possibly biannual) coordination workshops, with a strong wish to meet in person when possible. Convening meetings could be led by the G7 Presidency of the year, with potential support from the FSOI Coordination Centre. It was also felt that to maximise value, meetings should be opportunistic in their timing, with consideration to the release of Calls for Actions for the Ocean Decade (currently scheduled on 15<sup>th</sup> April and 15<sup>th</sup> October annually).

To support the coordination of activities and to connect more fully with the UN Ocean Decade:

- The G7 recognised the options for developing coordination structures based on the IOC’s Governance and Coordination Framework for the UN Ocean Decade. The importance of G7 connecting to and utilising existing structures in the UN Ocean Decade was recognised, rather than develop new structures in the short term. New options for coordination structures might be considered in the longer-term, recognising we are only at the start of

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g7-climate-and-environment-ministers-meeting-may-2021-communicue/g7-ocean-decade-navigation-plan>

the Decade and it was acknowledged that these structures may continue to evolve over time.

- A calendar summarising key dates and events for the G7 on the UN Ocean Decade will be created by the UK (see Annex 2).

Scoping, with support of FSOI members, the potential to expand the remit of the FSOI and its Coordination Centre to encompass broader UN Ocean Decade coordination and activities:

- The FSOI does not currently cover the full scope of the UN Ocean Decade. It was widely acknowledged that the FSOI's activities must match available resourcing and the existing work programme. Therefore, G7 members should consider carefully how to strengthen the FSOI, build on the existing work programme, and approach the governance of the FSOI and Coordination Centre. The UK FSOI Coordinator will scope out how FSOI could be evolved to achieve this in consultation with the EU Coordinator, G7 representatives, and the IOC.
- The IOC offered to create a G7 sub-platform within the current UN Ocean Decade Global Stakeholder Forum, linked to the FSOI Coordination Centre. The UK FSOI Coordinator will engage with the IOC to scope out this possibility.

## Key Messages

The workshop evidenced a strong spirit of G7 collaboration on the UN Ocean Decade. The G7 might use its unique position to consider where it can add the most significant value to global ocean science needs in the UN Ocean Decade context. It could show leadership in supporting international progress on the UN Ocean Decade, fostering and supporting inclusion, involving less-engaged groups, working with developing countries, and diversifying partnerships. There was significant agreement that the G7 approach to the UN Ocean Decade should be pragmatic and opportunistic and avoid duplicating existing governance structures. In this spirit, regular convening of G7 members and partners will facilitate conversations on best practices for UN Ocean Decade governance and coordination, as well as facilitating collaboration.

The G7 members commended and strongly supported the work and coordination activities of the FSOI Coordination Centre, expressing a wish for these to continue and expand. It was felt however, that FSOI activities can only match its available resourcing.

The IOC provided UN Ocean Decade updates and offers of support to the G7. The IOC recommended periodic review of G7 activities to promote coherence and support implementation of the Navigation Plan. The G7 members felt that the IOC are uniquely placed to provide insights, information and data to help them make decisions, and the centralised structure of the IOC provides a valuable platform for G7 activities.

The workshop identified several common areas of interest where G7 members might add significant value to activities by providing resources and leverage to enhance the development of ocean science. Areas that could be further explored for further collaboration by the G7 included:

- Biodiversity Conservation and Marine Protection
- The Climate-Ocean Nexus
- Global Ocean observing
- Digital Twin Ocean Capability

- Marine Litter and Pollution
- The Arctic.

Other broad themes were to enhance the inclusivity and diversity of the UN Ocean Decade, and the sustainable management of resources of both the deep sea and national waters, or 'blue economy'.