

From Prediction to Protection. Our Demands for a Safe Ocean

We, the One Ocean Youth Panel, convene in Bergen during One Ocean Week at a decisive moment for our ocean and our future.

We are not failing to understand the ocean, we are failing to act on what we already know.

A predicted ocean without action is not safety. It is a warning without response.

As we move toward 2030 and the conclusion of the Ocean Decade, we refuse a future where the ocean is well studied, yet poorly protected. A predicted ocean must not become an invitation to industrialise the last unexploited parts of the sea, nor to justify continued harm under the guise of science or tradition.

Our Vision

A safe and predicted ocean is not built on data alone. It is built on justice, inclusion, and the courage to act. We aspire to redefine what a safe ocean means; not only safe for humans but a sanctuary for all other marine life, including highly sentient species whose protection must reflect both scientific understanding and ethical responsibility.

We must:

- Ensure that ocean prediction leads to protection, not exploitation.
- Create a safe ocean for all life where equity, inclusion and access are key elements that cannot be ignored.
- Ensure that ocean science is co-created — integrating Indigenous and local knowledge, lived experience, and interdisciplinary research as essential, not supplementary, and not misused to justify activities that undermine biodiversity protection.
- Protect and restore ocean ecosystems by confronting the systems driving ocean degradation, including pressures on keystone and migratory species critical to ocean health.

Our Demands

The greatest threat to a safe and predicted ocean is not lack of knowledge but lack of action and accountability.

We must

- Ensure meaningful, respectful youth inclusion in decision-making so young people worldwide can truly understand, engage with, and shape ocean policy.
- Prioritise to include and put equal importance to a diverse set of knowledge systems, including indigenous and local knowledge.
- Protect marine resources as important drivers, infrastructure and building blocks of the marine ecosystems, not only resources for human extraction

- Protect marine life as the foundation of ocean ecosystems, recognising that species are not merely resources for extraction, but integral, living components of ecological balance.
- Guarantee equitable access to ocean data, technology, and capacity building, especially for developing nations and frontline communities.
- Hold industries and states accountable for environmental harm, including illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, destructive coastal development, unsustainable maritime practices, and activities that threaten vulnerable and sentient marine species.
- Honestly address the planetary limits and human pressures on the ocean in a just and responsible manner, ensuring that decisions reflect both ecological science and ethical responsibility toward marine life.

Our Movement

By 2030, we will measure success not by how well we understand the ocean, but by how effectively we protect it.

- We demand commitments that are not only ambitious, but implemented, enforced, and transparent.
- We call for a step-change at the Ocean Decade Conference in Rio where words must become action and promises must become protection.
- We reject a future where the ocean is predicted for the few and exploited by the powerful.

A predicted ocean relies on the best models and data, but a safe ocean relies on the courage to act on those predictions, especially when they challenge existing practices and interests.

If our models forecast a storm, we don't just hold a conference about it; we reinforce the seawalls and guide ships to port.

The ocean we need cannot be built on a foundation of inequity. As we stand at this decisive moment, we must move beyond understanding to action.

The future of the ocean will not be determined by what we know, but by what we choose to do.