

DOSI Participation Report: Deep Ocean Collective Solution Accelerator

2-5 October 2023

Scripps Seaside Forum, La Jolla, California, USA

DOSI Participants

Brandon Gertz (representing DOSI), Kerry Howell (representing Challenger 150)

Vanessa Paloma Lopes, Narissa Bax, Maria Emilia Bravo, Lisa Levin, Kerry Howell, and Jeff Marlow (representing themselves or other groups alongside DOSI)

Overview

From 2-5 October, experts who work on topics relevant to deep-ocean elements of the UN Ocean Decade met at this event hosted by the Deep Ocean Observing Strategy (DOOS), the Crustal Ocean Biosphere Research Accelerator (COBRA), and the Ocean Discovery League. The goal of the meeting was to address challenges in five areas: seafloor microbial ecosystem services, inexpensive deep-sea research technology, techniques for marine spatial planning, understanding ocean mixing, and improving how deep-sea science supports the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

While DOSI members were part of teams assigned to work on many of the subjects above, our main focus as a policy-centered organization was on the final topic, referred to by the organizers as “Deepening the Decade.” Over four days, DOSI and Challenger 150 worked with representatives of Ocean Decade Programmes and Projects to plan good ways to support the Decade’s goals with deep-ocean expertise. These meetings were useful, informative, and may lead to positive outcomes. The ultimate success of the event will depend on participants following through effectively.

Specific outputs that DOSI has agreed to coordinate on:

- Assisting with a **white paper** from the deep-ocean Decade community highlighting important steps the UN Ocean Decade should support. The meeting team is currently drafting these steps. This white paper will be an important part of deep-sea-focused programs and projects' engagement at the UN Ocean Decade Conference in April 2024. This may also lead to a peer-reviewed publication.
- Helping to design a **video** advertising the importance of deep-sea research in preparation for the UN Ocean Decade Conference
- Working together with deep-ocean Decade partners to ensure that deep-ocean **satellite events** at the UN Ocean Decade Conference feature these coordinated messages.
- Showcasing important news from Deep-Ocean Decade Programmes and Projects in the Deep-Sea Round-Up
- Building on existing Challenger 150 efforts to support and connect global research
- Collaborating with the COBRA-led microbes team on a **Policy Brief** addressing deep-sea microbial ecosystem services to bring to the International Seabed Authority's March 2023 meeting.

Other Important Outcomes

- Recent DOSI policy briefs were acknowledged by a UN Ocean Decade representative as clear, informative, and helpful. The representative further suggested that some future DOSI policy briefs or information sheets could usefully target audiences beyond policymakers.

- We learned the structure of the UN Ocean Decade Conference planned for April 2024: Official discussions will focus on white papers addressing progress on each of the 'challenges' the Ocean Decade is meant to address. Co-authors for these white papers have already been selected.
- Decade Programmes and Projects will participate in the event through satellite events.
- Accelerator attendees will be working on ways to identify and support deep-ocean-focused Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) in the various ECOP networks.
- There is currently no effective hierarchy or organization for Decade Programmes and Projects. Programmes are ideally meant to be higher-level efforts with multiple projects operating beneath them. However, most Decade efforts have been approved in the category they applied for, and a large number apply to be Programmes. This means that many efforts that may be better categorized as Projects under official Decade standards are currently listed as Programmes.



DOSI members in attendance. From left to right: Brandon Gertz, Vanessa Paloma Lopes, Narissa Bax, Maria Emilia Bravo, Lisa Levin, Kerry Howell, and Jeff Marlow.



Deep-ocean Decade Programmes, Projects, Coordinating Centers, and other interested groups scheduled to participate in the Deepening the Decade session.