

## Participation Report

### DOSI at the GOBI: Making It Count Symposium (1-2 February 2023, Vancouver, CA)

#### Overview

The main goal of this symposium was to discuss ways to improve links between ocean science and policy. Discussions also focused on whether GOBI has succeeded in its mission, and on what to do now that GOBI's initial funding from the German Government is coming to an end.

While the symposium did not solve all problems of ocean science communication, Brandon found the discussions valuable. This was a good opportunity to build relationships and discuss ideas with experts like Vikki Gunn, David Johnson, Jeff Ardron, Daniel Dunn, and more. Brandon also spoke with Chris Barrio, who will now be DOSI's new Programme Officer.

The most important conclusions of the meeting were:

- Older, experienced members of the deep-ocean community have crucial knowledge about participating in policy processes. We need to pass this knowledge down to younger generations.
- The role of independent science in policy is extremely important. Policymakers trust us and view us differently than goal-driven NGOs. Our groups should work to maintain that perception.
- We should try to understand the policy implications of our science, especially when making suggestions. At the same time, we should acknowledge that policymakers are the experts on what options are politically possible.
- We should learn where and when science can have the most influence on policy.

- Experts should recognize that decisions must be made without complete information. Provide clear answers or clear statements of the limits of our knowledge. “More research” cannot always be our only recommendation.
- Ocean scientists should study the scientific questions that are important to policymakers. More connections between scientists and policymakers will make this easier.
- Personal connections and trust are the most important factors connecting policy and science.
- Experts should change the way we communicate for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. (Brandon’s videos were mentioned here by Daniel Dunn.) Clear figures and images are also very useful.
- Experts need to build connections between different policy frameworks like BBNJ and CBD.
- Our community has to identify ways to make meetings like this more diverse. Many African colleagues signed up to participate but did not arrive in Vancouver.
- GOBI has not accomplished its goal of protecting the EBSAs is helped identify, but GOBI has made many other valuable contributions. Continuing GOBI’s mission is worthwhile.

## Participants

Brandon Gertz, DOSI Director of Communications (In-person)

Lisa Levin (Speaker, online)

Kristina Gjerde (Attendee, online)

## DOSI Actions

**Brandon Gertz**, DOSI's Director of Communications, participated in-person. He joined in discussions and led a group activity.

**Lisa Levin**, DOSI's Co-Lead and Executive Team member, presented remotely on climate change governance and challenges in international waters. She argued that climate change should be factored into many policy processes.

**Kristina Gjerde**, a member of DOSI's Executive Team, attended remotely. She shared her thoughts on GOBI's future and was honored for her work creating links between science and policy.