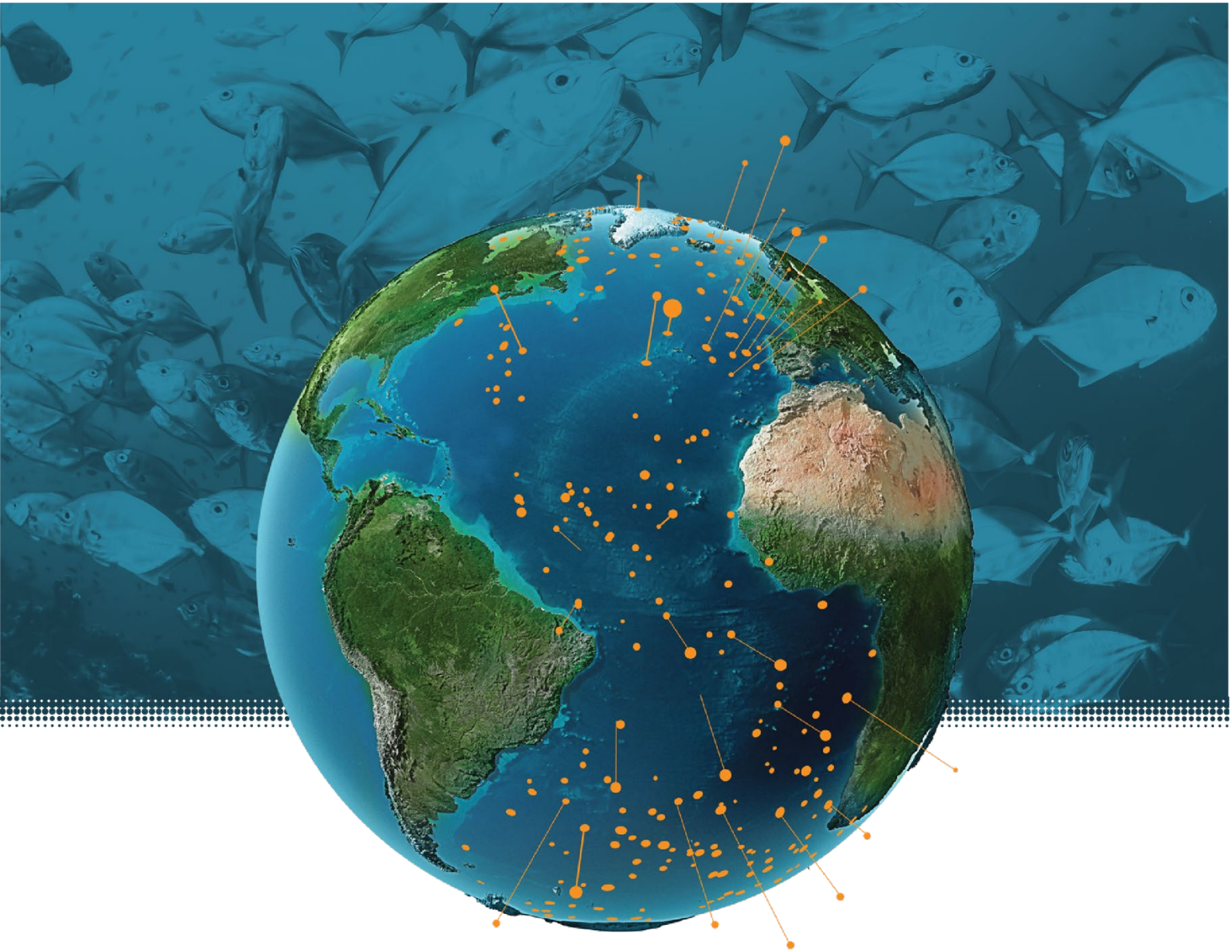




**Summary of key messages
from the Galway 10
Anniversary Celebration 4-6
July to be taken forward
during the AAORIA Forum**

Intergenerational dialogue session: Empowering our future All Atlantic Ocean Stewards and Leaders

The 2022 All-Atlantic Declaration commits the signatories to a range of collaborative initiatives and intentions designed to continuously improve the science foundations for meeting several shared priorities including, in part:

- Understanding and addressing the implications of climate change for oceans and the polar regions;
- Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems and biodiversity;
- Addressing marine pollution with a particular emphasis on plastics;
- Supporting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture;
- Coordinating Atlantic observations and seabed mapping efforts

During the Galway Statement 10 Year Anniversary event celebrating a decade of marine research cooperation along and across the Atlantic Ocean held in July 2023 in Galway, there was a focus on empowering our future Atlantic Ocean leaders through a number of Intergenerational Dialogue Sessions.

Inter-generational dialogues, in the form of hybrid groups, between experienced leaders (Discussion Coaches) and emerging talents were conducted throughout the first afternoon. The dialogues fostered conversations and innovative thinking in how to tackle the shared ocean conservation priorities listed above. The Discussion Coaches dived into new waters, allowing participating ECOPs to experience a broader range of topics and issues, fully in line with the transdisciplinary nature and knowledge required to become future ocean leaders and stewards.

The objective was to develop short *Presentations to Parliament* with concrete avenues for collaborative action to address these five priorities, and to allow ECOPs to become more familiar with experiencing *to address themselves to policy makers*. The active participation of ECOPs allowed for the exchange of innovative ideas, propose solutions and their perspectives on how science and the scientific community can better contribute to policymaking and foster pragmatic approaches to ocean stewardship.

Group one invited us to walk with the next generation into a new world full of hope and opportunity where no one is left behind on our journey to a new utopia where we don't have to worry about the climate anymore. A world where we can go back to a new normal. A world where children can play in nature which we will have restored for them. A world where young adults can feel secure and safe in their choices. A world where elderly people can relax, knowing that the next generation will be safe.

The Group proposed a **continuation of the EU's three pronged approach to Climate Justice: that is protecting people and citizens from the adverse effects of climate change, helping companies and sectors navigate this uncertain world, and fostering collaborative relationships between EU Member States through an EU-topia Bill.** This bill will redress the historical inequalities in climate change and empower polar communities to take back their future.

The EU-topia Bill would have **three components:**

1. **The bill will foster educational links between EU member states, and countries in general and polar countries by enhancing ocean literacy and climate literacy in primary, secondary, and tertiary schools.**
2. **the bill will provide a mechanism to foster professional knowledge transfer links between polar countries and EU member states at the cutting edge of climate research.**
3. **in the spirit of a just transition, and with the ethos of "leave no one behind", the bill will provide for financial compensation to polar communities affected by rising sea levels.**

Group Two looked at protecting and restoring marine ecosystems and biodiversity. They believed that in general, biodiversity and the views of ECOPs are not prioritised. The Group **presented that a solution to this would be to enhance existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and facilitate knowledge exchange within MPAs around the Atlantic to co-design a possible Atlantic high seas MPA.** This would provide an opportunity to establish real communities locally and interregional exchange around the Atlantic.

Secondly, this would **ensure that the perspectives of ECOPs are incorporated into decision making based on a *concrete intergenerational dialogue***, such as the Ocean Bridges network offers. This would provide the opportunity to truly involve ECOPs in decision making processes.

The **Third Group** looked at developing an **All-Atlantic Plastics Pilot Network.** This network, driven by **Early Career Ocean Professionals and society**, would connect research groups, existing initiatives, communities and businesses. It would be solution-oriented, inclusive, ambitious multi-disciplinary, and expansive in terms of the European Union and the All-Atlantic; bottom-up, Small Island States = Large Ocean Nations.

This would be enabled through different mechanisms including projects and initiative, for example via a Coordination and Support Action to support research, education, innovation, industry. This would empower Youth, ECOPs and Communities.

Group Four delved into Supporting Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture. They were excited to share so many ideas with us including **a proposal for a Transformative Framework for Aquaculture.** Limit pollution, meet increased

demand for marine products, and overcome negative societal perceptions. Must balance economy, society, environment, while furthering progress to help reach the Sustainable Development Goals. Part of the answer to this are new technologies that integrate NBS e.g. Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture; representation across regions; policy/regulation needs to be actioned for improved uptake. To achieve this, the Group proposed a **Network of Regional and Local Living Labs**. This would **involve local communities, youth, and all actors in regions**. *Important that failures and successes are shared across the Atlantic*. By 2026 the All-Atlantic Alliance will have co-created and founded an operative and interconnected network of living labs to integrate youth, local communities, and indigenous groups to promote sustainable aquaculture.

Group Five presented their project which focuses on the Evaluation of Seabed Resources (ESRA) in the mid-Atlantic, specifically BBNJ areas along mid Atlantic ridge. **The Group proposed the creation of an Atlantic Pilot in the mid-Atlantic ridge to search for areas with high biodiversity and mineral resources. There are gaps in bathymetry data and large potential for the exploitation mineral resources. The project would evolve over three steps:**

- Seabed mapping and identification of relevant areas;
- Habitat mapping and sampling;
- Value assessment and open-source data.

This would be a multinational project with stakeholder involvement in assessment, public engagement, university involvement, and the ECOP community.

Next steps

It was clear that the Galway anniversary event's inclusion of intergenerational dialogues also emphasised the importance of involving early career professionals in shaping the future of ocean research and conservation, ensuring a more sustainable and resilient future for the Atlantic Ocean and its ecosystems. **Many ECOPs expressed their hope to see greater levels of inclusion going forward and stand ready to play an active role in the further implementation activities of AAORIA.**

The upcoming All-Atlantic Forum in November will be one occasion to bring them actively 'on-board' and, in more general terms, ECOPs could in a more systematic way become part of policy design and the AAORIA implementation activities, with a focus on how to create an environment of communication with policy makers, as well as amongst ECOPs, and a broad range of different stakeholders along and across the Atlantic as one of the most powerful tools to interact.

