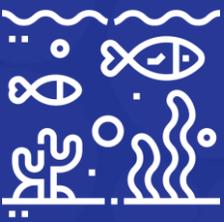




# EU Mission: “Restore our Ocean and Waters”



Plenary session #2

Ecosystem Conservation



**Gary Kett**

*All-Atlantic Ocean  
Youth Ambassador for  
Ireland*



**Sigi Gruber**

*Active Senior Advisor to the  
European Commission*

5<sup>th</sup> Symposium | Accra, Ghana | 24 – 28 October 2022





# EU MISSIONS

RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS

BY 2030



Opportunities for collaboration & synergies

Gary Kett

All-Atlantic Ocean  
Youth Ambassador

&

Sieglinde Gruber

Senior advisor to the  
European Commission

@GruberSigi



twitter

@GaryFKett

#EUmissions

#HorizonEU

#MissionOcean

#geoblueplanetsymposium





# What is the Mission to Restore our Ocean and Waters

The Mission is a collective endeavor to achieve shared goals

The Mission is a hub of connectivity, cooperation and collaboration

The Mission is a bridge for communities, stakeholders and researchers to co-create, co-design and co-implement projects and actions

The Mission is a joint commitment to restore our Ocean and our Waters



## Objectives & Targets

### Protect & Restore Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems & Biodiversity

- Protect at least 30% of EU's sea area by 2030
- Restore 25,000 km of rivers
- Contribute to marine nature restoration targets

### Prevent & Eliminate Pollution

- Reduce plastic litter at sea by at least 50%
- Reduce microplastics entering environment by at least 30%
- Reduce nutrient losses and chemical pesticides by at least 50%

### Carbon-Neutral and Circular Sustainable Blue Economy

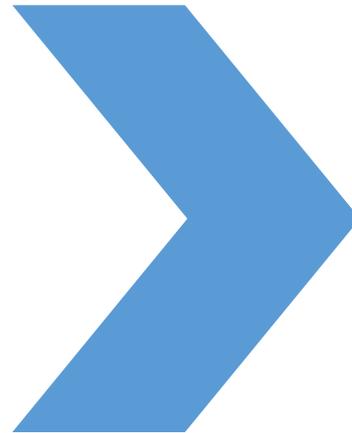
- Net zero maritime emissions
- Zero carbon aquaculture
- Low carbon multi-purpose use of marine space



# Enablers

## Two cross-cutting enablers to facilitate objectives

### Digital Ocean Knowledge System



Digital Infrastructure Service

Digital Twin Ocean

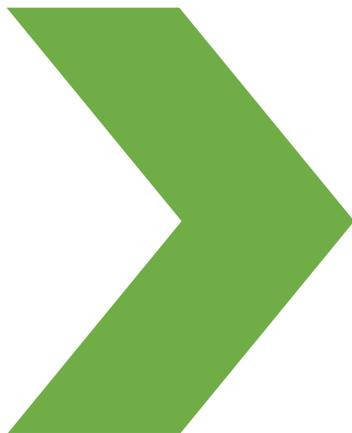
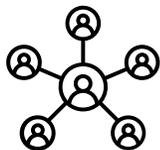


EMODnet  
European Marine Observation and Data Network



Data Analytics

### Public Engagement & Mobilisation



Participation & Democracy

Citizen Science & Literacy



Stewardship & Volunteering



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# Lighthouses



Arctic & Atlantic  
sea basin



Baltic &  
North sea basin



Mediterranean  
sea basin



Danube river  
basin

- Are sites which pilot, demonstrate, test and upscale Mission relevant Research & Innovation activities
- Act as hubs and platforms for transformative innovations
- Integrate existing and new knowledge, local enterprise, citizen engagement, youth involvement and public outreach
- Develop and deploy technological, social, business and governance innovations



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# Protect & Restore Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems & Biodiversity

## Arctic & Atlantic sea basin



## Danube river basin



### Already existing:

- All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance
- Atlantic Action Plan 2.0
- OSPAR
- Copernicus global
- NWS79
- IBI ocean monitoring and forecasting centres

### Already existing:

- Macroregional strategy for the Danube river basin<sup>77</sup>
- International Commission for the Protection of the Danube river<sup>78</sup>

## Mediterranean sea basin



### Already existing:

- Union for Mediterranean
- BlueMed initiative
- UNEP-MAP
- PRIMA
- Western Med sea-basin strategy
- Copernicus Black-Sea and Med Sea Ocean monitoring and forecasting centres

## Prevent & Eliminate Pollution





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## Baltic & North sea basin



Carbon-Neutral and  
Circular Sustainable Blue  
Economy



SOCLIMPACT



**BANOS**

Baltic and North Sea Coordination  
and Support Action

### Already existing:

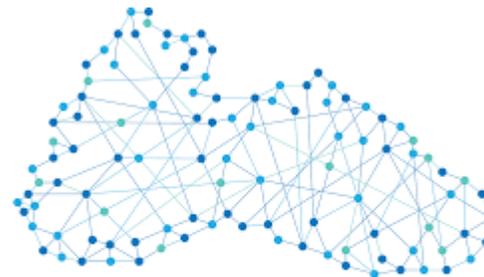
- HELCOM82
- BANOS Baltic and North Sea Co-operation
- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
- Copernicus, Arctic and Baltic ocean Monitoring and forecasting centre

XOCEAN



**Blue-Cloud**

Piloting innovative services for Marine Research & the Blue Economy



CONNECT  BLACK SEA



**Sea  
Forest  
Life**

CO<sub>2</sub>





# Case study – Oyster aquaculture

An **example** of ONE local initiative endorsing the charter

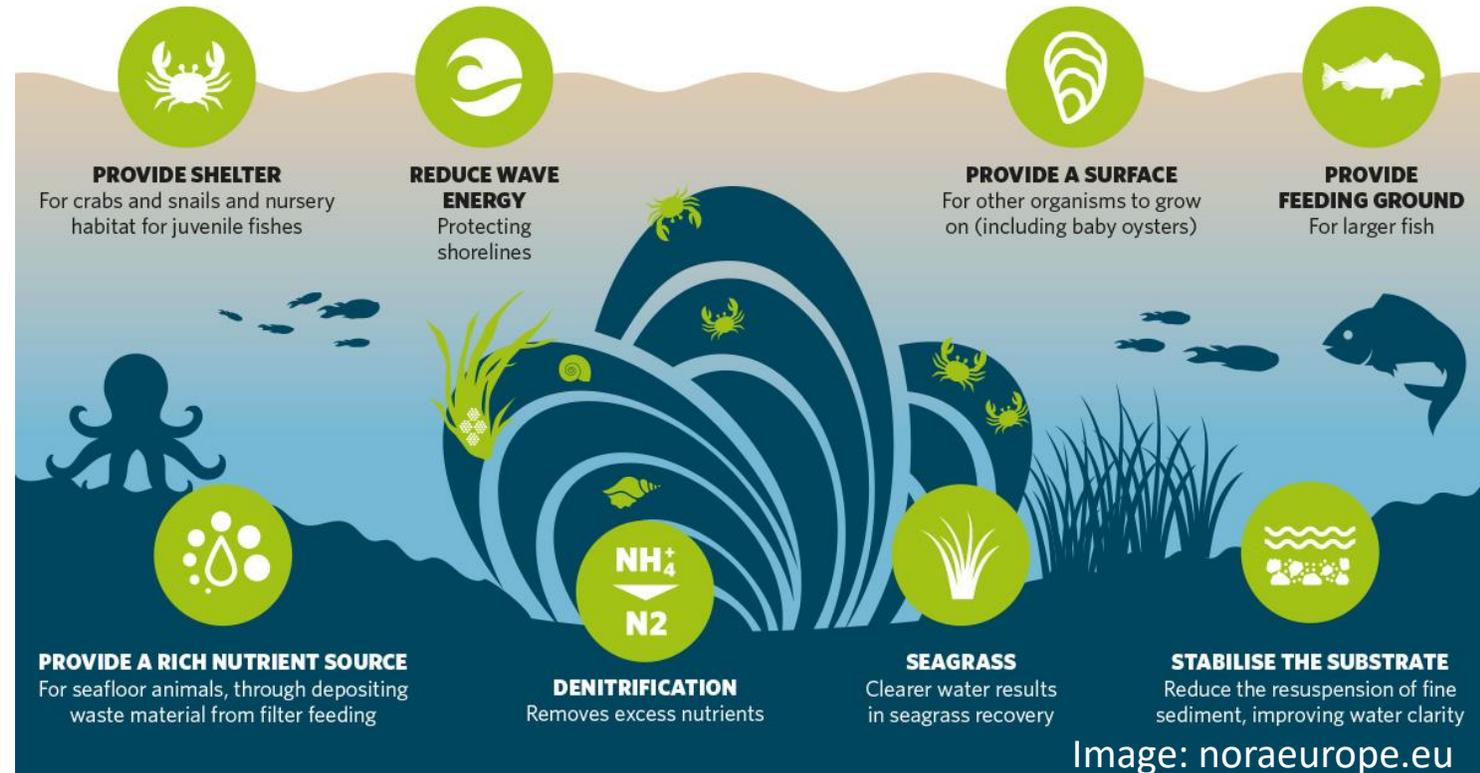
Gary Kett, PhD. Zoology

Pacific oyster *Crassostrea gigas* health and pathogen development in a changing marine environment



Provides a wide range of ecosystem services

- Reduces eutrophication
- Sequesters carbon
- Boosts biodiversity





## Pacific oyster (*C. gigas*) Blue Economy in Ireland

- > 10,000 tonnes annually
- > €45 Million euro annually
- > 1,000 people directly employed
- Cultural heritage preservation
- Offers valuable resource for bioeconomy
- Nature-based solutions for food security and coastal protection

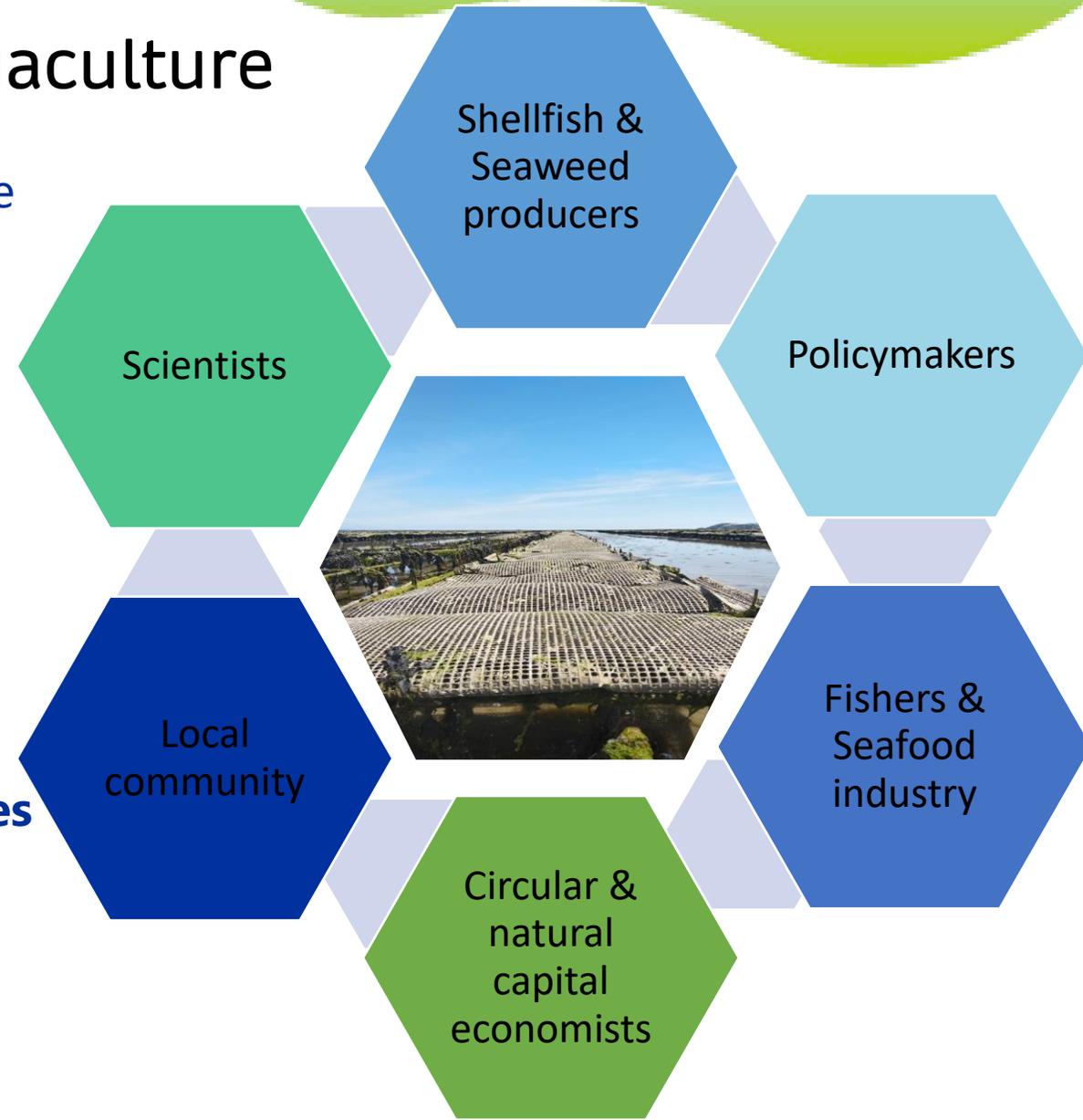


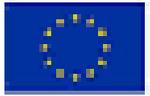


# Stakeholders of Irish shellfish aquaculture

To boost the sustainability, growth and cohesion of the local low-trophic aquaculture sector:

- A **holistic, systems-thinking approach** is used to bring together all actors within the sector.
- In-person meetings, workshops, symposia are designed to **open dialogue, share knowledge and explore solutions**.
- Challenges, **obstacles and issues are explored** and addressed.
- Horizon-scanning explores **synergies, best-practices and opportunities** in international systems.
- Innovative solutions are **co-designed, co-implemented and co-owned!**





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# The All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance (AANChOR)

- An inclusive All-Atlantic community of stakeholders
- Science Diplomacy built upon Galway and Belém statements
- 6 Ambitious long-term Joint Pilot Actions
  - All-Atlantic Ocean Capacity Development and Training
  - All-Atlantic Aquaculture Technology & Innovation Platform
  - All-Atlantic Data Enterprise 2030
  - All-Atlantic Blue Schools Network
  - All-Atlantic Marine Research Infrastructure Network
  - All-Atlantic Marine Biotechnology Initiative

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RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS



An **example** of ONE global collaboration endorsing the charter

## ALL-ATLANTIC OCEAN RESEARCH FORUM 2022

31 MAY - 2 JUNE Scientific Event

Brasilia, Brazil

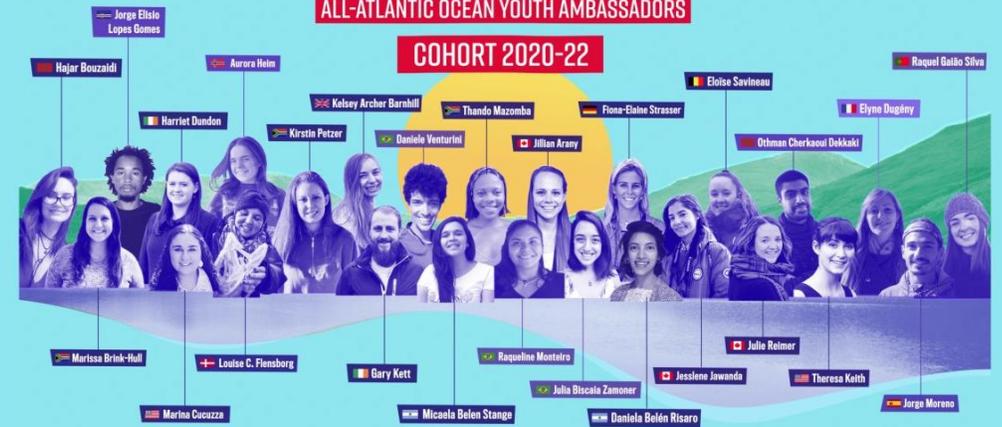
12 - 14 JULY Ministerial Event

Washington D.C., United States of America



### ALL-ATLANTIC OCEAN YOUTH AMBASSADORS

#### COHORT 2020-22



[www.allatlanticocean.org](http://www.allatlanticocean.org)

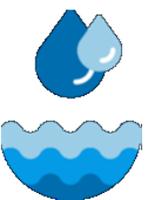


# How to get involved

- The Mission will **develop and demonstrate innovative technological, social, business and governance solutions**.
- The scope of the Mission combines **new forms of governance** and cooperation and **a new way of reaching out to citizens** and getting them on board, including **young people**.
- **EU and non-EU countries**, regions and a wide range of public and private sector **stakeholders** will also need to get involved, to help ensure we make real impact, together.
- **Each one of us can co-design, co-implement and co-monitor** this Mission by participating in campaigns and other activities.
- Endorse the **Mission Charter**, a commitment to cooperate and align resources and a tool to mobilize stakeholders, gain traction and ensure timely delivery of actions.

Find Your  
EU Funding Programme  
for the  
Environment

*Supporting the environment  
under the  
2021-2027 multiannual  
financial framework and  
NextGenerationEU*





# Earth observations

- Observing, predicting and monitoring climate change
- Monitoring pollutants and Harmful Algal Blooms
- MPA, Marine spatial planning
- Monitoring of ecosystems, industry, impacts, opportunities
- All GEO Blue Planet activities:
  - Fishing
  - Marine Litter
  - Coastal Flooding
  - Sargassum
  - Eutrophication
  - Oil Spill
  - Climate Adaptation

Digital Twin Ocean



# Get onboard!

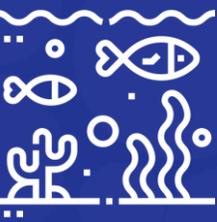
- **Join the commitment to restore our Ocean and Waters**
- **Endorse the Mission Ocean and Waters Charter**
- Reach out to identify synergies to your work
- What stage is your project at, and where would you like it to be?
- Where can we help each other?
- What is the greatest challenge your project faces in development?
- **What is the biggest change you would like to see?**

## Questions?

Thoughts?

Discussion? Queries?





5<sup>th</sup> Symposium | Accra, Ghana | 24 – 28 October 2022



Inspiring  
examples

