



International Council of Associations for Science Education

Welcome from the IOLN: Celebrating collaboration for an Ocean-Literate Society

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Irish Ocean Literacy Network (IOLN)

22nd June 2026





**Céad míle fáilte go
hOileán na hÉireann!**



Irish
Ocean
Literacy
Network



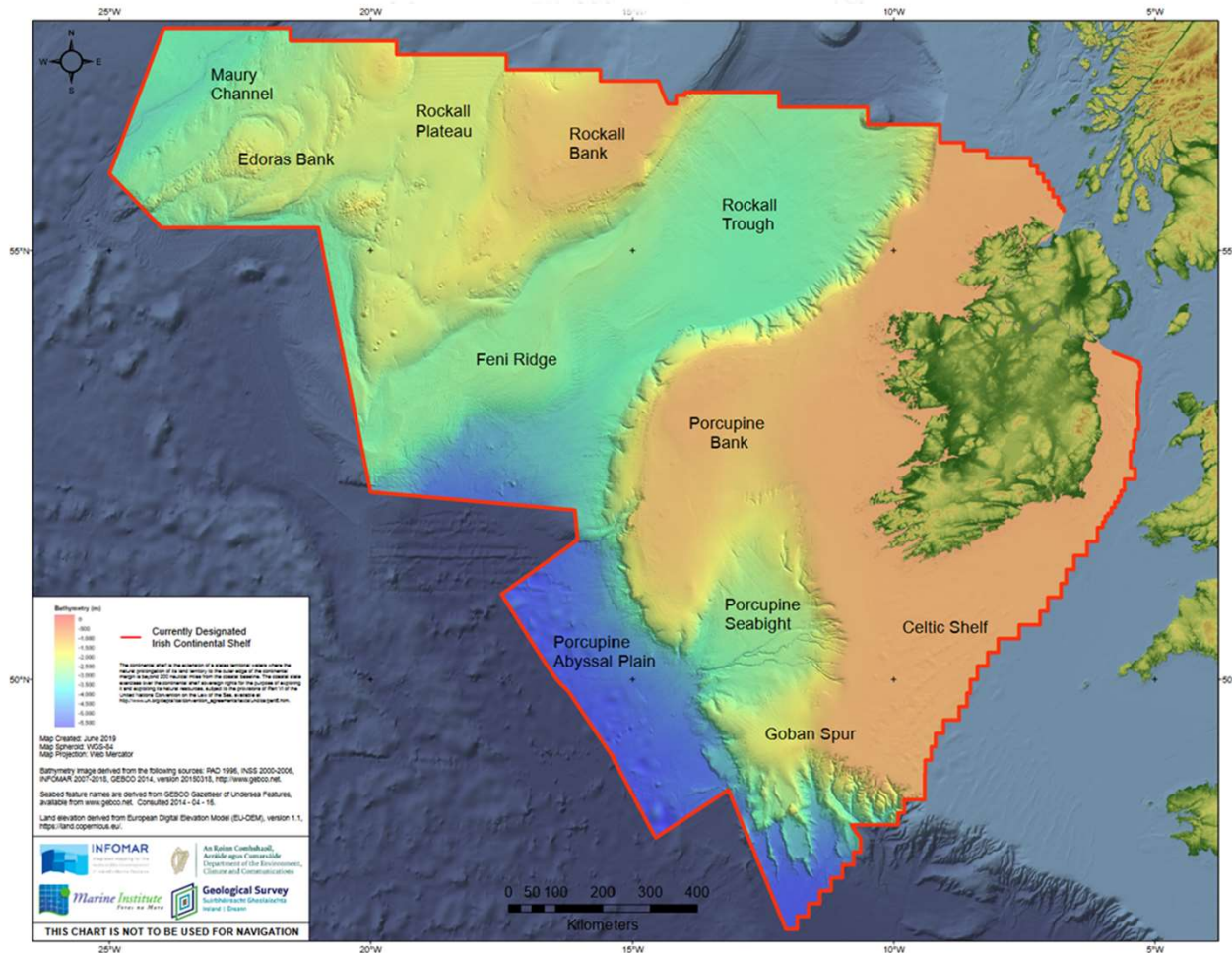
International Council of Associations for Science Education

ICASE 8TH WORLD CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION
OFFICIAL BOOK LAUNCH — CORK, IRELAND 2026



An tsáile san fhuil
"Salt in the blood"

The real map of Ireland



- One of the largest marine territories in the EU.
- Includes Atlantic Ocean, Irish Sea & Celtic Sea.
- ~40% of our population live <5km from the coast

STATISTICS (from The Marine Institute)

Land area: 84,421 km²

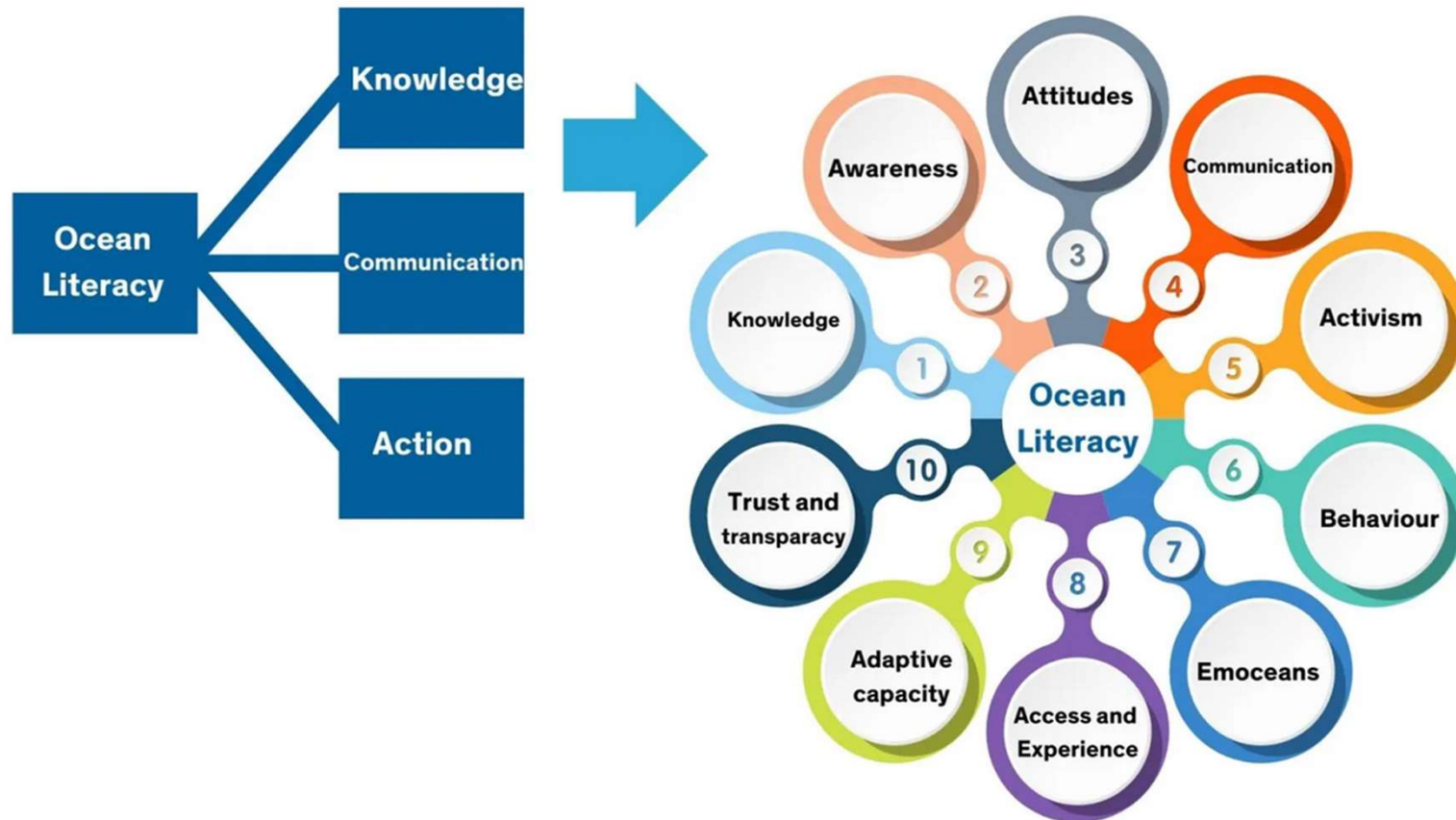
Coastline: ~7,711 km

Marine territory: >880,000 km²

Ocean literacy is ...an outcome.

A society that understands, values and cares
for the ocean, making decision sand
behaving in ways to ensure a healthy ocean,
to sustain all life – current and future.

Evolution of ocean literacy (McKinley *et al.* 2023)



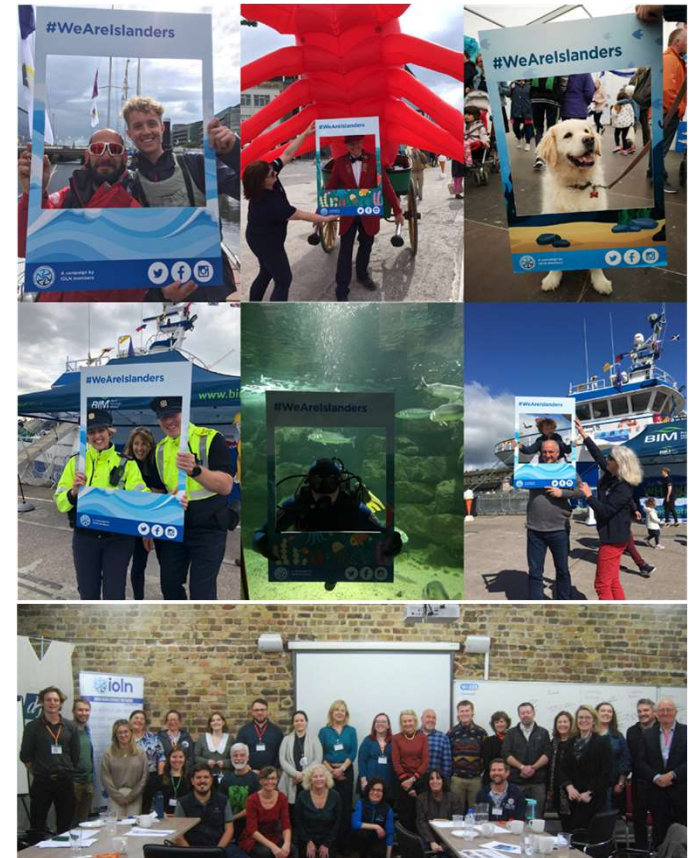


Irish
Ocean
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OUR ORIGINS

- EU project “**Sea for Society**” (2012–2015) identified a need.
- Established in **2016** as an informal network.
- **All-island** approach.
- Supported by the **Marine Institute, BIM** & later through **EU PREP4BLUE** funding.
- Secretariat based in **Galway Atlantaquaria** between **2018-2024**.
- **External review** conducted in 2021 to review structure and actions of the Network.



What is the IOLN?



Mckinley et al., (2023). The evolution of ocean literacy: A new framework for the UN Ocean Decade and beyond

- A network of practitioners who care for and connect with the ocean.
- We promote ocean literacy, helping people understand how the ocean affects our lives and how our actions affect the ocean.
- Our members use all dimensions of ocean literacy, from knowledge and awareness to emotion, communication, access and action, to inspire more informed and responsible relationships with the sea.

Who is the IOLN?



Gerard O'Donnell
Paddle Fish Ltd
Sean Rickard
Abdul Majed Sajib
Ed Sheldon
Alba Tavares
Lucy Taylor
Katerina Zouboulakis

Adriana Alcade
Ruth Brennan
Easkey Britton
Derek Cassidy
David Thompson
Dr Maggie Duff-Garvey
John Evans
Mairead Hennessey

John Joyce
Claire Kelly
Soli Levi
Patricia McHugh
Siobhán McLoughlin
Rita Melia
Lia Philcox
Glenn Nolan



Regional Meetings



Regional Meetings

- Promote dialogue
- Focus on local issues
- In partnership with local groups, projects or councils
- In English and Irish
- 12+ events to date



International collaborations





OUR MISSION

The mission of the Network is to cultivate and nurture a sustainable community of ocean literate citizens, enabling seamless collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the effective coordination of marine outreach and ocean literacy endeavours throughout the island.

ICASE: Marine Strand



Cork, June 2026



We hope everyone leaves this conference having:

- Learned something new 🌐
- Met someone new 🤝
- Or been inspired to do something new 💡

Go raibh maith agaibh!

