



**MERCATOR
OCEAN**
INTERNATIONAL

Operating a digital ocean for
science, policies and society

PRESS KIT

About Mercator Ocean International (MOi)

Mercator Ocean International (MOi) is a non-profit organisation committed to **building a science-based Digital Ocean for supporting the conservation and the sustainable use of our oceans and seas**. MOi delivers an operational digital description of marine environments worldwide and helps organisations implement community and institutional programmes, projects and initiatives. It provides expert tools and services to catalyse solutions for major ocean-related environmental, climate and societal challenges facing our planet. It continuously fosters interactions between scientists, policy-makers, public and institutional decision-makers and the civil society.



The organisation is governed by ten shareholders from five different countries. They are leading international scientific actors and include the French CNRS, Ifremer, IRD, Météo-France and SHOM, the Italian CMCC and CNR, the British MET Office, the Norwegian NERSC, and the Spanish Puertos Del Estado.

Led by Director-General Pierre Bahurel, MOi is based in Toulouse, France and has over 100 employees.



Transforming into an intergovernmental organisation by 2025

At the One Ocean Summit organised by France in Brest in February 2022, six European states (France, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain, and the UK) showed commitment to developing European oceanographic excellence by transforming MOi into an intergovernmental body by 2025 through the "[Brest Declaration](#)".



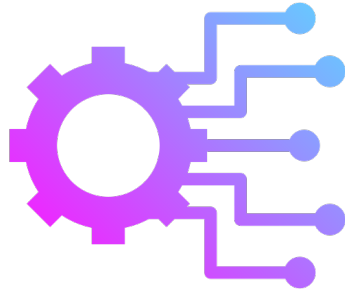
Press releases:

- [The Declaration of Brest at the One Ocean Summit: Mercator Ocean International to become an Intergovernmental organisation](#)
- [Transformation of Mercator Ocean International into an intergovernmental organisation](#)



What we do

MOi has developed complex ocean simulation systems (numerical models) based on ocean observation data (satellite and in situ). These describe, analyse and forecast the physical and biogeochemical state of the ocean at any given time, at the surface or at depth, on a global scale or for a specific zone, in real-time or delayed mode.



We **produce**
ocean data, information
& knowledge



We **develop** digital
systems and cloud
infrastructure



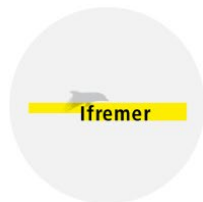
We **coordinate**
communities, projects
& programmes



Our governance

MOi is governed by its General Assembly where each of the ten shareholders are represented. The organisation is directed by its Director General under the supervision of the Management Board. The Scientific Council, with an advisory role, reports to the General Assembly.

The shareholders



Learn more 



Pierre Bahurel, Director General of MOi



Pierre BAHUREL, Director General of Mercator Ocean International, graduated from Ecole Polytechnique engineering and HEC management schools (France). He worked in space altimetry, modelling and data assimilation applied to operational oceanography and was among the founders of Mercator Ocean in 1995, and he has been leading and developing it ever since.

For twenty-five years, Pierre's main activities have been related to operational oceanography at the national, European and international level. In Europe he has brought together a large community of marine organisations to build and run the Copernicus Marine Service for the European Union. Today, the Copernicus Marine Service successfully serves thousands of users worldwide and supports the EU Commission in its blue diplomacy endeavours.

In early 2022 he led MOi to begin its transformation into an intergovernmental organisation, pushing the frontiers of digital oceanography to create the first European ocean prediction centre. Pierre has been involved since the early days in the international OceanPredict scientific group, which has been instrumental in the global development of operational oceanography. He is the chair of the expert team on operational ocean forecasting systems at IOC-UNESCO and contributes to the UNEP GEMS Ocean initiative. He is currently guiding the evolution of Mercator Ocean to support the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development by developing and running a UN Decade Collaborative Centre devoted to ocean prediction.



MOi serving EU priorities

Mercator Ocean International actively supports the European Union's (EU) agenda to work towards a green and digital transition. To meet the EU's ambitious policies and goals particularly concerning sustainable development surrounding the ocean, it is critical to understand the current state of the ocean and to predict its future. With its longstanding experience in serving the priorities of the European Commission (Directorates-Generals on Defence, Industry and Space; Maritime Affairs and Environment; Research and Innovation; External Affairs; etc.), MOi continues to take an active role in helping the EU be a first-mover in green and digital innovations.

MOi is developing and piloting the European Digital Twin Ocean, part of the EU Mission Ocean "Restore our ocean and waters by 2030", and as part of its mandate as an intergovernmental organisation dedicated to ocean prediction. MOi is also the implementer of the EU Commission's Copernicus Marine Service, the WEkEO Earth observation cloud platform (with EUMETSAT, ECMWF, EEA), and it manages the EU4OceanObs project.

European Digital Twin Ocean

The EU Commission launched the development of the European Digital Twin Ocean (DTO) at the One Ocean Summit in February 2022. A main element of the EU Mission to Restore our Ocean and Waters, the European DTO's ambition is to create a virtual replica of the ocean, revolutionising our knowledge and providing a safe and controlled environment to simulate scenarios, monitor and analyse impacts. The Digital Twin of the Ocean will integrate satellite and in situ observations, advanced modelling powered by artificial intelligence, machine learning and supercomputing, as well as socio-economic and commercial dimensions. MOi will lend its full expertise and extensive experience to the EU Commission and play a leading role in the development of the European DTO.



Copernicus Marine Service



Copernicus
Marine Service

MOi was officially entrusted by the EU Commission in 2014 to design, manage, implement and operate the Copernicus Marine Service over the multi-annual financial framework 2014-2021. This role and responsibility was renewed over the next phase of the Copernicus programme 2021 – 2027.

Copernicus Marine is one of the six thematic services of Copernicus, the EU's flagship Earth observation programme, providing free, regular and systematic authoritative information on the state of the Blue (physical), White (sea ice) and Green (biogeochemical) ocean, on a global and European scale.

Copernicus WEKEO DIAS Cloud Platform



In 2018, the EU Commission launched an initiative called DIAS (Data and Information Access Services) to provide a single access point to all Copernicus data and information, alongside processing resources, tools and other relevant data. As key organisations in the Copernicus Programme, EUMETSAT, ECMWF, EEA and MOi were selected for their long-standing experience to develop the WEKEO Copernicus DIAS service for environmental data, virtual processing environments and skilled user support.

EU4OceanObs EU Foreign Policy Action



EU4
ocean
obs

Since November 2020, MOi has been implementing the EU4OceanObs action under the EC's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments aiming to strengthen international ocean governance for the increased collection, sharing and use of ocean observation for societal benefit. Within this context, MOi has established the EU Offices of GEO's Blue Planet and the G7 FSOI aiming to catalyse essential partnerships between European and international infrastructures and programmes across the ocean observing value chain to work to deliver a coordinated fit-for-purpose system.



Working with the United Nations for “the ocean we want”

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development 2030 Agenda, a voluntary plan of 17 goals (SDGs) and associated targets devised to link human well-being -today and for future generations -with economic progress, social justice and the health of the natural environment. The Agenda includes a goal dedicated to the ocean: Sustainable Development Goal 14 ([SDG 14](#)). MOi contributes by providing reliable ocean data to measure multiple targets defined within SDG 14.



The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) coordinates the [Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development](#) 2021-2030 to promote transformational, large-scale change to advance urgent action on moving from the 'ocean we have' to the 'ocean we want'.

MOi hosts and pilots the [OceanPrediction Decade Collaborative Center](#), a UN Decade cross-cutting structure that works at the global scale to develop collaboration between Decade Actions and other key actors related to ocean prediction. [Learn more](#)



Brand guidelines

For high resolutions of the MOi logo, please visit the [press room section](#) on our website or contact the MOi communication team communication@mercator-ocean.fr.



For reasons of legibility, the logo should never be used at sizes that would make it difficult to read or identify; it should not be reduced to less than 2 cm in height.



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#WeAreAllOceanCitizens

