

UNOC-3

SURFRIDER WILL STAND FOR THE OCEAN



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A person is seen from behind, wearing a dark blue jacket. The jacket has a large white logo on the back that consists of a stylized wave and the text "SURFRIDER" and "FOUNDATION EUROPE". The person is standing in front of a modern building with large glass windows. A European Union flag is visible on the building. The scene is set in an urban environment with tall buildings in the background.

SURFRIDER AT THE HEART OF THE NEGOTIATIONS

SURFRIDER
FOUNDATION EUROPE

SURFRIDER EUROPE'S KEY DEMANDS

Not just another drop in the Ocean: Ensuring UNOC 3 delivers tangible impact for the Ocean

We, members of the Surfrider Foundation global network, have acted for decades⁽¹⁾ to protect and preserve our Ocean and the communities that depend on and enjoy the Ocean and seas over the globe.

The third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC 3), taking place in Nice (France) from June 9-13, co-hosted by France and Costa Rica, is a major opportunity to assess progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14) "Life Below Water" and advance concrete actions to protect and sustainably use the Ocean.

In the face of an increasingly alarming environmental crisis - marked by accelerating biodiversity loss, climate change, and the escalating marine pollution crisis including from plastics - UNOC 3 comes at a critical juncture. It has the potential to set the stage for transformative joint actions and international agreements, including the long-awaited Global Plastics Treaty, with negotiations set to continue in August in Geneva. Surfrider Foundation global network stands ready to contribute to this historic moment, urging governments to turn commitments into actions and accelerate their efforts!

UNOC 3: AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVERSE THE TREND FOR A HEALTHY OCEAN FREE OF PLASTICS IN THE LEAD-UP TO GENEVA

Surfrider Foundation global network has gathered plastic pollution data as the main type of waste impacting our ocean, seas and blue spaces across the world, both visible (macro-plastics) and invisible (microplastics and nanoplastics). This data has served as a foundation for advocating bold, science-based policies. But NGOs cannot address the crisis alone. During the same decades, plastic pollution has persisted due to an increase in global production and a lack of ambition from policy-makers and the private sector.

- Plastic pollution has been documented to harm **more than 700 marine species, including over 90% of seabirds**, through ingestion, entanglement, and habitat disruption. By 2050, 99% of seabird will have ingested plastic⁽²⁾ ;
- Reaching **460 Mt in 2019**, global plastic production is expected to **triple by 2060, and more than a half will end up in landfills**⁽³⁾ ;
- Plastics contain more than **16,000 known chemicals**, with a quarter of plastic chemicals being known to be hazardous, and 66% having no available hazard data. To date, only 6% of plastic chemicals are currently regulated globally ;
- Microplastics are present in our **organs**, from our lungs, livers and brain, including in placenta with 100% of **placenta** tests samples showing contamination⁽⁴⁾, this raises critical health concern that can rise chances to develop diseases including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and many cancers⁽⁵⁾;
- Plastic pollution exacerbates the impacts of other major crises affecting the ocean, including biodiversity loss and climate change (see below). As a result, it undermines the ocean's overall resilience and its ability to continue providing vital ecosystem services for present and future generations. These services range from carbon sequestration and energy generation to food provision, recreation, and overall human health and well-being.
- Meanwhile, the right to a clean and healthy environment is increasingly recognized as a human right. Yet, plastic pollution severely undermines this right by exposing nearby communities – including informal waste pickers at the forefront - and humans to toxic emissions and long-term ecological harm.

Given the wide-ranging impacts of marine pollution, it was among the first environmental crises to be acknowledged and addressed within international frameworks. Yet, we remain far from resolving it. Despite the scale and urgency of this issue, plastic pollution has been largely absent from the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) agenda for months—an omission that must be urgently rectified and reinforced in the UNOC 3 Declaration.

Plastics must stay a priority in particular on the international stage. The fifth session of negotiations, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, concluded in December 2024 without reaching a final agreement.

Despite significant progress in earlier sessions, negotiations stalled due to opposition from major plastic-producing countries. Plastics must be a key priority of UNOC before the next round of negotiations – which includes reinforcing the wording on this matter in the UNOC 3 Declaration - to keep the momentum and ratchet-up the ambition for an effective and bold Treaty.

To this end, Surfriders call Member States to reaffirm their will for an ambitious Treaty that:

- **Stops pollution at source ;**
- **Protects the environment and human health** from all adverse effects and risks related to plastics – including microplastics and nanoplastics – in a comprehensive life cycle approach based on the precautionary principle;
- **Integrates the full life cycle of plastics**, from plastics production and consumption to marine litter for an efficient Plastics Treaty;
- **Sets a global plastic reduction target of 75% by 2050** in alignment with the Paris Agreement, with key legally binding pollution prevention measures that apply to all State Parties;
- **Aligns the entire plastics value chain with respect for human rights and social and environmental justice** by minimizing health and environmental impacts;
- **Includes the elimination of the most problematic plastic products and chemicals** of concern present in plastics;
- **Promotes zero waste, reuse and refillable systems**, encourages the development of eco-design and supervises the development of the right alternatives.

TIME TO BREAK SILOS AT UNOC 3: ADOPTING A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO ADDRESS THE TRIPLE CRISIS

Science is clear: we are facing a Triple Planetary crisis. Climate change, loss of biodiversity and increasing pollution including from plastics, all driven by human activities, represent an unprecedented threat to the Ocean, nature, blue communities, present and future generations, human rights, health and well-being.

These interconnected threats call for a common and bold response which includes stopping pollution, including plastic pollution at its source.

Plastic pollution is fueling the climate and biodiversity crises, with plastics production contributing to 3.4% of global GHG emissions in 2019(6) and occurring at all stages of the plastic life cycle. With 99% of plastics being made from fossil feedstocks, plastic waste appears as another major pollution generated by the fossil fuel industry. Moreover, plastic is increasingly being leveraged by big oil and gas as a key area for growth and revenue.

Similarly, impacts on marine biodiversity occur throughout the life cycle of plastics, from the offshore extraction of oil and gas to microplastics being added to products and released into the environment, including through abrasion, shedding, spillage, dumping and leakages. Macroplastics, including single-use plastics, result in the deaths of millions of marine animals each year due to entanglement, suffocation, or ingestion of plastics(7). In addition, plastics pollution contributes to habitat destruction, through chemical and microbial transfer, harming ecosystems like coral reefs and mangroves(8) that play a key role in climate change adaptation.

Instead of a siloed approach, UNOC 3 offers the chance to adopt a global, and holistic approach to preserve the Ocean and address all these crises through biodiversity-positive solutions, policy ambition and political will. To this end, Surfriders reiterate the urgency to:

- **Adopt science-based measures** while recognising citizen science and indigenous knowledge ;
- **Immediately ban offshore oil and gas exploration and exploitation** and to cease all grants and subsidies for fossil energy sources ;
- **Reduce emissions globally**, decrease global energy demand, and develop marine renewable energy to mitigate the effects of climate change and diversify the sources of low-carbon energy production. These developments must not be at the expense of biodiversity and natural heritage, must not undermine protection efforts and must be carried out in dialogue with civil society ;
- **Preserve and restore coastal and marine ecosystems**, notably blue carbon ecosystems, that deliver a wide array of co-benefits in addition to their role in climate action ;

..../....

- Promote and Integrate in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) **ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions** instead of heavy engineering solutions to adapt to climate change or sequester carbon;
- **Ensure by 2030 at least 30 per cent of marine coastal areas are effectively conserved and managed**, including at least 10% under effective restoration (30x30);
- **Accelerate adaptation of coastal territories and islands** to climate change notably through the deployment and investment in nature-based solutions and the exchange of best practices, notably through the Ocean Rise & Resilience Coalition to be launched ahead of UNOC 3 ;
- **Transition our blue economy globally to a low impact**, pollution free and generative blue economy, starting with putting an end to all harmful and destructive activities happening at sea and on the coastlines and reduce all impacts of land-based activities which severely impact our ocean ;
- **Agree on a global Moratorium to ban deep-sea mining ;**
- **Ratify the BBNJ** (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction) Treaty as an urgent matter and at the latest by the end of 2025 ;
- **Adopt without delay a ban on the use and carriage of heavy fuel oil (HFO)** by shipping in the Arctic to address HFO spill risk and reduce black carbon emissions and drastically reduce the impacts of shipping on the marine environment from the loss of containers, waste generation to its noise and GHG emissions.



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2. [15] Van Maanen, M. A., et al. The Challenges of Plastics in the Marine Environment. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 112, no. 38. pp 11600-11605. 2015.
3. *Perspectives mondiales des plastiques : scénarios d'action à l'horizon 2060*, OCDE 2022
4. Plasticenta: First evidence of microplastics in human placenta, Antonio Ragusa, et al. *Raman Microspectroscopy Detection and Characterisation of Microplastics in Human Breastmilk*, Antonio Ragusa et al., 2002
5. Symeonides et al. An Umbrella Review of Meta-Analyses Evaluating Associations between Human Health and Exposure to Major Classes of Plastic-Associated Chemicals. *Ann Glob Health* 2024; 90 (1): 52, 1-54.
6. OECD. *Plastics: The Environmental Crisis*. August 18, 2022.
7. European Commission. *Microplastics: A European Overview*. JRC Scientific and Technical Reports. 2017
8. Suyadi & Manullang. Distribution of plastic debris pollution and its implications on mangrove vegetation. *Mar. Pollut. Bull.* 160, 111642 (2020).

YOUR CONTACTS ON SITE



Nathalie Van den Broeck
President of Surfrider Foundation Europe

An oceanographer by training, Nathalie Van den Broeck was an employee of Surfrider before joining the Board of Directors. She is currently serving her second term as **president of Surfrider Foundation Europe**. Nathalie sits on the CESE (Economic, Social and Environmental Council) representing Surfrider. She co-authored the opinion paper titled “Making UNOC-3 a decisive step for Ocean protection.”

Lisa Pastor
Advocacy Coordinator for France and International Affairs

Lisa works to advance French and international legislative frameworks by regularly meeting with decision-makers (ministries, parliamentarians) to push forward the ocean cause across all key Surfrider themes. Through various events organized during the conference, she will facilitate dialogue between civil society and policymakers. She will carry our advocacy messages at the heart of the Blue Zone throughout the UNOC, in preparation for our presence at the upcoming Plastic Treaty negotiations this August.



Gaëlle Haut
European Advocacy Officer

Usually based at our Brussels office, Gaëlle **maintains constant contact with European decision-makers**. She has actively participated in civil society advocacy on numerous laws (such as the Single Use Plastic Directive). Currently, she is particularly following the Ocean Pact, a European roadmap aimed at establishing integrated and coherent ocean governance within the European Union, addressing environmental, economic, and social challenges related to the sea.

Eric Morbo
Director of Surfrider Foundation Europe

Since October 2024, Eric Morbo has been the director of Surfrider Foundation. He will be available to answer all questions related to Surfrider and the NGO's major priorities.



Sarah Hatimi
Head of Education and Awareness Department

Sarah leads the team responsible for Surfrider's awareness and educational project development. Her talent? Speaking to the general public and inspiring citizens about what they can do to protect the Ocean. She is **in charge of coordinating the activities offered across the various spaces where we will be present**: exhibitions, awareness workshops, and coordinating inspiring pitches presented by partner associations.

SIDE EVENTS : KEY MOMENTS TO FOSTER DIALOGUE BETWEEN DECISION-MAKERS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Ocean Dialogue with Civil Society – Breaking the Ice: First Reactions and Global Echoes of the European Ocean Pact

 **17 Saturday, June 7, 12.30pm until 13.30pm**

 **La Baleine (Green Zone) - Next Generation Ocean Basecamp**

 **Language : French**

The Blue NGOs coalition — BirdLife Europe and Central Asia, ClientEarth, Oceana in Europe, Seas At Risk, Surfrider Foundation Europe, and WWF European Policy Office — is pleased to invite you to the Ocean Dialogue with Civil Society. This timely event, following the much-anticipated publication of the EU Ocean Pact, will bring together European decision-makers and civil society organizations for a dynamic exchange on the future of ocean governance and European action for Ocean protection.

Speakers :

- Christophe Clergeau, Member of the European Parliament (confirmed)
- Representative of the European Commission (to be confirmed)
- Agnès Pannier-Runacher, French Minister for Ecological Transition, Forest and Sea (to be confirmed)
- Gaëlle Haut, Surfrider Foundation Europe (confirmed)
- Cyrielle Goldberg, BirdLife Europe & Central Asia (confirmed)
- Nicolas Fournier, Oceana in Europe (confirmed)
- Flora McMorris, Rise Up (confirmed)
- Geneviève Pons, Europe Jacques Delors (confirmed)

Quel leadership la France doit-elle incarner pour un océan sain ?

 **17 Saturday, June 7, 2pm until 3pm**

 **La Baleine (Green Zone) - Next Generation Ocean Basecamp**

 **Language : French**

A cross-party panel of French parliamentarians. This one-hour event aims to **highlight France's role and leadership in the fight against marine pollution**, from the national framework—five years after the AGECL law—to its international positioning, particularly in the negotiations on the treaty against plastic pollution. The event is intended to be interactive and open, with balanced speaking time, questions from the public and youth organizations, and a clear desire to generate **concrete proposals to be shared within the framework of the UNOC**.

Speakers :


- Philippe Bolo, Member of French Parliament
- Nathalie Van den Broeck, CESE
- Stéphane Delautrette, Member of French Parliament
- Marine Bonavita, lobby officer, Zero Waste France)
- Lisa Pastor, lobby officer, Surfrider Foundation Europe)

Program:

- France, a driving force in the fight against marine pollution
- France's role in the negotiations on the plastic treaty
- The Anti-waste and circular economy law: five years later, where do we stand?
- The deposit system: a way for France to go further to meet its goals?

Fighting marine pollution, including plastic pollution, through innovative international actions – UNOC 3

 **Tuesday, June 10, 10.30am until 11.45 am**

 **Room 5 (Blue Zone)**

 **Language : English**


Organized by Surfrider Foundation Europe, in collaboration with the Marine Environment Laboratory of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

This high-level event will demonstrate **how ambitious global environmental policies, innovative technologies, international networks, and capacity building** can jointly lead to a pollution-free ocean.

Speakers:

- Rafael Mariano Grossi, director general of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)
- Franz Tattenbach Capra, Minister of the environment of Costa Rica
- Heidi Savelli, programme officer at UNEP, Global Partnership on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution
- Christina Dixon, Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)
- Bethanie Carney Almroth, The Scientific coalition for an effective plastics treaty
- Martin Adams, Head of the Environment Department, European Environment Agency
- Gaëlle Haut, Lobby officer, Surfrider Foundation Europe
- Florence Descroix-Comanducci, Director, IAEA Marine Environment Laboratories
- Pierre Bahurel, General director, Mercator Ocean International
- Marc Metian, Research Scientist, IAEA Marine Environment Laboratories
- Niall McDonough, Director of Policy, Information, and Research Services, NORMAN Network

Perspectives from Mediterranean civil society on the plastic crisis

 **Tuesday, June 10, 10.15am until 11.30am**

 **La Baleine (Green Zone) - Next Generation Ocean Basecamp**

 **Language : English**


This event will highlight the **experiences and lessons learned from the Mediterranean region** on the occasion of Mediterranean Day. It will offer a dynamic exchange between NGOs, community leaders, and local stakeholders who are implementing innovative and concrete solutions against plastic pollution in the region.

Speakers:

- Greg Lecoeur, photographer
- Lucile Courtial, executive secretary, Beyond Plastic Med
- Richard Semperé, director of the Ocean Science Institute (AMU), oceanographer, organic geochemist
- Lefteris Arapakis, co-founder and director of ENALEIA
- Robin Degron, Director, Plan Bleu
- Amjed Khiareddine, Project manager, Notre Grand Bleu

International action to end plastic pollution from Busan to Nice and Geneva: what can citizens and NGOs do to accelerate the negotiations?

 Tuesday, June 10, 12pm until 1pm

 **La Baleine (Green Zone) - Next Generation Ocean Basecamp**

 **Language : English**

An open discussion space where **citizens, civil society, and experts can decode the real stakes of international negotiations**, particularly around the future plastic treaty (INC 5.2). This exchange will demonstrate how grassroots initiatives can influence international efforts to end plastic production and propose ambitious actions at the source.

Speakers:

- Lisa Pastor, Surfrider Foundation Europe
- Muriel Papin, No Plastic in my Sea
- Andrés del Castillo, CIEL
- Groupe CYMG du PNUE (name to confirmed)
- Coalition de Scientifiques pour le Traité Plastique (name to confirmed)
- Meike Schutzek, Ocean. Now!
- Nathalie Van den Broeck, president of Surfrider Foundation Europe

Program:

- Presentation of the OceanNow exhibition on the impacts of marine pollution
- Overview of the key stages of the plastic treaty and latest negotiations
- What role do international NGOs play? What are their demands? Do they have a place in the negotiations?
- How can youth organizations engage with negotiators? What are their demands?
- What role does science play in this geopolitical context?
- Is the voice of the Ocean — the sad and ultimate repository of our planet — being heard in the negotiations? What are your expectations for UNOC?



CAN'T You
SEE?

SURFRIDER,
A UNIFYING NGO FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

THE UNIVERSAL BIG SWIM

On the eve of the official opening of the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC), Surfrider Foundation Europe is organizing a symbolic and unifying event: the **Big Swim**, a universal swim open to everyone on the Blue Beach in Nice. This grassroots action is part of the **World Ocean Day** celebrations and aims to create a connection between citizens, civil society, and ocean protection.

Why this Universal Swim ?

Surfrider Foundation aims, through this strong collective action, to **highlight the urgent need to act for the ocean**. The event seeks to bring the voices of citizens and NGOs to the UN podium ahead of crucial discussions on marine protection, particularly the negotiations of the **global plastics treaty scheduled for August 2025 in Geneva**.



Through this action, Surfrider also aims to **mobilize local communities** — associations, water sports clubs, artists, volunteers — and make Nice a rallying point for all those committed to a sustainable marine future. The Grand Bain will bring together swimmers, sports figures, political representatives, artists, and influencers in a festive atmosphere that carries a clear message: **protecting the ocean is a global priority**.



Objectives:

- **Celebrate the ocean and the sea** by bringing together citizens, NGOs, and decision-makers in a collective and festive moment,
- **Raise awareness of civil society mobilization** at the opening of the UNOC,
- Make a **strong call for ambitious ocean policies**, especially against plastic pollution
- **Strengthen synergies between local actors**, associations, and Mediterranean communities.

A festive yet committed event, designed as a strong signal to international delegations: diving together to remind that defending the ocean unites us all.



SATURDAY, JUNE 7

11am à 12pm



Blue Beach beach, Nice

SURFRIDER, AT THE NEXT GENERATION OCEAN BASECAMP : THE CIVIL SOCIETY BASE CAMP



The Ocean Basecamp is an initiative by the Oceano Azul Foundation, first established during the 2022 UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon. In 2025, it returns as the **Next Generation: Ocean Basecamp**—a larger, more ambitious, and more mature version of the original concept. This new integration reflects the growth of the initiative: stronger international partnerships, a sharper agenda, and a renewed commitment to driving ocean action from the ground up.

Originally conceived as an open, inclusive space for civil society organisations, the Ocean Basecamp provides a platform for NGOs to present their work, engage in dialogue, and build collaborative solutions for ocean protection.

In **2025, the Ocean Basecamp evolves into a truly global forum for exchange and influence**, co-organised by internationally recognised partners -Ocean and Climate Platform, RISE UP, Seas At Risk, Fauna & Flora, and Surfrider Foundation Europe- alongside the Oceano Azul Foundation. Together, they bring forward a focused and action-oriented agenda that addresses the ocean's most pressing challenges and promotes real solutions with tangible benefits for both ocean and communities.

Above all, the Next Generation: Ocean Basecamp aims to become a powerful symbol of civil society's strength. This is more than a space for visibility -it is a **platform to shape, inspire and influence the policies that define the ocean's future**. With a united voice, clear purpose and bold ideas, **civil society can and must drive meaningful, lasting change**.

What is the role of civil society in the UN Ocean Conference?

At a time when the health of the ocean is at a tipping point, **the active participation of civil society in the UN Ocean Conference is more critical than ever**.

Civil society organisations bring diverse, grounded perspectives, represent communities most affected by ocean degradation, and play a vital role in holding governments and institutions accountable. Their presence at UNOC3 helps ensure that ocean policies are not only shaped by high-level decision-makers, but also by those working on the frontlines of ocean conservation. The scale and importance of La Baleine, the Green Zone of UNOC3, will further support the inclusion of civil society organisations within the debate.

In 2025, **civil society is stepping forward with even greater clarity and purpose**. Organisations from across the globe have come together to co-create a **policy statement** that outlines **five concrete priorities for ocean action**. This collective document, grounded in real-world experience and deep commitment, is a unified call to action from those who live from and for the ocean. Its aim is to be formally submitted to the decision-makers gathered in Nice, **with the goal of directly influencing the final outcomes** of the Conference.

Civil society **enriches the conference with knowledge, urgency, and innovation** -pushing for more ambitious, inclusive, and effective solutions. Policies that are informed by civil society voices are more likely to succeed and have lasting impact. That is the vision guiding this year's participation: to ensure that civil society is not only heard, but that it shapes the very course of ocean governance for the years to come.

Surfrider Foundation Europe is delighted to offer a wide range of activities in this space starting June 2, 2025:

- **Round tables** to foster dialogue between civil society and decision-makers (see pages 8, 9, 10, and 16)
- Awareness **workshops**
- **Exhibitions** on the threats facing the Ocean
- Inspiring **pitches** by project leaders related to the Ocean
- **Film screenings**

To make the most of this unique opportunity to inspire as many people as possible, Surfrider has partnered with numerous organizations such as **Water Family, Women at Sea, Marine Stewardship Council, Planète Mer, Ma Petite Planète, Acteon, and the Fondation de la Mer.**

Day by day, visitors will be able to discover workshops on various themes:

- Tuesday, June 3: Biodiversity and Marine Protected Areas
- Wednesday, June 4: Science and Ocean
- Thursday, June 5: Sport and Ocean
- Friday, June 6: Climate Change Adaptation and Blue Carbon
- Saturday, June 7: France and Ocean Governance
- Tuesday, June 10: Ocean and Plastic Pollution



An initiative by



Supported by



From June 2 to 13

10am - 7pm



La Baleine, Exhibition Center, Nice

DEPLASTIFICATION EXHIBITION

Faced with the impact of plastic pollution on the Ocean and aquatic environments, it is necessary to provide solutions to reduce this pollution at its source.

Combining art, design, activism, education, advocacy, and expertise, this exhibition links **key data and timelines while connecting them to concrete solutions to help depollute our daily lives.**



This exhibition was born from the collaboration between:

- ANTOINE BOUDIN, designer, who lives and works in Toulon.
- OLIVIER MILLAGOU, artist, who lives and works in Bandol.

The challenges related to global warming and biodiversity collapse are inseparable from their creative processes. They guide their work toward responsible, human-scale reflections and creations.

- LE MAS BAUDRAN, an association founded in January 2023, aims to raise awareness and call attention to the challenges related to the preservation of life, climate, and landscapes for present and future generations through the promotion of artistic creation and the cross-disciplinary exchange between artists, legal experts, scientists, and activists.
- SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE, a collective of positive activists who take concrete action on the ground every day to hand down a preserved Ocean to future generations. The NGO's mission is to loudly and proudly raise the voice of the Ocean! To achieve this, Surfrider uses its scientific expertise to carry out lobbying efforts at the national and European levels, as well as to inform, raise awareness, and mobilize citizens (young and old).

From June 2 to 8: exhibition installed at the "Next Generation Ocean Basecamp" pavilion


From June 8 to 13: exhibition installed at the "A bout de plastique" pavilion



OPENING

 **Tuesday, June 3rd**

5pm - 7pm

 **La Baleine, Exhibition Center, Nice**
Next Generation Ocean Basecamp

ROUNDTABLES TO UNDERSTAND AND LEARN

Science & society: citizen science

 **Wednesday, June 4, 10.30am**

 **La Baleine (Green Zone) - Next Generation Ocean Basecamp**

 **Language : French**

How can citizens contribute to scientific research?

This session highlights **citizen science** as a tool for engagement and knowledge-building to protect the ocean.

Speakers:

Clément Moreno (Surfrider Europe), **Lilita Vong** (Planète Mer), **Tosca Ballerini** (marine biologist and science journalist)

Animation : **Sabine Allou** (Surfrider Europe)

Adaptation: protecting and drawing inspiration from Blue carbon

 **Friday, June 6, 10.30am until 11.45am**

 **La Baleine (Green Zone) - Next Generation Ocean Basecamp**

 **Language : French**

As coastal erosion already affects a quarter of the French coastline and marine flooding is increasing, adaptation is no longer an option — it has become a political priority. This side event will bring together **parliamentarians, local elected officials, and field actors to identify concrete levers for resilient adaptation plans at all levels**. The objective: to make adaptation a cornerstone of local climate policies, relying on nature-based solutions and ongoing projects such as Life Adapto+.

Animation : Adeline Plé (Surfrider Europe)

Blue carbon: challenges and issues in the fight against climate change

 **Friday, June 6, 10.30am until 11.45am**

 **La Baleine (Green Zone) - Next Generation Ocean Basecamp**

 **Language : French**

This one-hour event aims to explore blue carbon ecosystems (seagrasses, mangroves, and salt marshes) and to question the use of blue carbon credits. **These coastal ecosystems, threatened by human activity, play a crucial role in climate change mitigation and adaptation**, while also acting as natural barriers against erosion and preserving biodiversity.

Experts and NGOs will debate the risks of drift, existing funding for marine protected areas, and the positioning of engaged stakeholders. A critical and well-documented perspective on a rapidly growing trend.

Speakers: **Lou Le Treut** (Surfrider Foundation Europe), **Alexandra Valla** (Planète Urgence), **Guillaume Leport** (Blue Seeds), **Rémy Moreau** (Surfrider Foundation Europe)



NEXT GENERATION OCEAN BASECAMP – HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAVILION ACTIVITIES

Offered by Surfrider Foundation Europe, Surfrider Alpes-Maritimes, and their operational partners for this event: Marine Stewardship Council, Le Naturoscope, Planète Mer Water Family, Women For Sea, Ma Petite Planète, Fondation de la Mer, MakeEUBlue: Cities in Action.



Tidal surprises

Mystery boxes containing natural elements and pollutants regularly left by the sea on our beaches. Can you discover what's hidden inside these boxes? What are the causes, consequences, and solutions to this pollution?

Suitable for all ages.

Ocean sounds

A sensory workshop to recognize ocean sounds by listening through a rock. Suitable for all ages.

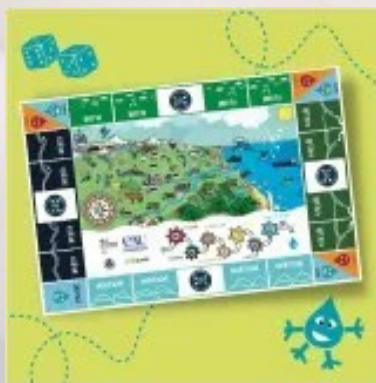


The Sea Wheel:

Quiz on biodiversity and sustainable fishing. For all audiences.

Card game illustrating the food chain

Public : Children



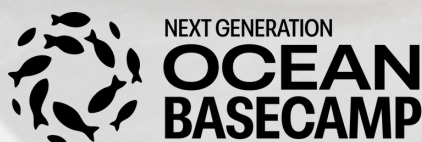
The Great Water Cycle Game

A game designed to help understand and become familiar with the stages of the great water cycle, with the aim of fixing its gears and preserving this essential cycle.

The accoustiquizz

A quiz to discover the sounds of the Mediterranean Sea and raise awareness about noise pollution.

This quiz was created to provide an introduction to bioacoustics. It allows a broad audience to explore the underwater soundscapes of the Mediterranean.



OCEAN FRIENDLY FILMS – RAISING AWARENESS THROUGH DOCUMENTARIES

Ocean-Friendly Films help shed light on the threats facing the Ocean—so we can better fight them.

Throughout the year, Ocean-Friendly Films are screenings organized by volunteers from Surfrider's local chapters across Europe.

Surfrider provides them with a royalty-free film catalogue and guidance on how to host a screening, lead a discussion, and promote the event.

For the UNOC, Surfrider will screen two films:

“WE ARE THE SEA” - in collaboration with Women for Sea **Screening and discussion**

Through this film, women who are committed daily to protecting the ocean are honored. This key moment is part of the advocacy effort “For Gender-Equal Ocean Governance,” which Women for Sea will present a few days later during the UN negotiations.

On the program:

- **Screening of portraits of women committed to the ocean**, in the presence of filmmaker Marie-Aymone Gérard
- Presentation of the advocacy campaign and its recommendations, with the crew of the “*Odysée des Possibles*,” a 100% female expedition
- **Roundtable discussion** with **Catherine Chabaud** and **Anne-Sophie Roux**, true role models in ocean governance at both national and European levels.

An inspiring event giving a voice to those shaping the future of the ocean, supported by **SHE Changes Climate France, Les Impactrices, SHE Changes Ocean, the UNESCO Chair in Ocean Governance, and the Gqual Campaign.**

“WE ARE THE SEA”

17 Thursday, June 5

5pm

📍 *La Baleine*, Exhibition Center, Nice
Next Generation Ocean Basecamp

“THE HUMAN SIDE OF PLASTIC” - in collaboration with Surfrider Senegal **Screening and discussion**

Entrepreneur, surfer, and committed environmental advocate, Babacar Thiaw is leading a determined fight against plastic pollution in Senegal. Inspired by his father's legacy and his deep connection to the ocean, he represents a new generation of changemakers. As the founder of Surfrider Foundation Senegal and the country's first zero-waste restaurant, he offers local, concrete, and inspiring solutions.

This film traces his journey and shows how individual commitment can spark a collective movement to protect the coastline. A powerful message of hope and action in the face of global environmental challenges.

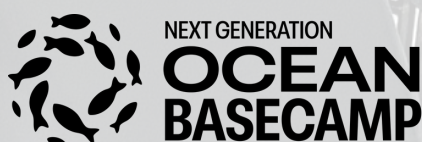
The screening will be followed by a discussion with representatives from Surfrider Senegal and stakeholders committed to ocean protection in Senegal.

“THE HUMAN SIDE OF PLASTIC”

17 Friday, June 6

5pm

📍 *La Baleine*, Exhibition Center, Nice
Next Generation Ocean Basecamp



SURFRIDER ALSO PRESENT AT THE 'À BOUT DE PLASTIQUE' PAVILION


Photographic exhibition “The invisible becomes visible”

The exhibition highlights plastic pollution in the oceans through a series of striking photographs taken by photographer Nicolas Chauveau. **By revealing what the eye doesn't always see (plastic fragments, micro-waste, traces of human activity), the exhibition exposes the pervasive presence of pollutants in our seas.** Its aim is to raise awareness among decision-makers as well as the general public by making tangible an environmental crisis that is often overlooked..



“THE INVISIBLE BECOMES VISIBLE”

 Week of June 2 to 8

 La Baleine, Exhibition Center, Nice Pavilion “A bout de plastique”


A pitch session to tackle marine pollution.

- Pitch: Tobacco's impact on marine pollution (by Surfrider Foundation Europe and its partners)
- Screening of educational materials (by Surfrider Foundation Europe)
- Pitch: Stop to False Solutions! (by Surfrider Foundation Europe and its partners)

PITCH SESSION

 Wednesday, June 11

10.30am - 12.30pm

 La Baleine, Exhibition Center, Nice Pavilion “A bout de plastique”




PLASTIC MURAL

Collaborative and educational workshop developed by Surfrider to raise awareness about the challenges of plastic pollution. Through an interactive card game, **participants explore the origins, impacts, and solutions related to plastic pollution**, fostering collective awareness and identifying concrete actions to reduce their plastic footprint.

PLASTIC MURAL

 Friday, June 6- 10.30am - 1pm

 Monday, June 9- 2pm- 5pm

 La Baleine, Exhibition Center, Nice Pavilion “A bout de plastique”

SURFRIDER, ACTIVE SUPPORTER OF THE MARCH FOR THE OCEAN

This initiative aims to raise awareness and foster constructive dialogue between civil society, governments, and institutions, fully in line with democratic principles and international standards. **The goal is to highlight urgent issues of environmental and social justice**—particularly those affecting our oceans, coastal communities, and the climate.

Surfrider Europe will be joining this peaceful march.

Participants are encouraged to wear blue and to join the procession at 5pm.



An event coordinated by



 Saturday, June 7, 2025

5pm until 6.30pm

 Départure : Lenval beach

DAY-BY-DAY SCHEDULE:

Monday, June 2 – Opening

Schedule	Location	Event
11am- 5pm	Ocean Basecamp "La Baleine" (Exhibition Center)	Heading to the Ocean! Interactive activities, games, and fun workshops to explore marine biodiversity, understand pollution challenges, and discover new solutions. These activities change daily.
12.30pm- 2pm	Ocean Basecamp "La Baleine" (Exhibition Center)	Act for the Ocean : the collective serving the Ocean! Pitch session showcasing inspiring projects and initiatives for Ocean protection.
2pm-5pm	Ocean Basecamp "La Baleine" (Exhibition Center)	Deplasticisation ! Free or guided visit of the Deplastification exhibition.
All day	Pavilion "À bout de plastique"	Exhibition: The Invisible Becomes Visible Eight photos highlighting microplastic pollution will be displayed at the pavilion.

Tuesday, June 3 – Biodiversity & Marine Protected Areas Day

Schedule	Location	Event
10.15am- 5pm	Ocean Basecamp "La Baleine" (Exhibition Center)	Heading to the Ocean! Interactive activities, games, and fun workshops to explore marine biodiversity, understand pollution challenges, and discover new solutions. These activities change daily.
10.30am- 5pm	Ocean Basecamp "La Baleine" (Exhibition Center)	Deplasticisation ! Free or guided visit of the Deplastification exhibition.
12.30pm- 2.30pm	Ocean Basecamp "La Baleine" (Exhibition Center)	Act for the Ocean : the collective serving the Ocean! Pitch session showcasing inspiring projects and initiatives for Ocean protection.
5pm- 7pm	Ocean Basecamp "La Baleine" (Exhibition Center)	Opening of the "Déplastification" exhibition! In the presence of artists Olivier Millagou and Antoine Boudin, as well as key project contributors.
All day	Pavilion "À bout de plastique"	Exhibition: The Invisible Becomes Visible Eight photos highlighting microplastic pollution will be displayed at the pavilion.

Wednesday, June 4 – Science & Ocean Day

Schedule	Location	Event
10.30am- 12.30pm	Ocean Basecamp "La Baleine" (Exhibition Center)	Science & Society Roundtable: Citizen Science How to get involved as a citizen and contribute to expanding knowledge about the Ocean and pollution. Presentation of citizen science programs.
12.30pm- 2pm	Ocean Basecamp "La Baleine" (Exhibition Center)	Act for the Ocean : the collective serving the Ocean! Pitch session showcasing inspiring projects and initiatives for Ocean protection.
2pm- 5pm	Ocean Basecamp "La Baleine" (Exhibition Center)	Heading to the Ocean! Interactive activities, games, and fun workshops to explore marine biodiversity, understand pollution challenges, and discover new solutions. These activities change daily.
5pm- 7pm	Ocean Basecamp "La Baleine" (Exhibition Center)	Deplasticisation ! Free or guided visit of the Deplastification exhibition.
All day	Pavilion "À bout de plastique"	Exhibition: The Invisible Becomes Visible Eight photos highlighting microplastic pollution will be displayed at the pavilion.

DAY-BY-DAY SCHEDULE:

Thursday, June 5 – Sport & Ocean Day

Schedule	Location	Event
10.15am-5pm	Ocean Basecamp "La Baleine" (Exhibition Center)	Heading to the Ocean! Interactive activities, games, and fun workshops to explore marine biodiversity, understand pollution challenges, and discover new solutions. These activities change daily.
10.30am-5pm	Ocean Basecamp "La Baleine" (Exhibition Center)	Deplasticisation ! Free or guided visit of the Deplastification exhibition.
12pm- 3pm	Ocean Basecamp "La Baleine" (Exhibition Center)	Move for the Ocean: the power of sport in service of the Ocean Pitch session and initiatives connecting sport and environmental protection.
5pm- 7pm	Ocean Basecamp "La Baleine" (Exhibition Center)	Ocean Friendly Film "Nous sommes la mer" Screening of two short films by Marie Aymone and advocacy for gender-balanced Ocean governance by Women For Sea.
All day	Pavilion "À bout de plastique"	Exhibition: The Invisible Becomes Visible Eight photos highlighting microplastic pollution will be displayed at the pavilion.

Friday, June 6 – Adaptation & Blue Carbon

Schedule	Location	Event
10.30am-11.30am	Ocean Basecamp "La Baleine" (Exhibition Center)	Roundtable Climate Change Adaptation: Protecting and drawing inspiration from Blue Carbon
11.45am-1pm	Ocean Basecamp "La Baleine" (Exhibition Center)	Roundtable Blue Carbon credits: a false solution in the fight against Climate Change
1.30pm-2.30pm	Ocean Basecamp "La Baleine" (Exhibition Center)	Act for the Ocean : the collective serving the Ocean! Pitch session showcasing inspiring projects and initiatives for Ocean protection.
2pm- 5pm	Ocean Basecamp "La Baleine" (Exhibition Center)	Heading to the Ocean! Interactive activities, games, and fun workshops to explore marine biodiversity, understand pollution challenges, and discover new solutions. These activities change daily.
5pm- 7pm	Ocean Basecamp "La Baleine" (Exhibition Center)	Ocean Friendly Film "The Human Side of plastics" Screening of the short film and discussion on Ocean conservation in Senegal.
10.30am-12.30/1pm	Pavilion "À bout de plastique"	Public activities Plastic mural, tidal surprises
All day	Pavilion "À bout de plastique"	Exhibition: The Invisible Becomes Visible Eight photos highlighting microplastic pollution will be displayed at the pavilion.

Saturday, June 7 – UNOC in France, Ocean PACT & Citizen Mobilization

Schedule	Location	Event
11am-12pm	Blue Beach beach, Nice	Universal dip An open swim for all to highlight the urgent need to act for the Ocean and to carry the voice of citizens and NGOs all the way to the UN podium.
12.30pm-1.30pm	Ocean Basecamp "La Baleine" (Exhibition Center)	Roundtable Breaking the Surface – Initial Reactions and Global Impacts of the EU Ocean Pact
2pm-3pm	Ocean Basecamp "La Baleine" (Exhibition Center)	Roundtable France, a key player in the fight against plastic pollution: perspectives from French parliamentarians
5pm-6.30pm	Point of departure : Lénval beach	March for the Ocean A peaceful march to raise awareness and encourage constructive dialogue between civil society, governments, and institutions.
All day	Pavilion "À bout de plastique"	Exhibition: The Invisible Becomes Visible Eight photos highlighting microplastic pollution will be displayed at the pavilion.

DAY-BY-DAY SCHEDULE:

Monday, June 9 – Public Activities

Schedule	Location	Event
2pm- 5pm	Pavilion "À bout de plastique"	Public activities Plastic mural, tidal surprises.
All day	Pavilion "À bout de plastique"	Deplasticisation ! Free or guided visit of the Deplastification exhibition.

Tuesday, June 10 – Plastic Pollution in the Green Zone & Blue Zone

Schedule	Location	Event
10.15am-11.30am	Ocean Basecamp "La Baleine" (Exhibition Center)	Roundtable Perspectives from Mediterranean civil society on the plastic crisis (in english)
10.30am-11.45am	Room 5 (Blue zone)	Roundtable Fighting marine pollution, including plastic, through innovative international actions (in english)
All day	Pavilion "À bout de plastique"	Deplasticisation ! Free or guided visit of the Deplastification exhibition all week.

Wednesday, June 11 – Pitch Against Marine Pollution

Schedule	Location	Event
10.30am	Pavilion "À bout de plastique"	Pitch: Tobacco's impact on marine pollution (by Surfrider Foundation Europe and its partners)
11.30am	Pavilion "À bout de plastique"	Screening of educational materials (by Surfrider Foundation Europe)
12pm	Pavilion "À bout de plastique"	Pitch: Stop to False Solutions! (by Surfrider Foundation Europe and its partners)
All day	Pavilion "À bout de plastique"	Deplasticisation ! Free or guided visit of the Deplastification exhibition all week.



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THE SEA is
RISING
& SO ARE WE

