

Proposed ISA Topic 2022-2023

Ocean Rights: for our Earth's life

Think tank "No blue no green, no ocean no life!"

(Sylvia Earle, Marine Explorer, National Geographic)

UNIBO Proponents

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UN is strongly centering Oceans in the eye of the storm of the Earth's and human's life for this decade (2021-2030) with the impellent challenge i) to radically change our relationship with oceans ii) to achieve a sustainable and equitable ocean economy iii) for life on the planet to survive and thrive.

Within a multifaceted Ocean voyage, in which several UN initiatives (i.e The Ocean Decade 2021-2030; The Ocean Race 2022-2023; the UN Ocean Conference 2022; the UN World Ocean Day 2022), events (in which hundreds and thousands of marine scientists, economists, advocates, NGOs, policy-makers and governments focus problems, imagine solutions and promote collective actions to revitalize Oceans, we propose the "**Ocean Rights: for our Earth's life**" UNIBO ISA Topic 2022-2023 **to overall reflect and discuss on the new perspective of how Ocean Rights must be harmonized and integrated with other rights, such as Human Rights, Economic Rights etc., building up a Blue Justice to reconcile Humanities to Oceans.**

Ocean Rights and Marine Sciences - Marine sciences play a crucial role in the effective development and implementation of the international legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of Oceans and their resources. UN General Assembly "recognizes marine sciences as important for eradicating poverty, contributing to food security, conserving the world's marine environment and resources, helping to understand, predict and respond to natural events and promoting the sustainable development of the oceans and seas"¹. In the ISA Topic School, UNIBO marine scientists and their invited speaker/s will seminally focus on conceptual design and practical implementation of ocean forecasting systems across the Oceans and how making fisheries sustainable ²also summarizing and highlighting objectives concrete results of research programme and projects (e.g. CoastPredict, chaired by N. Pinardi included in the first set of Ocean Decade Actions; Prizefish, the INTERREG IT-HR project coordinated by Alessia Cariani achieving the Blue-transition of Adriatic fisheries).

¹ UN Secretariat. *Interactive dialogue 7: Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. 2022 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, Lisbon, 27 June–1 July 2022.*

² UN Secretariat. *Interactive dialogue 4: Making fisheries sustainable and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets. 2022 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, Lisbon, 27 June–1 July 2022.*

Oceans Rights and Environmental and Resource Economics - Oceans are among the most important global natural resources. Oceans provide very important ecosystem services – provisioning, regulating, cultural – but due to open access they are overexploited or polluted. Important examples are overexploitation of open access fisheries, pollution from plastics, or the impacts of climate change. Governance of oceans should aim at designing regulatory schemes which would be internationally accepted and promote the objective of achieving sustainable oceans. UNIBO environmental economists and their invited speaker/s will explore such global regulatory approaches for oceans.

Ocean Rights and Social Sciences - The UN Ocean Conference recently held in June 2022 in Portugal and its conclusions welcomed the aspiration of a Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights as a concept of a global formalisation of the rights of the Ocean, to be presented to the United Nations in 2023 for joint agreement by the governments of the world. This is part of a larger movement, both supported by the UN programme Harmony with Nature and by a huge network of environmental and social movements that from many years are advocating for the incorporation of Nature's rights in our legal systems. UNIBO social and policy scientists and their invited speaker/s will investigate mutual implications between the recognition of Ocean's rights and the world movement on rights of Nature, considering important updates such as the Spanish popular legislative initiative on the legal personality of the Mar Menor in the Murcia region.

Oceans Rights and Law – Oceans are key to human survival and represent a global common interest. Yet oceans largely remain an often-dystopian realm, the regulation of which appears fragmented at the international and EU level. The protection of oceans is threatened by diverse phenomena, such as overfishing, illegal dumping and other environmental violations and piracy. Such phenomena inevitably impact biodiversity, the protection of human rights of local communities, worker's rights in supply chains, as well as vulnerable groups such as indigenous people and women and girls. UNIBO legal experts and their invited speakers will focus on legal tools to tackle human rights, labor, and environmental abuses at sea. After systematizing and examining the key legal instruments existing at the international and EU level, the legal experts will propose concrete legal and policy to guarantee adequate marine protection.

Periodo indicativo di svolgimento: secondo semestre AA 2022-2023 (ma definibile in modo più puntuale in fase organizzativa in accordo con la Direzione ISA, qualora la proposta fosse accolta e finanziata).

Durata: 4-6 seminari (rimodulabile con la Direzione ISA, qualora la proposta fosse accolta e finanziata).