



UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE NICE, FRANCE 2025

UNOC3 Conference Side Event

Post-Event Summary: Ocean Reels & Real Talk

Organized by : Sea Going Green, Plastic Odyssey, The Blue Quest, In Depth Films and the International Ocean Film Foundation

Date: 11 June 2025

Location: Mama Shelter, Nice, France

More info: <https://lu.ma/ky8s8w63>

Event Background

“Ocean Reels & Real Talk” was a storytelling-driven side event held during the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice. Designed as an informal but impactful gathering, the evening brought together over 60 participants from across the ocean, media, and policy sectors to engage in a conversation about how visual storytelling can reshape our relationship with the ocean.

Organized by Sea Going Green in collaboration with Plastic Odyssey, InDepth Films, The Blue Quest, and the International Ocean Film Festival, the event featured four short ocean films, followed by a candid panel discussion with filmmakers and ocean advocates. The session offered a relaxed and inclusive setting for networking, idea exchange, and community building.

Featured Films & Trailers

- **House of Fish** — Paolo Fanciulli’s underwater sculpture garden combating illegal trawling in Tuscany. Trailer: <https://lnkd.in/dGTCAwcx> (pw: paolo)
- **Pacific Mission** — Plastic Odyssey’s expedition to clean up Henderson Island
Full video: <https://lnkd.in/gsMyfDiA>
- **C-FAARER** — A look into regenerative seaweed farming efforts in Ireland and Norway
Full video: <https://lnkd.in/gChp8HqB>
- **The Blue Quest: Palawan** — Highlighting community-led success in Marine Protected Areas in the Philippines

Speakers included:

- Ana Blanco – Executive Director, [International Ocean Film Foundation](#)
- [Aleksandra\(Ally\) Dragozet](#) – Founder & CEO, [Sea Going Green](#) | C-FAARER partner [View our recap flyer here](#)
- [Dr. Hanna Dijkstra](#) – Plastics Scientist, Henderson Island
- Alexandre Dechelotte – Co-founder & GM, [Plastic Odyssey](#)
- Clément Pourtal – Founder & Director, [The Blue Quest](#)
- James Pople – Founder & Producer, [IN DEPTH Films](#)

Key Issues Discussed

- Shifting narratives: Moving from fear-based to solution-oriented storytelling in ocean communication.
- Emotional resonance: The power of short films to create lasting emotional impact and personal connection to ocean issues.
- Inclusive voices: The need for more local, Indigenous, and community-led stories in the global ocean narrative.
- Barriers to distribution: Challenges in bringing ocean films to wider audiences beyond ocean-focused or scientific circles.
- Access and equity: Making storytelling tools and resources more accessible to youth, activists, and frontline communities.
- Bridging disciplines: Using storytelling to connect science, policy, and public engagement efforts.
- Cultural leverage: Leveraging film and visual art as catalysts for shifting ocean-related behaviors and attitudes.
- Mental health in storytelling: Navigating eco-anxiety and storytelling fatigue while maintaining agency and optimism.

Key Recommendations for Action / Voluntary Commitments

- Prioritize inclusive narratives: Establish standards or guiding principles to ensure diversity and equity in ocean storytelling.
- Strengthen cross-sector collaborations: Foster partnerships between filmmakers, NGOs, scientists, and media outlets to align messaging and maximize impact.

This event reinforced that the stories we tell—and who gets to tell them—play a crucial role in shaping a just and sustainable future for our ocean.

