



UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE NICE, FRANCE 2025

UNOC3 Conference Side Event

Quiet Seas in a Climate Transition: Aligning decarbonisation with Ocean Health

Date: 11 June 2025

Time: 11:30 – 13:00 CEST

**Location: Le LABO Coworking 6 Rue du Congrès, 06000
Nice, France**

**Organized by: Coalition Clean Baltic, Friends of the Earth
Germany – BUND, Foundation for the Development of the
University of Gdańsk, Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology**

Background on the event

Our event aimed to foster dialogue among stakeholders from industry, government, and civil society to explore solutions to reduce underwater noise, focusing on the Baltic and North Seas, while addressing climate-oriented technologies such as offshore wind energy, cleaner shipping, and carbon capture and storage (CCS). It raised awareness of underwater noise impacts on marine ecosystems, highlighting the need to align decarbonisation with marine protection. Through an expert presentation, thematic tables and a panel discussion with an interactive dialogue, the event engaged participants in identifying integrated approaches and cross-sectoral partnerships that support

biodiversity and a sustainable climate transition—contributing to the SDG 14, through marine conservation, sustainable use, and science-based solutions.

Key Issues discussed (5-8 bullet points)

- While renewable energy solutions, such as offshore wind energy, are essential to reach global climate goals, their large-scale introduction into marine environments can contribute to elevated underwater noise levels through e.g. intense surveying, construction, operation, service traffic and eventual decommissioning.
- Operational measures and cleaner shipping technologies are designed to reduce GHG from maritime transportation. Some of these measures, such as slow steaming and biofouling solutions also have the potential to reduce underwater noise levels.
- We know that climate efforts are necessary but not at the expense of ocean health. Avoidance of key biodiversity areas, technological innovations, mitigation and monitoring practices can help reconcile the need for climate technologies and ocean health.
- CCS is increasingly being put forward as a tool to rapidly reduce global emissions. However, its development at sea overlooks the knowledge about involved environmental risks and places emphasis back on partial technological solutions - prolonging the use of fossil fuels rather than focusing on solutions that address the roots of the causes for climate change.
- Funding mechanisms need to take a critical approach to support actions that are both good for climate and marine conservation efforts. For example, asking for environmentally-conscious approaches as part of the funding criteria and commitments for monitoring of maritime activities.

Key recommendations for action / voluntary commitments (5-6 bullet points)

- Technological solutions for clean shipping and offshore wind are important steps towards decarbonisation and should address reduction and monitoring of underwater noise.
- It is essential to place emphasis on developing best practices that unify the benefits of both cleaner and quieter offshore wind and shipping activities at sea.
- Coordination, ecosystem-focused financing and stakeholder involvement are key to reduce noise pollution from different sources and close data gaps
- Carbon capture and storage, involving seismic activities, is not a solution against climate change, but a marketing coup to continue business-as-usual actions linked to oil and gas activities.
- Marine protection should not go against climate action. In fact, reducing noise and increasing marine protection are also climate actions!